

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent – 10 December 2023

### Thought for the Week

The first reading for the Second Sunday of Advent is a message of hope and consolation, addressed to the exiles in Babylon. Humanly speaking, at the time there was little ground for hope. Yet the prophet Isaiah assures his people that God is about to come to their aid and will lead them back to their own land in a new exodus. Even though the actual return from exile fell far short of the glowing picture painted by the prophet, Isaiah's words point the way to the Messianic era.

The second reading of Peter talks about the Second Coming and gives the reason for the Lord's delay because he wants to give everybody an opportunity to repent.

In the Gospel we hear the voice of John the Baptist announcing the Good News, that the long-awaited Saviour was about to arrive. He echoes the words of the prophet Isaiah. John the Baptist urges the people to 'Prepare a way for the Lord'.

As we wait this Advent we recall the words of Isaiah and John and how they waited with great faith for the coming of Jesus.

Advent also reminds us of God's faithful love for his people and how his promise was fulfilled in birth of Jesus. The scripture readings are full of reminders of God's fidelity, as we read in today's first reading 'He is like a shepherd feeding his flock'.

But we must remember too that God is calling us. God's voice is perhaps the smallest and loneliest voice of all. It can so easily be drowned out in the din of daily life, especially as we all get caught up in the preparation for Christmas, let us reflect on the fact that God's word is not heard in the midst of the crowd, but rather in quiet solitary places, telling us that we are loved by Him, and that we are to love one another.

*Deacon George*

### Advent Chant

During Advent, we will be singing the following chant 3 times, after Communion. Do please join in!

**'Jesus, name above all names. Beautiful Saviour, glorious Lord. Emmanuel, God is with us. Blessed Redeemer, Living Word.'**

### Reconciliation & Penitential Services

There will be a **Penitential Service** at St Edward's on **Saturday 9 December at 10:00**.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available at St Edward's on Saturday 17:30 - 18:00 and Tuesday: 18:00 - 18:30

### Penitential Services at other Churches

St Thomas More, Twyford, Wed 13 Dec at 18:30

St Francis, Ascot, Thur 14 Dec at 19:30

St Edmund Campion, Sat 16 Dec at 11:00

St Joseph, Maidenhead, Wed 20 Dec at 18:30



### Mass Times & Intentions 09 - 17 Dec

Sat 09	18:00	Joseph Keogh - RIP
Sun 10	09:30	Bill Johnstone - <b>St Mark's</b>
	11:00	People of the Parish
Mon 11	10:00	Eucharistic Service
Tue 12	18:30	Maud Mascarenhas - RIP
Wed 13	<b>10:30</b>	Doreen Russell - <b>Funeral</b>
Thur 14	10:00	Eucharistic Service - <b>St Mark's</b>
Fri 15	12:00	Brennan Family - RIP
Sat 16	18:00	Rosanna Pediconi
Sun 17	09:30	People of the Parish - <b>St Mark's</b>
	11:00	Anne Gibbs - RIP

### Parish Diary 09 – 17 Dec

Sat 09	10:00	<b>Penitential Service - St Edward's</b>
	16:00	Craft and Christingle Event - P/C
	19:00	Festive & Christingle activities and supper - P/C
Sun 10	12:00	Tea & Coffee - P/C
	<b>15:00</b>	<b>Holy Hour - St Edward's Church</b>
Mon 11	18:30	Catenians Christmas Dinner - P/C
Tue 12	10:30	UCM Meeting - P/C
	19:00	Pastoral Area Meeting - P/C
	19:15	RCIA Meeting - St Brigid's Room
Wed 13	18:30	Men's Group - St Brigid's Room
Thur 14	18:00	First School Carol Concert - Church + P/C
	18:30	Mass Readings Explained - St Brigid's Room
Fri 15	18:00	Meeting for Accompanied Prayer - St Brigid's Rm
Sat 16	10:00	Talk by Dr Judith Thomas - P/C
	11:00	Eucharistic Ministers Training for Sick & Housebound - St Brigid's Room
	19:30	Concert with Windsor Community Carols - Church + light refreshments - P/C
Sun 17	12:00	Tea & Coffee - P/C
	12:15	Baptism - William Cummings

### Morning & Evening Prayer

Tue 12	18:00	Evening Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's
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### Fr David's Diary

Tue 12	09:00	Department of Clergy - Sandhurst
	19:00	Meeting of Pastoral Area Council - P/C
Thur 14	10:00	Personnel - Portsmouth
	14:00	Bishop's Council
	19:30	Penitential Service - Ascot

### Offertory

S/O - D/D 1,848.08    Envelopes £ 618.84    Loose £ 280.41

### The Rosary

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

**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

[revgeorgeyoung@hotmail.com](mailto:revgeorgeyoung@hotmail.com)

**Sr Teresina Fingleton CSB:** Parish Sister

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

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth – Charity No. 1199568

## Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

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

## Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

This takes place every **Friday from 10:00 - 16:00** in St Edward's Church. We can only have Adoration if members of the parish commit themselves to 30 or 60 minutes each Friday. Adoration is a blessing to a parish and to the individual who commits this time of prayer each week.

By committing, you ensure that others who call into the church can experience Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

If you would like to be a part of this important work and ministry, then please put your name on the list of the back of the church or contact the Parish Office.

## Festive Fun Afternoon & Family Evening

From **16:00 this Sat 9 December**, there will be **festive and Christingle** activities in St Edward's Parish Centre, with crafts include cookie decorating, paper angels, Jesse tree decorating and Christingle. **After 18:00 Mass** there will be a fun evening, with a simple supper, carols, a raffle, and possibly a visit from a special someone, **Ho Ho Ho!**

There is no charge, however donations on the night will be greatly welcomed. Any questions, text 07842 459946 or email: [YouthCoordinator@catholicwindsor.org](mailto:YouthCoordinator@catholicwindsor.org)

**What to Bring:** A main meal is being provided, if you would like to bring something sweet to share or a pudding this will be very welcome.

**Refreshments:** Tea/Coffee & Squash will be provided, please bring any other refreshments with you, which can include alcohol, for yourself or to share.

Raffle tickets etc will be available to purchase, **please bring change/cash** as we can only accept cash on the night.

**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 which helped send Catherine, Elisa, George & Lilly to World Youth Day in Lisbon.**

## Monthly Talk - Glory to God in the Highest

Advent is a time of preparation to celebrate the Birth of Christ. In this short Christmas talk by Dr Judith Thomas, we focus on the Birth of Christ and celebrations during the Christmas period.

**Saturday 16 December 10:00 – Parish Centre.**

## 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)

## Flowers for Christmas

There will be a collection at all Masses the weekend of **16/17 December** for donations towards Christmas flowers. Thank you.

## Peace Light Service - 22 December

As we prepare to celebrate the Birth of Christ, 'Light of the World' and 'Prince of Peace', join us at **18:00 on Friday 22 December** to pray for peace in the Holy Land, Ukraine and elsewhere in our troubled world. With Taizé music, carols, readings and silence we will pray around the Peace Light brought from Bethlehem. Please bring a lantern and candle to take the light home with you to share and spread among friends and neighbours.

## Building Works

Please note we are having brick repairs done to the Parish Centre. This may take a few weeks, please do not park around the coned off areas during the week.

## St Vincent de Paul Christmas Day Lunch party

We are arranging our 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, please let us know.

Thank you - Barry SVP - e-mail; [presidentb170321@svp.org.uk](mailto:presidentb170321@svp.org.uk) or mobile 07547 514467

## Christmas Offertory

Our Christmas Offertory is an opportunity for Parishioners to acknowledge the dedication, service, and witness our Parish Priest offers all year long. You will be able to contribute by way of the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day offertory as usual (any cheques should be payable to **CDP Windsor St Edwards** for tax purposes) but in addition, we have set up an online giving page. Please do use it as an alternative by logging on to:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/windsor-st-edwards-r-c-church-christmas-collection-2023>

For any questions please contact: [finance@catholicwindsor.org](mailto:finance@catholicwindsor.org)

## Pastoral Area - 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.*

Please take a copy of the Pastoral prayer from the back of the Church and pray as often as you can.

## 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)

## Ministries in the Parish

In January there will be a gathering of the leaders of all our groups, to plan a ministries month to draw more people into the life of the parish. This will take place on **Saturday 6 January in the Parish Centre at 16:00**.

## CAFOD

Please find below the link for a CAFOD webinar in which Nargis Nehan, an advocate for women's rights and former government minister, who works closely with CAFOD, shares valuable insights into the current conditions for women and civil society in Afghanistan.

[https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/WomenAfghanistan?bmid=2f9353269189&bmid\\_type=member&bmid=2f9353269189](https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/WomenAfghanistan?bmid=2f9353269189&bmid_type=member&bmid=2f9353269189)

## Deceased

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