

## **Christ the King - 26 November 2023**

### **Thought for the Week**

We celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King this weekend as the culmination of the Church's liturgical year before the new year begins with Advent. The Prophet Ezekiel portrays God as a shepherd with the people who faithfully follow as His sheep. Although sheep have a reputation for being senseless and needy, the term is not used in a condescending or belittling way. Often, Jesus refers to himself as the 'good shepherd' caring for his sheep. Jesus equates himself with the shepherd, whom we know was considered among the lowliest, often despised, 'smelly' an uneducated person. Yet, shepherds were the first visitors at Jesus' birth. So, from the very first appearance of Jesus, we learn who takes 'pride of place' with him.

Psalm 23 – a favourite Psalm for a funeral service – paints a vivid picture of a wonderful, loving, caring good shepherd leading his sheep in 'green pastures' and 'near restful waters' which can be understood as the metaphor of a shepherd's care for his sheep to describe the wisdom, gentleness and kindness of God.

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus speaks of the end of time and the final judgment 'of all nations' indicating a day of accountability for all of us. The judgment is illustrated by the separation of sheep and goats. The sheep represent the righteous faithful disciples of Jesus. They demonstrate their fidelity primarily by loving and serving those in need. In the parable, Jesus shows how love of God is inseparable from love of neighbour, 'whatever you did for one of the least of mine, you did for me.' Feeding the hungry, visiting the sick, clothing the naked, caring for prisoners are highlighted as virtuous acts, stressing the importance of compassion for the weakest. This suggests a deep spiritual connection between God and those who are 'the least' – which is also the measure of our fidelity to following Jesus as true disciples. It's how we will be judged.

*Sister Patricia Mulhall, csb*

### **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

### **Mass Times & Intentions 25 Nov -3 Dec**

Sat 25	18:00	Francis Xavier Decoutho - RIP
Sun 26	09:30	People of the Parish - <b>St Mark's</b>
	11:00	Mullan Family - INT
Mon 27	10:00	Eucharistic Service
Tue 28	18:30	Ruby Pereire - RIP
Wed 29	10:00	Peter & Lin Cook - RIP
Thur 30	<b>09:30</b>	Holy Souls - <b>St Mark's</b>
Fri 01	12:00	Don & Myra's parents - RIP
Sat 02	18:00	Mariano de Oliveria - RIP
Sun 03	09:30	Norman Long - <b>St Mark's</b>
	11:00	People of the Parish

### **Parish Diary 25 Nov - 3 Dec**

Sat 25	12:00	Baptism - Jack Kearns
	10:30	Saturday of Christ the King - WYD reunion, PC
Sun 26	12:00	Tea & Coffee - P/C
Tue 28	10:30	UCM Meeting - PC
	19:00	Choir Practice
	19:00	Alpha (in person) - P/C
Wed 29	19:00	HCPT Meeting - St Brigid's Room
Thur 30	18:30	Mass Readings Explained - St Brigid's Room
Sat 02	10:00	<b>First Holy Communion - Reconciliation Session 2</b>
	12:00	Wedding - Anson Avalin & Tarini Ratnam - PC
	15:30	Confirmation Preparation 15:30
Sun 03	12:00	Tea & Coffee - P/C
	12:15	Baptism Preparation - St Brigid's Room

### **Morning & Evening Prayer**

Tue 28	18:00	Evening Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's
Wed 29	09:30	Morning Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's

### **Fr David's Diary**

Tue 28	11:00	Department for Clergy - Sandhurst
Thurs 30	12:00	Gathering of retired priests - Winchester
	17:30	First School Governors' Meeting

### **Offertory**

S/O - D/D 1,848.08    Envelopes £630.29    Loose £188.51

### **UCM Meeting**

Deacon George will lead UCM members in an Advent Reflection in the Parish Centre, on Tuesday 28 November at 10:30. All welcome.

### **Christmas Crib Collection**

The crib offerings from Christmas will be donated this year to the Friends of the Holy Land, as our brothers and sisters in Christ in that region are suffering greatly.

**Catholic Windsor - website** [www.catholicwindsor.org](http://www.catholicwindsor.org)

#### **Parish Office**

**Patricia Brown:** Parish Secretary

[office@catholicwindsor.org](mailto:office@catholicwindsor.org)

**Richard Flisher:** Finance Manager

[finance@catholicwindsor.org](mailto:finance@catholicwindsor.org)

**Sharon Cole-Blows:** Youth Ministry Worker/Coordinator

[YouthCoordinator@catholicwindsor.org](mailto:YouthCoordinator@catholicwindsor.org)

**Pat Burke:** Safeguarding Representative

[safeguarding@catholicwindsor.org](mailto:safeguarding@catholicwindsor.org)

#### **Pastoral Team**

**Canon David Hopgood:** Parish Priest

[canondavid@catholicwindsor.org](mailto:canondavid@catholicwindsor.org)

**Rev George Young:** Deacon

[georgeyoung@hotmail.com](mailto: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 contact Jo Lewry for more information by email [jlewry@cafod.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:presidentb170321@svp.org.uk) or mobile 07547 514467

## Save the Date Sat 9 December! – Calling All Parish Young People

Last week we asked you to save the date, this week we can confirm that from **16:00 on Sat 9 Dec** we will be holding festive and Christingle activities in the Parish Centre at St Edward's, after the **18:00 Mass** will be holding a fun evening.

The evening will include a light supper, Christmas carols, fun festive activities, a raffle and we may even be lucky enough to have a visit from a special someone, Ho Ho Ho !

We will be leaving sign-up sheets at the back of the church, please add your name and how many will be attending, so we can cater for the right amount of people at both the activities afternoon and the Festive supper. We are still collecting donations for the raffle; please leave anything you would like to share with us in the office or with the welcoming teams.

There is no charge, donations will be greatly welcomed to help cover the cost of the supper and materials. Any questions please contact: [YouthCoordinator@catholicwindsor.org](mailto:YouthCoordinator@catholicwindsor.org) or talk to Sharon, Lisa or MC.

***The youth team are hosting this event as a way of thanking everyone in the Parish for the fantastic support given over this past year as it helped send Catherine, Elisa, George & Lilly to World Youth Day 2023.***

## CARITAS

COP28 is rapidly approaching (30 Nov - 12 Dec). In [Laudate Deum](#), Pope Francis describes how some of the big changes we need to happen to slow the rate of climate change must come from the actions of governments. Let us pray for those leaders, that they can listen to those already affected by climate change and have courage to act. Visit our website <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk> for links to prayer resources.

## Repository

We have in the Repository, Gospel Power 2024 with a daily reflection by Sr Bernadita Dianzon fsp (£6.99)

"An invaluable book with new insights and depth of meaning to enrich our daily reading of God's word throughout the liturgical year. Scripture references for daily Mass. Response to the Psalm.

The daily Gospel and two Scripture readings for Sunday Masses.

Excellent, short reflection the Gospel reading for the day.

A short prayer."

## 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

**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.

## St Francis of Assisi - Ascot

You can log on to their website for a copy of the newsletter:

[www.stfrancisascot.co.uk](http://www.stfrancisascot.co.uk)

## Give As You Live (GAYL) & 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

## 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](mailto:windsorcommunitycarols@gmail.com)

## 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' at 18:00 on Friday 22 December. 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 **Jonathan Stirk**. His funeral service will take place at St Edward's on 4 December at 10:30.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Doreen Russell** who died recently. Her funeral Mass will take place at St Edward's on Wednesday 13 December at 10:30.