

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:** lymbrockmil@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
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. Exec. Head: Gerida Montague
Chairs of Parish Pastoral Councils: Mike Reynolds, Lymington; Ian Holden, Brockenhurst; Anthony Kirke, Milford on Sea
Parish Safeguarding Representative: Vanessa Dugdale (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.

Confessions:

OLMSJ, Lymington
Mon, 23rd Dec
7pm-8pm

Masses & Services for the Week: 21st December - 29th December 2019

DAY	DATE	TIME	SERVICE	CHURCH	LITURGY	INTENTION	P
SAT	21 st	6.00pm	Mass + AS	Our Lady	Fourth Sunday of Advent Yr A (P)	Heath Corkery RIP & family	DMA
SUN	22 nd	9.00am	Mass	St Francis	Fourth Sunday of Advent Yr A (P)	People of the Parishes	DMA
SUN	22 nd	10.30am	Mass	Our Lady	Fourth Sunday of Advent Yr A (P)	People of the Parishes	DMA
SUN	22 nd	6.00pm	Mass	St Anne	Fourth Sunday of Advent Yr A (P)	as per celebrant	PWR
MON	23 rd	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	Liturgy of the Day (P)	as per celebrant	PWR
TUE	24 th	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	Liturgy of the Day (P)	as per celebrant	PWR
TUE	24 th	5.00pm	Mass	Our Lady	Christmas Night Mass (Children)	Louise Layne (Recovery)	DMA
TUE	24 th	7.30pm	Mass	Our Lady	Carols & Christmas Night Mass	People of the Parishes	DMA
WED	25 th	9.00am	Mass	St Francis	Christmas Dawn Mass	People of the Parishes	DMA
WED	25 th	10.00am	Mass	St Anne	Christmas Day Mass	as per celebrant	DQ
WED	25 th	10.30am	Mass	Our Lady	Christmas Day Mass	as per celebrant	PWR
THU	26 th	10.00am	Mass	Our Lady	St Stephen, Feast, (R)	as per celebrant	PWR
FRI	27 th	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	St John, Apostle, Feast, (W)	Joseph Breen RIP	DMA
SAT	28 th	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	The Holy innocents, Feast, (R)	for victims of abuse	DMA
SAT	28 th	6.00pm	Mass	Our Lady	The Holy Family Yr A (W)	as per celebrant	PWR
SUN	29 th	9.00am	Mass	St Francis	The Holy Family Yr A (W)	People of the Parishes	DMA
SUN	29 th	10.30am	Mass + AS	Our Lady	The Holy Family Yr A (W)	People of the Parishes	DMA
SUN	29 th	6.00pm	Mass	St Anne	The Holy Family Yr A (W)	Brian Gray RIP	DMA

Fanciful Tales or Narratives of Divine Mystery?

Some years ago we were walking our two springer spaniels when suddenly two deer emerged from the bushes, came up the embankment, crossed over the path and disappeared into the bushes again. They were only 10 yards ahead of us but the spaniels had their noses firmly fixed to the ground. They weren't in a world of sights, they inhabited a world of smells! The deer passed by unnoticed, when the springers eventually got the scent the deer were no where to be seen!

Often we miss things because we "haven't got the eyes to see". Sometimes we dismiss what is really big & important because we can't understand a small little, perhaps inconsequential, detail in the "story". This is one of the problems for Christianity in our culture today. One little difficulty, one misunderstanding and the whole treasure of over three thousand years of spiritual gift, wisdom and experience is instantly dismissed. And if we cannot discover any of the other gifts of Divine wisdom and love in the world we can be empty and aimless.

This is not only sad it is deeply damaging because without a spiritual wisdom which connects us to the Source we cannot negotiate the "slings and arrows of outrageous fortune" with hope and purpose. If we can find no other meaning than this brief span of existence it is difficult to resist desperate clinging and fatalistic despair.

The stories of Jesus' conception and birth are trying to express his connection with the Divine in terms of the relationship between God and the descendants of Abraham that unfolded over many centuries.

With our limited understanding, our disconnected experience and our undeveloped spiritual appreciation we don't see everything as GRACE. Our minds tend to stop short at physical, biological connection. We get stuck in "either or" thinking and have difficulty seeing the "both and". Our understanding of the natural world is very different now from what it was in the past. And we have difficulty seeing through all the different layers of life and existence to the One who is the source of everything.

For the Gospel writers and for us it is of ultimate importance that we correctly understand the Gift that God is giving us in Jesus. This gift comes right from the being and heart of the Divine Mystery. Jesus is a gift of love and a gift of life and the whole purpose of the universe is to enable this gift to be given and to be received with joy and thanksgiving. That is why it is Good News. The biology, the legal relationships, the cultural and religious connections are all pressed into service to communicate this one central and overriding gift - Emmanuel, God Is With Us.

It would be a tragedy if our difficulties over the details in the story were to lead us to miss what it is all about. The most urgent task for the Church today is to communicate the Gift using all that is true in our current world view. (DMA)

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: Anne Marie Bares (22nd), Robert Joseph Lynch (23rd), Fortunee Annette Bernard (25th)

Sick & Housebound: Colin Stack, Joan Lloyd, Marjorie Horton, Sarah Bell, Alison Doubleday & Sean McVeigh.

CHRISTMAS MORNING MASS AT ST FRANCIS: this will be at the usual time of 9am. The Liturgy (i.e. prayers & readings) will be from the Mass at Dawn.

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: A Minister writes - *it is such a joy and an honour to take Holy Communion to fellow parishioners who have become unable to get to Mass either temporarily or long-term.* Please consider joining this wonderful ministry, or extending your existing ministry if your circumstances allow you to give time to serve out in the community. Fr David, Anthony and Helen can give you more information.

St Anne, Brockenhurst

Anniversaries this week: Sheelah Munford (22nd), N. Marshall (24th), Winifred Doris Sergeant, Kieran Patrick Holland (25th), Ethel Mary Knight-Grigg (26th), James Kelly, Katherine (Kitty) Hayward (27th)

Sick and Housebound: Please keep in your prayers: Jules Holden, Sean Dunn, Linda Reardon and Mary Byrne.

Fr Quarmby's Mass times: weekday Mass times for weeks beginning: 15th, 22nd, 29th December, & 5th January: 10 a.m. every day except Tuesday 8 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration every Wednesday (except Christmas Day) at 9.00am followed by the Rosary at 9.30am.

Fr. Quarmby thanks all the kind people of the parish who have so generously helped him in many ways over the past year – and promises to keep them all in the Masses over Christmastide and New Year. Happy Christmas and New year to one and all.

Christmas Day Mass at St Anne's will be at 10 am.

Parish Christmas Lunch Thank you to all who helped, fund raised, prepared and served the fabulous Christmas lunch last Sunday. It was great to get together as a parish. A special thanks for the generous gifts to our active and retired clergy.

New Forest Basics Bank Collection: A big thank you also to all those who generously bought the table decorations at the lunch, or gave a donation, which raised a total of £110 for the NFBB following a recent break-in at their premises.

Christmas Greetings and Thank You from Father Charlie: Fr Charlie has written from Malawi to thank everyone in our parish for their help and prayers. The money we raised together with other donations means they will be able to complete two more classrooms for children who at the moment are taught under trees in the school grounds. He assures us of their prayers, and he will offer the sacrifice of the Mass for our Parish. His full letter and photos will be on the notice board in the Parish Rooms.

Red Mission Boxes: Missio has expressed their thanks for the donations from Red Box Collections from this Parish which this year amounted to £362 plus the Collection at church which was £190.98 giving a grand total of £552.89. Well Done Everyone.!

Collection for Christmas flowers There will be a collection at the end of Mass this evening for the church's Christmas flowers.

Christmas Day lunch at St Saviour's Church Hall, Wilverley Road (12.00 for 12.30pm). Tickets £10 each. To book, phone St Saviour's Church Office. Details on the notice board.

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

All Parishes

What a fabulous event **ANGELFEST** was! The amount raised for the OLMSJ building fund was an amazing £1,120.98. Thank you to everyone who supported it. Special thanks to Gerida Montague, Ellie Prince and all the staff and children at the school who worked incredibly hard to make the event such a success. Check out the pictures on the school website.

Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington

Anniversaries this week: Harold Derek Barrett, Alice Ann Dobson, Marcia Greenwood, Terrence (Terry) Iles (21st), William Custis (22nd), John Adams, Nicholas James Phillips (24th), Pamela Joan Clifford, Frances Anne Locke (25th), Mary Flood, Annie Foot, Lily Pearce, Eileen Mary Weguelin (27th)

Sick and Housebound: Anne Nyland, Deacon Anthony Cairns, Johnny Flood, Simone Cluett, Ramona Heath-Saunders, Concetta Losanno, Mai Wilson, Den Walker, Brian Choules, Len Harley, Marie Smith, Patricia Mate.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION: If you wish your child to take part in the 2020 First Communion Programme please take and complete a form from the back of the Church and return to Cathy Pickles by Sunday 29th December. Your child should ideally be in year group 3 at school.

THANK YOU everyone for your prayers and good wishes, plus all the offers of help after my operation: it has been overwhelming and humbling. May God bless you all. Clare Bassett."

The CWL would like to thank all those parishioners who have attended their coffee mornings. This year we have been able to give out £1,100 between these charities:

CUF (supporting pre-school children in S, Africa), Medaille Trust (Trafficking) Margaret Clitherow Trust, Crisis at Christmas, Basics Bank, Parkinsons, Alzheimer Research, Barnardos, Apostleship of the Sea and the new Charity "Scotty's Little Soldiers for children whose fathers have been killed on active service. We were also able to donate £400, via Nichola and Ros, from our Speakers Legacy, to the Building Fund. Once again thank you for coming to our coffee mornings, without customers none of this would be possible.

100 CLUB DRAW RESULTS: - Star prize £75: no 38 Neville Lewcock; £40: no.74 Lisa Thurston; £30: no.6 Martha Medina; £20: no 72 Anthony Cunningham; £15: no.69 Elizabeth Finn; £10: no.30 June Siddall.

Congratulations to all our winners this year. Thank you to everyone who subscribed and helped raise funds for the parish. The subscription for 2020 is still £15 per ticket and we will be contacting members in January. Envelopes will be available at the back of the church which can be completed and left at the parish office.

SUNDAY COFFEE: the parish extends grateful thanks to everyone who helps serve us coffee every week after Mass. Your service, kindness, hard work and time is much appreciated and greatly benefits us all.

Fundraising: 'It's a fiver' made £325.70 for the Building Fund. Thank you to everyone for taking part. **2020:** There will not be any Fundraising events in January. We will be back in February.

What a fabulous event **ANGELFEST** was! The amount raised for our building fund was an amazing £1,120.98. Thank you to everyone who supported it. Special thanks to Gerida Montague, Ellie Prince and all the staff and children at the school who worked incredibly hard to make the event such a success.

FUND-RAISING UPDATE: Pledges - Number of pledges: 31
Expected return over 5 years including gift aid: £75,915
Actual Bank Account Receipts to date:- **£28,492.03**

All Parishes

SPECIAL THANKS: to our retired priests, Mgr Fr Peter Ryan & Fr David Quarmby for their generous assistance all through the year but especially at Christmas time when there are many more Masses required for our parishes.

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTION: This is for your parish priest, Fr David Adams, and forms a part of his ordinary income for the year. Fr David thanks you all in advance for your kindness and generosity. And thanks to all those who have already given kind gifts and cards and assurances of prayer.

CRIB COLLECTIONS: For the Christian Communities of the Holy Land (via the Friends of the Holy Land)

SCHOOL MASS- date for your diary: The next Mass at the school will be on Thursday 9th January at 9am. You are all welcome to attend.