

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - 19 November 2023

Thought for the Week

What is a talent? We hear about them in this week's Gospel reading of the parable of the three servants who were given responsibility for their master's wealth while he travelled. Two double their money but one, fearful of his master, buries it and returns it untouched. The first two are praised; the third severely rebuked. A talent was a huge sum in Roman times, some 36 kilos in weight and when measured in silver, each would be worth about £60,000 today. If the text is only seen in monetary terms the master who made a healthy profit from his two entrepreneurial staff could understandably be disappointed by the one who hadn't tried at all.

It is very easy to focus on the financial interpretation of Jesus's words but what about another way of looking at talents - thinking of them as skills and abilities? Each one of us has talents given to us by God; do we use them to the best advantage, do we build on what we have and, by using them make profit for our family, friends, neighbours, our community; are we disappointing the Lord by not doing so? It's always worth asking ourselves which of the servants am I – one who used and shared the talents they had received to wider benefit or the one hiding away their talents, burying them?

Rather than money or skills, what about considering the talents as a gift of love, mercy and forgiveness? The master – God – generously gives his mercy and love to his servants which is of great value; how do we, his servants, use that gift? If we share it, we all benefit enormously, but if we bury it and ignore it, in the end we are the ones who suffer – like the servant who buried his master's talent.

Stephen Patterson

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament takes place each Friday from 10:00 - 16:00. All welcome.

The Rosary

The Rosary is prayed after the 12:00 Mass each Friday, please join.

Reconciliation

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at St Edward's: Saturdays: 11:00 - 11:30 and 17:30 - 18:00
Tuesdays: 18:00 - 18:30

Congratulations

We would like to send our congratulations to **Peter Rennie** who will be celebrating his **100th Birthday** this Sunday 19 November.

Mass Times & Intentions 18 -26 Nov

Sat 18	18:00	Siobhan Palluel - RIP
Sun 19	09:30	Marcella Dyke - St Mark's
	11:00	People of the Parish - RIP
Mon 20	10:00	Eucharistic Service
Tue 21	18:30	Carol Shepherd - INT
Wed 22	10:30	Roger Thomas - RIP FUNERAL
Thur 23	10:00	Doreen Russell - INT - St Mark's
Fri 24	12:00	Mai Nolan - RIP
Sat 25	18:00	Francis Xavier Decoutho - RIP
Sun 26	09:30	People of the Parish - St Mark's
	11:00	Mullan Family - INT

Parish Diary 18 – 26 Nov

Sat 18	10:00	First Holy Communion-Reconciliation Session 1
	10:00	Talk on Advent by Fr Kevin - St Mark's
	12:00	Concert rehearsal - Church
	15:30	Confirmation Preparation - P/C
Sun 19	12:00	Tea & Coffee - P/C
	14:00	Blessing of Graves - Oakley Green & Spittal Cemeteries
Tue 21	19:00	Alpha (in person) - P/C
	19:15	RCIA Meeting - St Brigid's Room
Thur 23	14:00	Blessing of Graves - Old Windsor Cemetery (Crimp Hill)
	18:30	Mass Readings Explained - St Brigid's Room
Sat 25	12:00	Baptism - Jack Kearns
	10:30	Saturday of Christ the King - WYD reunion
Sun 26	12:00	Tea & Coffee - P/C

Morning & Evening Prayer

Tue 21	18:00	Evening Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's
Wed 22	09:30	Morning Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's

Fr David's Diary

Tue 21	11:00	Sandhurst
	19:00	Middle School - Governors Meeting
Thur 23	14:45	Attend installation of Dean of St George's
Fri 24	10:00	Parish Team Meeting

Offertory

S/O - D/D 1,848.08 Envelopes £248.30 Loose £668.84

Service of Remembrance + Blessing of Graves

The Blessing of the graves at **Oakley Green and Windsor Spital Cemeteries** will take place on **Sunday 19 November at 14:00.**

The Blessing of the graves at the **Old Windsor Cemetery (Crimp Hill)**, will take place on **Thursday 23 November at 14:00.**

Catholic Windsor - website www.catholicwindsor.org

Parish Office

Patricia Brown: Parish Secretary

office@catholicwindsor.org

Richard Flisher: Finance Manager

finance@catholicwindsor.org

Sharon Cole-Blows: Youth Ministry Worker/Coordinator

YouthCoordinator@catholicwindsor.org

Pat Burke: Safeguarding Representative

safeguarding@catholicwindsor.org

Pastoral Team

Canon David Hopgood: Parish Priest

canondavid@catholicwindsor.org

Rev George Young: Deacon

georgeyoung@hotmail.com

Sr Teresina Fingleton CSB: Parish Sister

Presbytery: 44 Alma Road, Windsor Berkshire, SL4 3HJ

Phone: 01753 865163

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth – Charity No. 1199568

CAFOD Parish Volunteer

Could you put your faith into action and help CAFOD in Windsor? Your desire for a better world will help promote CAFOD's work, connecting your community with those overseas and enabling our sisters and brothers in the poorest places in the world to lift themselves out of poverty. Please do contact Jo Lewry for more information by email jlewry@cafod.org.uk or phone 07710 094447.

St Vincent de Paul Christmas Day Lunch party

We are currently arranging our annual Christmas Day Lunch for those who are home alone and lonely, or are less fortunate, on this important day. If you know of anyone who might like to come to the lunch, please let us know their contact details. If you would like to volunteer, either helping in the hall or driving guests to and from the event, let us know. Thank you - Barry SVP - e-mail: presidentb170321@svp.org.uk or mobile 07547 514467

HCPT Group 128

A huge thank you to everyone who contributed towards the fundraising event last Sunday and to all those who helped or supported on the day. The fayre raised £1013! A great amount which will pay one child's fare to Lourdes. Pat Burke (Group leader) **There will be a Christmas gift and decorations table in the Parish Centre on Sunday 19 Nov. Come and shop ready for Christmas and help support HCPT.**

Vacancy - Clerk to Governors

St Edward's Royal Free Ecumenical Middle School
Co-educational 9-13 - £2,418 - £2,650 (pay award pending).
Actual salary based on 4 hours a week, term time only.
Interviews may be arranged on receipt of application so early application is advised. Closing Date: Monday 29 January 2024

Vacancy for - Inclusion Manager

To work as part of the SEND team. Start date asap. Closing date Friday 8 December 2023. Contact Mrs Mottram for information. 01753 867809 - e-mail: vacancies@sterf.org.uk - Website: www.sterf.org.uk

Windsor Community Carols with

Westminster Chamber Orchestra at St Edward's Church on Saturday 16 December at 19:30. Tickets are £15.00 with a retiring collection for a local cause, followed by light refreshments. For more information. Email: windsorcommunitycarols@gmail.com

Sat 9 December - Save the Date

Our Confirmation candidates will be hosting a family fun themed event, on Sat 9 December before the 18:00 Mass in the Parish Centre. It will be Christmas themed with crafts and Christingle. After Mass there will be a festive family fun evening with a supper. Details on how to register your place will be in next week's newsletter. **Toy Raffle - Donations Needed**
The youth team are putting a toy raffle together. We already have a number of items for the raffle, but extra items are always welcome. If you have any unwanted toys, games, craft items or things suitable for children, that you would be happy to donate, please hand them in at Mass or the office.
Helpers - We always need extra hands to help on these occasions. If you would like to be involved please contact YouthCoordinator@catholicwindsor.org

Pastoral Area update; Come and Join us

Prayer is essential in our relationship with Jesus Christ and belief in the power of prayer will help us to listen to God's will as our parishes join together. Let us all take this Pastoral Area Prayer into our ministries, our schools and our private prayer over the coming months.

Heavenly Father,

We come before you with hearts full of faith and hope as we pray for the successful joining of our two parishes in this pastoral area.

Lord, we seek your guidance and blessings for this journey as we strengthen our faith community and fulfil your mission to evangelise and bring people closer to Jesus Christ.

May your wisdom enlighten our journey as we join together in faith, love, and unity.

In the name of your Son, Jesus Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, we offer this prayer.

Amen.

A hard copy prayer card will be made available by the end of November and in the meantime please introduce this when you pray. You will find a video copy of this prayer on all social media and YouTube, read by Deacon George.

New Prayer Group

Join the new prayer group: **Walking with God** - which meets every Wednesday at St Francis at 18:15 followed by Mass at 19:30, Adoration will take place until 21:00.

This is an opportunity to join across the pastoral area to pray for unity, strength and love in our relationship with God and each other.

St Francis of Assisi - Ascot

You can log on to their website for a copy of the newsletter: www.stfrancisascot.co.uk

Fantastic result on Give As You Live (GAYL) and On-Line Shopping for Christmas

A huge thank you to all who signed up to Give As You Live this Autumn. The 100 parishioners who downloaded the link have raised £500 simply for signing up.

Now the fun starts as in the run-up to Christmas, we will all be shopping online more than ever. This is a golden opportunity to help Parish Finances without costing you a penny so do use GAYL whenever you can, and the pennies soon become pounds. If you have not yet joined the 'in crowd' now is the time to download the link below to your device and GAYL will redirect you to your chosen shop via GAYL.

<https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/st-edwards-r-c-church/finance@catholicwindsor.org>

Thank you. Rich Flisher, Parish Finance Manager

Save the date - 22 December; Light of Peace Service

In the run up to Christmas, take a break from the rush and join us for a service of Taizé music, readings and prayer for peace reflecting on the Birth of Christ: the 'Light of the World'. Bring a lantern and candle and take the light home with you to share and spread among friends and neighbours.

Deceased

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Roger Thomas** who died recently. His funeral will take place on Wednesday 22 November at 10:30 at St Edward's.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Jonathan Strik**, details to follow.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Margaret Cleary**. Her funeral is taking place at St Augustine's Church, Datchet SL3 9AY on 23 November at 11:00.