

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF LYMINGTON, BROCKENHURST & MILFORD-ON-SEA

Our Lady of Mercy & St Joseph
132 High St, Lymington, SO41 9AQ

St Anne
Rhinefield Rd, Brockenhurst, SO42 7SR

St Francis of Assisi
Park Lane, Milford-on-Sea, SO41 0PT

Parish Contacts:

Parish Office: Maryhouse, 132 High Street, Lymington SO41 9AQ. **Telephone:** 01590 676696.

Parish Priest: Rev David Adams; **Parish Administrator:** Lisa Thurston. **Email & Newsletter Items:** lymbrock@sky.com.

Website: www.nfwp.org.uk; **Parish Blog:** www.lymrcchurch.blogspot.com. **Registered Charity No:** 246871/2

School: Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School, Ramley Rd, Pennington, 01590 672711. **Head of School:** Nanette Allies

Chairs of Parish Pastoral Councils: Mike Reynolds, Lymington; Henry Mellor, Brockenhurst; Anthony Kirke, Milford on Sea

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Cathy Pickles (Lym); Susan McCabe (Brock); Liz White (Mil).

PA to Pastoral Co Ordinator & Health & Safety Co ordinator : Linda Guilding; **Health & Safety Reps St Francis:** Colin Stack & John

Parry . **For the Sacrament of the Sick or Holy Communion to the Sick or housebound:** Contact the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

See opposite page
for special times this
Advent.

Masses & Services for the Week: 15th December - 25th December

DAY	DATE	TIME	SERVICE	CHURCH	LITURGY	INTENTION	P
SAT	15 th	6.00pm	Mass	Our Lady	3 rd Sunday of Advent (P)	Rita Palmer RIP Anniv	PWR
SUN	16 th	9.00am	Mass	St Francis	3 rd Sunday of Advent (P)	People of the Parishes	DMA
SUN	16 th	10.30am	Mass	Our Lady	3 rd Sunday of Advent (P)	People of the Parishes	DMA
SUN	16 th	6.00pm	Mass	St Anne	3 rd Sunday of Advent (P)	Joseph Claude & Vera E. Marshall RIP F/M	DMA
MON	17 th	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	Proper of the Day	as per celebrant	PWR
TUE	18 th	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	Proper of the Day	Joseph & Flora Weld RIP F/M	DMA
WED	19 th	9.30am	W & C	Our Lady	Proper of the Day	N/A	
WED	19 th	10.00am	Mass	St Anne	Proper of the Day	as per celebrant	PWR
WED	19 th	10.00am	Mass	St Francis	Proper of the Day	Peace in the Yemen	DMA
THU	20 th	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	Proper of the Day	Pope Francis (Intentions)	DMA
THU	20 th	2.00pm	Carols	Our Lady	OLSJ School Carol Concert	N/A	
FRI	21 st	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	Proper of the Day	Helen May Burne RIP Anniv F/M	DMA
SAT	22 nd	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	Proper of the Day	For those who are unwell	DMA
SAT	22 nd	6.00pm	Mass	Our Lady	4 th Sunday of Advent (P)	People of the Parishes	DMA
SUN	23 rd	9.00am	Mass	St Francis	4 th Sunday of Advent (P)	People of the Parishes	PWR
SUN	23 rd	10.30am	Mass	Our Lady	4 th Sunday of Advent (P)	People of the Parishes	DMA
SUN	23 rd	6.00pm	Mass	St Anne	4 th Sunday of Advent (P)	Normina Marshall RIP F/M	DMA
MON	24 th	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	Proper of the Day	as per celebrant	PWR
MON	24 th	5.00pm	Mass	Our Lady	Christmas Night Mass (Children)	People of the Parishes	DMA
MON	24 th	7.30pm		Our Lady	Christmas Carols	N/A	
MON	24 th	8.00pm	Mass	Our Lady	Christmas Night Mass	People of the Parishes	DMA
TUE	25 th	9.00am	Mass	St Francis	Christmas Dawn Mass	People of the Parishes	DMA
TUE	25 th	10.00am	Mass	St Anne	Christmas Day Mass	as per celebrant	DQ
TUE	25 th	10.30am	Mass	Our Lady	Christmas Day Mass	People of the Parishes	DMA

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS: 24th/25th December - Christmas Offering; 1st January - SPUC White Flower Appeal

GIVE THE JOY TO RECEIVE THE JOY

This Sunday was traditionally called "Laetare" Sunday – literally Rejoice Sunday. The Liturgy, that is the prayers and readings for the Eucharist and the Prayer of the Church, emphasises God's gift of peace and joy.

We all want peace, joy and happiness. The question we all have to answer is: Where will I find peace, joy and happiness? What or who will provide these blessings? Wise people tell us that joy has already been given. It is the natural state of the soul (the true self). In contrast anxiety and dissatisfaction is the natural state of the ego (the false self). So, leaving aside severe depression which is an illness and extremes of deprivation which are an injustice, what is that prevents us experiencing the God given joy of the soul?

There is a critique of Western Christianity in general and it goes something like this. We are always seeking consolation and reassurance. Whenever we read the Bible, say our prayers or attend Mass we are primarily seeking consolation. The suggested reason for this is that deep down we are uneasy and insecure because we have really invested most of our hope in the things of this world: i.e. security in health, job, status, power, good-looks, money, possessions, qualities, virtues etc.

The effect of this is two-fold. First of all, the world is inherently insecure and uncertain and deep down we know we have built our house on sand. Secondly, because we have hedged our bets, so to speak, and have not made a radical (i.e. to the roots) choice for God and the ways of the Kingdom we are not able to receive the "peace of God, which is so much greater than we can understand". Hence our constant need for reassurance. Which is essentially a self-centred quest which prevents us from having the freedom and energy to address the problems of the world.

What the Bible offers is something different to the above. It offers Challenge. It invites a radical conversion to God—a deep change of mind and heart. The fruit of accepting the Challenge and undergoing the Conversion is the gift of a growing Peace and Joy. These come from the acceptance of God deep within. When we completely surrender to God and begin to know that "nothing can separate us from the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus" we will begin to experience the true peace and joy Jesus is talking about. This is always an on-going, life long process.

There are two main ways to this surrender of love, which ideally go hand in hand - silent prayer and life experience as we try to love as Jesus has loved us. These are ways of both joy and pain. Pain as we face our own resistance to change and our love of the false self and the world. Joy as God reveals Godself to us and sets us free to live from the joy of our true self. (DMA)

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: Mary Fugett, A Slade (16th), Blanche Gertrude Grantham-Hill (18th), Irene "Mac" Hutchinson (20th), Anne Marie Bares (22nd)

Sick & Housebound: Joan Lloyd, Marjorie Horton, Gill Boddington, Sarah Bell, Alison Doubleday, Margaret Langford, Sean McVeigh, Sarah Nicholls & Hilary Sendall.

NO COBWEBS ON ST FRANCIS! That's all thanks to our church cleaning teams. Please consider offering your help, by giving your name to Leah, if you feel you can join one of the teams. It involves being called on, several times during the year, on dates to suit, for dusting and vacuuming tasks. Apart from our lovely church, we also keep the Maryland Room spic-and-span for our social events. Your offer of help will be very welcome. Thank you.

YOUR TREASURED THOUGHTS: just a reminder, as mentioned during the pastoral council's AGM presentation, please let Helen have, before Christmas, a sentence or two on what is your treasure about our parish. She will then draw it all together, and show you in January, ready for the Bishop to take home with him, after his February visitation. Thank you.

ADVENT MEMORIAL TREE: we invite you to add the names of all those who have died that you would like to call to mind and include in our parish prayers. Please write their names on a 'bauble' and attach it to the tree so that your loved ones will be present in all our thoughts as we pray together for a peaceful and joyful Christmas.

St Anne, Brockenhurst

Anniversaries this week: Violet Sampson (16th), Joseph Marshall (18th), Molly O'Riordan (21st), Sheelagh Munford (22nd)

Sick and Housebound: Please keep Deacon Hilary and Anna Hubbard in your prayers

Fr Quarmby's Masses: For the week commencing 16th December: 10 am on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday; 8 am on Tuesday.

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered every Saturday after Mass, 10.30 to 11 am.

New Forest Basics Bank Appeal: As we head towards Christmas, the NFBB is experiencing a massive increase in requests for help from the agencies who refer individuals and families in difficulty to them. There will be a basket at the back of the church to collect food items throughout Advent and we ask you to give as generously as you can. There is a list of most needed items on the board in the porch. Alternatively, you may prefer to make a financial donation directly to the NFBB. Your help and support is deeply appreciated.

Christmas Day Lunch will be served at St Saviours' Church Hall. This is open to anyone who would like to share this special meal in the company of others. All are welcome. Tickets £10 each. Please see the notice on the board in the porch for more details. If you know of anyone who might like to attend, please pass on the information.

Christmas Flowers We will be taking a collection for Christmas flowers at the end of Mass next Sunday, 16th December.

Any items for the newsletter to anna@boylemellor.co.uk to arrive by Thursday morning

All Parishes

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS – the true spirit of Christmas Giving: Give a gift that will change a life. There are gifts for every budget from Happy Queen Bee at £4 to Help a Refugee child at £46. Each CAFOD World gift has been chosen for the real and lasting difference it makes to families living in developing countries. Catalogues are available at church or you can buy online at cafod.org.uk/worldgifts.



In the bleak mid-winter, frosty winds may moan. Hearts stand "hard as iron", compassion like a stone. Loneliness reveals those hidden tears and emptiness its fear. In the bleak mid-winter, not many yards from here.

Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington

Anniversaries this week: Mary O'Callaghan, Katherine Brown (15th), Hazel Barrett (16th), Andre Mathey (17th), John Hooker, Marie O'Reiriden (18th), John Bishorek, Albert Andrews, Ruth Helen Adams (19th), Philip Jones, Charles Phillips, Herbert 'Bertie' Charles Nutt (20th), Harold Derek Barrett, Alice Ann Dobson, Marcia Greenwood (21st).

Sick and Housebound: Mike Hedges, Ramona Heath-Saunders, Simone Cluett, Concetta Losanno, Terry Iles, Mai Wilson, Den Walker, Brian Choules, Len Harley, Marie Smith, Celine McCay, Mary Norton, Patricia Mate.

COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: – please help towards a beautifully decorated church by contributing towards the cost of the flowers.

KNIT & STITCH will meet next Friday 21st December in the Hospitality Centre from 2.30pm to 4pm. All welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION & RECONCILIATION: Application forms for this year's programme are available at the back of church. Please complete the form and return it to Cathy Pickles **BEFORE 6th January**. Details of the dates and times are on the form.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES - PARISH CAR PARK: As you are aware there are limited spaces in the parish car park. The Christmas services get very full so the car park fills up quickly. If you could park in the public car park at the back of church-near Tesco's- it would be appreciated. The pedestrian gate from the public car park to church grounds will be open. Please note you may have to buy a ticket for the public car park. **HOWEVER**, if you are bringing someone to Mass who has difficulty walking, please contact the office a.s.a.p. with your number plate details and we will do our best to reserve a car park space on site for you. **NOTE TO EVERYONE:** Please be extra careful walking around the site, especially leaving the church or Joseph's Place, as cars will be moving around the site.

CONGRATULATIONS: to our 100 Club winners: - Nicola Kirby £70, Kay Malpiedi £38, Magdalen Chadbourne £29, Antony Cunningham £19, Patricia Sey £14, Fr David £10. Many thanks to all our 100 Club members for their contribution to parish funds.

FUND-RAISING: Our next fund-raising event will be on Saturday 29th December when we will be raising money to help provide a prayer area for Our Lady & St Joseph's Primary School. Do come along for a cake or a bowl of soup and support our local school.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH 2018 – a reminder that on Sunday 16th December We would be grateful for any suitable gifts (or appropriate donation) for the Christmas Tree. (Value £2.00 to £4.00) for our guests to take home wrapped and Labelled for a Lady or Gentleman. **Thank you, Mike and Ann Reynolds 01590 679084**

Dates for the Diary: Parish AGM will be held on Sunday, 20th January 2019 in church, immediately after the 10.30am Mass. It will include reports from the PPC & Finance Committees.

All Parishes

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: (see schedule of Services opposite)

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (Confession): At OLMSJ on Sat, 15th Dec, 10am-11am & 7pm-8pm; At St Anne's on Sat 15th Dec, 10.30am – 11.00am. At OLMSJ on Wed, 19th Dec from 6pm – 7pm. At OLMSJ on Sat, 22nd Dec, 10am-11am & 7pm-8pm; At St Anne's on Sat 22nd Dec, 10.30am – 11.00am.

TODAY - Sunday 16th December - CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE at 3pm, followed by tea & mince pies with the **Dominican Sisters of St Joseph**, St Dominic's Priory, Shirley Holms Road, Lymington, SO41 8NH, Tel. 01590-681874

DO YOU REJOICE IN THE LORD? Is He asking you to consider a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? To explore further, contact Fr. John Cooke, vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE: Sadly, this free diocesan magazine which many of you used to take and enjoy has ceased to exist. Its budget was approved in July, but almost immediately was subjected to a 26% cut, which made continued publication impossible, and closure was announced at the end of July. Diocese events and publications are now available on diocese's website and on E-news. Jay Kettle-Williams, the Southsea-based editor, has been snapped up by 'Catholic South West', a monthly tabloid of the Plymouth Diocese.