

3rd Sunday of Advent – 17 December 2023

Thought for the Week

The four weeks of Advent, like a popular team sport, can be described as a 'game of two halves.' In the first, the Church focuses on the second coming of Christ, in the second - starting with Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday when we light the pink candle - we look towards Christ's first coming among us. A reminder of his birth are the familiar crib scenes of the Holy Family, sheep, shepherds, angels, cattle and donkeys in churches, homes and schools. 2023 marks the 800th anniversary of St Francis creating a crib in the little hill town of Greccio in 1223. His reason was to discourage pilgrims from going to Bethlehem which was too dangerous to visit; the mystery of Bethlehem came to them. It was simple; a live ox and ass and a figure of the infant Christ nestled in hay in a cave. 800 years later, the dangers are still there but the crib remains a beacon of hope, peace and reconciliation, a reminder of Christ's poverty and humility.



Although we cannot travel to Christ's birthplace, a fragile flame, the Bethlehem Peace Light, kindled at the traditional site of the Saviour's birth can travel to us - it will be at St Edward's this coming Friday at 18:00. The service around the light will be a chance to pause, prepare for the birth of the 'Light of the World' and pray for peace; in the land which Christ knew, Ukraine and other troubled places on the globe. Peace, like the flame, is fragile; a word, a wind, can snuff it out and allow darkness in. Yet, nurtured, it can grow, shine brightly and dispel the gloom. John the Baptist came as a witness to speak for the light; the fragile infant, God born in a stable for us, who would die on the cross for us, who came to cut through the darkness and shine among us – Come Lord Jesus!

Stephen Patterson

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

The Sacrament of Reconciliation will be available at St Edward's:

Saturday 16 Dec: 17:30 - 18:00

Tuesday 19 Dec: 18:00 - 18:30

Penitential Services at other Churches

St Edmund Campion, Maidenhead, Sat 16 Dec at 11:00

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

The Rosary

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

Mass Times & Intentions 16 - 25 Dec

Sat 16	18:00	Rosanna Pediconi - RIP
Sun 17	09:30	People of the Parish - St Mark's
	11:00	Anne Gibbs - RIP
Mon 18	10:00	Eucharistic Service
Tue 19	18:30	John Good - RIP
Wed 20	10:00	Vernon Tattersfield - RIP
Thur 21	10:00	Doreen Russell RIP - St Mark's
Fri 22	12:00	Christina O'Reilly - RIP
Sat 23	18:00	Mathilde & Yosef Glowa – RIP
Sun 24	09:30	Marcella & Lawrence Dyke RIP- St Mark's
	11:00	Jimmy Regan - RIP

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Sun 24	18:00	John Hastings – INT (Carols from 17:30)
	22:00	A MacDonald - RIP (Carols from 21:30)

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Mon 25	09:30	Billy MacDonald - RIP - St Mark's
	11:00	James Gregory - RIP

Parish Diary 09 – 17 Dec

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 plus light refreshments - P/C
Sun 17	12:00	Parish Tea & Coffee - P/C
	12:15	Baptism - William Cummings
Mon 18	18:30	SVP Meeting - St Brigid's Room
Tue 19	19:00	Christmas Choir Rehearsal - Church
Thur 21	18:30	Mass Readings Explained - St Brigid's Room
Fri 22	18:00	Peace Light Service - St Edward's Church
Mon 25	12:30	Christmas Lunch run by SVP - P/C

Morning & Evening Prayer

Tue 19	18:00	Evening Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's
Wed 20	09:30	Morning Prayer - Lady Chapel, St Edward's

Fr David's Diary

Tue 19	11:00	Department Clergy Sandhurst
Wed 20	12:00	Portsmouth meeting
	18:30	Penitential Service - Maidenhead

Adoration of Blessed Sacrament

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

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

revgeorgeyoung@hotmail.com

Sr Teresina Fingleton CSB: Parish Sister

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

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth – Charity No. 1199568

Offertory

S/O - D/D 1,848.08 Envelopes £ 243.03 Loose £ 590.95

Congratulations

Nora Golec will be celebrating her **103rd Birthday** this Sunday, 17 December. Wishing her many Happy Returns!

The Diaconate

As you may know, Stephen Patterson is in training for the Permanent Diaconate for our diocese and parish. As the next step of his formation and preparation, he will be instituted by Fr David, on behalf of Bishop Philip, to the Ministry of Acolyte on Saturday evening at the 18:00 Mass.

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.

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, will 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

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 family, friends and neighbours.

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 or mobile 07547 514467

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**.

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

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 it 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

HCPT

The group are busily planning their pilgrimage to Lourdes in Easter 2024. They would like to take 4 or 5 children from the Parish, aged between 7 and 17 years who have additional needs. This may be social needs, disability, or children who would simply benefit from a very special week away. (All costs are paid by HCPT). If you have a child or know a child who might be helped by a trip to Lourdes please contact Pat Burke (Group leader) for a confidential chat.

Contact Pat through the Parish office or email:

group128@hcpt.org.uk

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

Deceased

Please pray for the repose of the soul of **Pat Brooke**. Further details will follow.

Also pray for the repose of the soul of **Catherine King**. Her funeral service will take place at 12:00 on Friday 26 January at Slough Crematorium.