

## 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent – 3 December 2023

### Thought for the Week

Advent - a time to learn how to wait and so pray.



Carlo Carretto, the renowned, spiritual writer, spent many years living alone as a hermit in the desert. He wrote a number of books from that place of solitude, including one entitled, 'Letters from the Desert'. In that book, he has a message for those of us who live busy lives in the world. 'What is God trying to say to us in our busy lives?' He suggests this: 'Be patient! Learn to wait - for each other, for love, for happiness, for God.'

Learn to wait! That is not something we do easily. Waiting generally has a bad press. We live in a world of immediacy of 'now'. A selling point is always speed, speed of access, speed of delivery, speed of travel, and so on.

I can well imagine these next few weeks will be busy for all of us as we try to squeeze everything in to be ready for Christmas.

It is in prayer that we learn to wait – sometimes in an awkward silence. But it is precisely at that time that our waiting is rewarded with the presence of God love.

Despite our busyness – let us create a time to wait in prayer each day during the season of Advent

*Canon David Hopgood*

### 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.'**

### 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

### CAFOD – Israeli - Palestinian Crisis Appeal

Amid the devastating conflict in Israel and Gaza, families are losing their homes and people are dying. They need urgent help, practical help now. A 'Gift Today' will provide essentials like food, water and blankets to those who need it. Donate online at: [cafod.org.uk](https://cafod.org.uk) <https://cafod.org.uk/news/emergencies-news/israeli-palestinian-crisis-how-you-can-help>

## Mass Times & Intentions 2 - 10 Dec

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
Mon 04	<b>09:30</b>	John Mulvenna - INT
	<b>10:30</b>	Jonathan Stirk - <b>Funeral Service</b>
Tue 05	18:30	Bartolomé & Ángela García-Plata - RIP
Wed 06	<b>09:30</b>	The Barry Family - RIP
Thur 07	10:00	Tommy Sharkey - RIP- <b>St Mark's</b>
Fri 08	12:00	Catenians - INT
Sat 09	18:00	Joseph Keogh - RIP
Sun 10	09:30	Bill Johnstone - <b>St Mark's</b>
	11:00	People of the Parish

## Parish Diary 2 - 10 Dec

Sat 02	10:00	First Holy Communion - Reconciliation Session 2
	12:00	Wedding - Anson Avalin & Tarini Ratnam
	15:30	Confirmation Preparation - P/C
Sun 03	10:00	Coffee Morning - St Mark's
	12:00	Tea & Coffee - P/C
	12:15	Baptism Preparation - St Brigid's Room
Mon 04	18:00	Catenian Meeting - St Brigid's Room
Tue 05	19:15	RCIA Meeting - St Brigid's Room
Wed 06	19:30	Mothers' Prayers
Thur 07	18:30	Mass Readings Explained - St Brigid's Room
Sat 09	10:00	Penitential Service - St Edward's
	16:00	Craft and Christingle Event - Confirmation Group - P/C
	19:00	Festive and Christingle activities and supper - P/C
Sun 10	12:00	Tea & Coffee - P/C
	15:00	Holy Hour - St Edward's Church

## Morning & Evening Prayer

Tue 05	18:00	Evening Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's
Wed 06	09:00	Morning Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's

## Sacrament of the Sick

The next anointing of the Sacrament of the Sick will take place on **Friday 8 December**.

## Fr David's Diary

Tue 05	12:00	Department of Clergy Winchester
Wed 06	11:00	Clergy Day of Prayer - Douai Abbey

## Offertory

S/O - D/D 1,848.08    Envelopes £ 343.79    Loose £ 610.27

## Flowers for Christmas

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

**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

## Invitation to First School

The Y2 children of St Edward's Catholic First school would like to invite members of the parish to see their Nativity play 'Bethlehem B&B' next Thursday morning **7 December at 09:00**. Everyone is welcome!

## Penitential Service for individual Confessions

Advent Penitential Service will take place on Saturday **9 December at 10:00** in St Edward's Church. Please make a note of this date.

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

From **4pm on Sat 9 Dec** we will be holding **festive and Christingle activities** in the Parish Centre at St Edward's

**After Mass at 18:00** there will be a fun evening, with a supper in the Parish Centre. 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 both churches, please add your name and how many will be attending, so we can cater for the right number of people at both the afternoon activities 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 on the night 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. Please email if you cannot sign up at Mass, so we can add you to the list.

**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, Geroge & Lily to World Youth Day in Lisbon.**

## Monthly Talk - Glory to God in the Highest

Advent is a time of preparation for celebrating the birth of Christ. In this short Christmas Talk led by Dr Judith Thomas, we focus on the birth of Christ and the celebrations over 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)

## 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.

## 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

## 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)

## Welcome

At the 11:00 Mass this weekend we welcome Alina and Aaron into full Communion with the Church; please pray for them.

## 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.

## 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. Please watch this space.

## 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.

## Deacon Glen Heffernan

Please welcome Deacon Glen who some of you will have met. He is a permanent Deacon from the Diocese of Las Vegas. Deacon Glen's work has brought him to Windsor for about a year. I have just received permission for him to exercise his ministry of Deacon in our Diocese, so you will see him on occasions at Mass and hopefully preaching soon.

## Deceased

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Jonathan Stirk**. His funeral Service will take place at St Edward's on Monday 4 December at 10:30.

Also, 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.