



**St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Church. Totton
Our Lady of the Assumption & St. Edward the
Confessor Church. Lyndhurst**

(Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth) Reg Charity No: 246871,
Parish Priest: Fr. Gerry Onyejuluwa, MSP. Serving the Parishes of Totton & Lyndhurst
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Rev. Stephen Short. Parish Deacon.
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Lyndhurst Parish Safeguarding Rep: Adrian Forest. 02380283427.
Parish Secretary/Administrator Steve Bowler (Thursday 9 – 1pm)



4th Sunday of Advent –Psalter week 4. Year A

Sat. 21 st Dec. Mass. St. Theresa's	6.00.pm.
Sun. 22 nd Dec. Mass. Our Lady's	9.00.am.
Sun. 22 nd Dec. Mass. St. Theresa's Bernard Morgan RIP	10.30.am.
Mon. 23 rd Dec. Mass. St. Theresa's Marie Lawler RIP	9.30.am.
Tue. 24 th Dec. Mass Our Lady's	7.00pm.
Tue. 24 th Dec. Mass. St Theresa's	9.00pm
Nativity of the Lord: For the Intentions of Parishioners	
Wed. 25 th Dec. Mass. Our Lady's	9.00.am
Nativity of the Lord: For the Intentions of Parishioners	
Wed. 25 th Dec. Mass. St. Theresa's	10.30.am.
Nativity of the Lord: For the Intentions of Parishioners	
Thu. 26 th Dec. Mass. Our Lady's	10.00am.
St Stephen	
Fri. 27 th Dec. No Mass.	

Collection for Christmas flowers

The Octave of Christmas –Psalter week 1. Year A

Sat. 28 th Dec. Mass. St. Theresa's	6.00.pm.
The Holy Innocents	
Sun. 29 th Dec. Mass. Our Lady's	9.00.am.
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	
Sun. 29 th Dec. Mass. St. Theresa's	10.30.am.
Mon. 30 th Dec. Mass. St. Theresa's	9.30.am.
Tue. 31 st Dec. Mass St Theresa's	9.30.am.
Wed. 1 st Jan. Mass. St Theresa's	9.30.am.
Mary, The Holy Mother of God	
Thu. 2 nd Jan. Mass. Our Lady's	10.00am.
Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	
Fri. 3 rd Jan. No Mass.	

+Please pray for the following members of our community who are ill or housebound: Bella Calder, Claire Sorrell, Tony Wright, John Tobin, Christopher Brown, Peggy Crooke, Greg Borkowski, Jay Dosanjh, John Vidal, Clara Nolan, Eve Barry, Ray & Mary Templeman, Chris Phelan, and Mary Taylor. For all those in nursing homes or hospital and other Parish Family members who are ill or need our prayers.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS:

Fr. Gerry and Deacon Stephen wish a very happy, blessed and joyful Christmas tide to all our parishioners their family members and relatives and all our visitors to our parish during this Holy season. If you are going away for the Christmas Celebrations and holiday period, we wish you a blessed and holy Christmas. We wish you safe journeys to and from your destinations and an enjoyable and relaxed time. If you are staying at home, we look forward to seeing you over the Christmas period. Fr Gerry gratefully thanks Parishioners for their Christmas cards and gifts.

The Christmas offering is your personal gift to Fr. Gerry and makes up part of his personal income for the coming year. Envelopes are in the boxes for those in the Gift Aid scheme.

Thank you for your generosity!

Pope Francis' Intentions Dec 2019

The Future of the Very Young

That every country take the measures necessary to prioritise the future of the very young, especially those who are suffering.

Pope's Tweets: Our response to the challenges posed by contemporary migration can be summed up in four verbs: welcome, protect, promote and integrate. If we put them into practice, we will help build the city of God and man. Every conversion comes from a previous experience of mercy, from God's tenderness that captures the heart.

Christmas Mass Times 2019

Tuesday 24th December.

Our Lady's. Carols at: 6.30.pm.

Holy Mass: 7.00.pm

St Theresa's. Carols at: 8.30.pm.

Holy Mass 9.00.pm

Christmas Day. Wednesday 25th December.

25th December. Mass. Our Lady's 9.00.am

25th December. Mass. St Theresa's 10.30.am

This Christmas 2019, our Crib offerings in the Diocese will be donated to the Friends of the Holy Land. (In alternate years, the collections are sent to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre). These offerings remind us that the Christian community in the Holy Land represents a physical link between the modern world and the life and times of Christ – they are the 'living stones' of our faith. Since 1998, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has organised a group called the Holy Land Co-ordination. It is chaired by Bishop Declan Lang of Clifton. Recently, Bishop Declan issued the following statement: *"As Bishops of the Holy Land Co-ordination have consistently highlighted, we all have a responsibility to oppose the continued construction of illegal settlements, which not only fuels human rights violations, but imperils any chance of a two-state solution. We stand in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land as it strives for justice and peace amid these increasingly difficult circumstances and look forward to reiterating this support in person during our forthcoming visit to Christian communities in Palestine."*

VOCATIONS Our **Seminarian to keep in your prayers this month** David Bateman who is in his third year at Oscott Seminary, Birmingham. He is a parishioner of the Cathedral Parish in Portsmouth. David says this about his vocation. "I have thought about the sacred Priesthood since the age of 9, and on what seems like a long journey I am now in my third year of formation. I became a Catholic at the age 17. I didn't go to university, instead after college I joined my brother and became a builder. I did this for 5 years until I met with the Bishop and we both decided that it was time to stop thinking about Priesthood and do something about it. I left my Job, family and friends to join seminary. I am extremely happy with where I am now, and I am proud to be a seminarian for the diocese of Portsmouth. To find out more about vocations visit. "I send my messenger ahead of you to prepare your way before you". To explore further, contact Fr. John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

St Theresa's Parish Christmas Bazaar

Heartfelt thanks to you all for your support for our Christmas Bazaar. It was a successful day and the magnificent sum of **£1553.92** was raised. Special thanks to the organising team especially Theresa & Edna, also those who helped by manning the stalls serving the refreshments, yourselves for donating items to sell and for attending the day. Thank you all **Some Free Gifts coming your way - from our Bishop Philip Egan** The Year of God's Word has begun. Over the next twelve months, I'd like to encourage everyone in our Diocese to deepen their understanding, knowledge and love of the Bible, especially of the Gospels. St. Jerome, the great biblical scholar, once said that every line of the Scriptures points ultimately to Jesus Christ, such that *ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ*. So, I am sending out to all Mass-going parishioners in every parish of our Diocese some free gifts! One is a pocket-sized copy of the Gospel of St. Luke (or of St. Matthew) for you to carry with you. This will be ideal for when you have a quiet moment during the day and an encouragement to do a bit of *lectio divina*. (My introduction at the front of the Gospel explains how to go about *lectio*, if you are unfamiliar). I am also sending out a prayer-card with a *Prayer for the Renewal of the Diocese*. I have asked our priests to insert the recitation of this prayer into all Masses over the coming months, either during the Bidding Prayers or before the Final Blessing. Finally, I am sending out some copies of a free magazine produced by the national committee of the 'Year of the God Who Speaks' that contains many informative articles and ideas to help keep this coming year special.

Pray for the Gift of Hope

In Advent there is the need to pray for the gift of hope, a renewal of hope. We often pray for a deeper faith or a more intense love, but rarely for new hope. Yet hope is essential to the Christian life! It gives us joy and puts a spring in our step. By hope, I don't mean optimism, wishful thinking, being positive: Christian hope is much more thrilling! It's a gift from God, a gift to pray for. Hope is that joyful trust and utter confidence that at any moment now, in answer to our prayer, God will act. He will act with power. He will come to bring change. He will come into the dark areas of our lives and our world to renew all things, to turn gloom into light and to make the impossible possible. Meanwhile, I will pray for you this last week of Advent. I hope the Lord blesses you many times over and, when it comes, have a Happy Christmas. Bishop Philip.

Fr. Brian Croughan, former parish priest of St. Theresa's Totton (2003 – 2008), now retired and living in Winchester, wishes to thank all of you who sent to him Christmas cards. He wishes all of you A Merry Christmas!