

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:** office@lymbrockmil.org.uk. **Website:** www.nfwp.org.uk; **Parish Blog:** www.lymrcchurch.blogspot.com. Our parishes are part of & belong to the: **Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, Registered Charity No: 1199568. School:** Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School, Ramley Rd, Pennington, 01590 672711. **Exec. Head:** Gerida Montague. **Chairs of Parish Pastoral Councils:** Magdalen Chadborn, Lymington; Ian Holden, Brockenhurst; Roger Maughan, Milford on Sea. **Parish Safeguarding Ministers:** Dr Wanda Fojt (safeguarding@lymbrockmil.org.uk); Henrietta Reynolds (safeguarding@brock.org.uk); Liz Price (safeguarding@sfmil.org.uk). **PA to Pastoral Co Ordinator & Dean & Health & Safety Co ordinator:** Linda Guilding; **For the Sacrament of the Sick or Holy Communion to the Sick or housebound; & for the Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Contact the parish office.

The Week: 2nd December 2023 - 10th December 2023

DAY	DATE	CHURCH	TIME	SERVICE	LITURGY	MASS INTENTION	
SAT	2 nd	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	1 st Sunday of Advent Yr B	Jan Whitwill RIP	DMA
SUN	3 rd	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	1 st Sunday of Advent Yr B	People of the Parishes	DMA
SUN	3 rd	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	1 st Sunday of Advent Yr B	Ada Janet Mills RIP F/M	DMA
SUN	3 rd	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	1 st Sunday of Advent Yr B	The Baker Family F/M	DMA
TUE	5 th	OLMSJ	10.00am	Mass	of the 1 st Week of Advent	Joseph & Flora Weld RIP F/M	DMA
WED	6 th	St Francis	10.00am	Mass	of the 1 st Week of Advent	For Peace in Ukraine & Palestine	DMA
THU	7 th	St Anne	10.00am	Mass	St Ambrose, Mem	For those who are unwell	DMA
FRI	8 th	OLMSJ	10.00am	Mass	Immac. Conception of Bl. V. Mary, Sol	For our Pastoral Area Clergy	DMA
SAT	9 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	2 nd Sunday of Advent Yr B	Joseph & Flora Weld RIP F/M	DMA
SUN	10 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	2 nd Sunday of Advent Yr B	People of the Parishes	DMA
SUN	10 th	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	2 nd Sunday of Advent Yr B	Nick Connolly RIP	DMA
SUN	10 th	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	2 nd Sunday of Advent Yr B	People of the Parishes	DMA

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: - SATURDAY MORNINGS 10AM - 10.30AM - 9th / 16th / 23rd Dec in OLMSJ Church

WHAT MIGHT IT MEAN TO BE ASLEEP?:

We are rushing around getting anxious and fretful about a whole load of things that “need” to be done. We’re still worrying over the past and all the regrets, sometimes dreaming about how better things could have been “if only”. We’re increasingly fearful of the future. We’ve grown comfortable with our indulgences and our sins. We’re very sensitive about what others say about us on Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat. Without realising how or why we’ve become more angry, upset or frustrated. We haven’t got time for real prayer, the real, heart to heart, honest, “this is me” type of prayer. We only associate with people who think the same way as we do, have a similar standard of living and who don’t demand very much of us. The papers we read, the films and programmes we watch are the sort that won’t disturb or upset us. We’ve become more fearful of strangers and less confident in dealing with life. We are becoming boring even to ourselves, thinking the same things, saying the same things and doing the same things. Life is grey, the world seems a threatening place. There has been too much change or not enough change. If we’re old we resent the young, if we’re young we resent the old! We have stopped thinking for ourselves, stopped searching, seeking, asking or knocking. We just tend to go with whatever is popular, as long as it suits us. Perhaps we can think of other ways in which we can be spiritually asleep.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE AWAKE?:

Jesus said we need to change and become like little children if we want to get on God’s wavelength and discover the peace and joy God wants us to have. The changing, the turning around (i.e. repenting), the being born again are all other ways of describing waking up. By the gift of God’s Spirit, we begin to realise we are loved, we are important to God but also so is everyone else. God’s mercy helps us let go of the past with all its burden of regret. God’s care helps us to stop worrying about the future. We still make reasonable preparation but without the anxiety. Not burdened by either nostalgia or anxiety we can be more present to the present moment. We can be more aware and appreciative of the here and now. Letting go of our fear but also our naivety we can respond to others with a positive, welcoming attitude. Aware of our strengths and weaknesses and our gifts and talents we are more confident about what we can achieve when we exercise determination and perseverance. Increasingly freer from resentment, anxiety, fear, prejudice and self-pity we experience more spontaneous joy and laughter. Less pre-occupied with ourselves and our own needs we are freer to love others and be loved by others. To be awake is to be alive, alert, ready to respond with good-will, compassion and encouragement. To be awake is to be present to God who only meets us in the present moment and in the other, who is the Other in disguise. Perhaps we can think of other ways which indicate we are awake? (DMA)

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: Ernest John Quantrill, Teresa Elenor Diggins, Christopher Joseph Nagle (4th), Joyce Frances Mills (5th), Roberta (Bobbie) Cowdell (7th), Mary Harriet Tickle, Tim McArthur (8th)

Sick & Housebound: Peter Larke, Lorraine Muir, Barbara Mills, Kath Randle, Di Mussert, Rita Ford, Canon Peter Wilkie, June Gow, Norah Sweeney, Sarah Bell.

SPECIAL PRAYERS PLEASE: for Di Mussert who is seriously ill.

COFFEE/TEA MORNING this Sunday after Mass. Our thanks to the team!

Please let's give a wonderfully generous **CHRISTMAS PRESENT OF LOTS OF HOT WATER BOTTLES** to Ukraine, with or without covers. Especially needed now, with bitterly freezing temperatures and snow on the ground. We will carry on this appeal until New Year. Donations of cash for us to buy them will be gratefully accepted - Judith.

A CHRISTIAN CHRISTMAS IN MILFORD: .Carol Singing: Christians Together is organising an impromptu carol singing on the Village Green on **Weds 6th Dec at 11.30**. Please just turn up and take a part.

Nativity Scene: There will be a full size Nativity Scene on the Village Green throughout the Festive Season as we try to preserve the traditional spirit of Christmas.

St Anne, Brockenhurst

Anniversaries this week: Humphrey Nunes, Ralph Ledsham (3rd), Cecil Webb, Michael Patrick Kelly (4th), Richard Martin Power (5th)

Sick and Housebound: Please keep in your prayers: Paddy Lark, Canon Peter Wilkie, Susan McCabe.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FOR UKRAINE: Hot water bottles, with or without covers, would make a much-welcomed gift to those impacted by war in Ukraine, living through the winter without power and heat. There is a box at the back of the church for your donations. There is also a basket for cash donations to buy hot water bottles. Other items most urgently needed are knitted hats, scarves, mittens and toys for babies and children. If you need a knitting pattern please contact Annabelle 01590 624587.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS: sign up for Cafod's online Advent calendar of daily prayer and reflection at cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar.

All Parishes

CHECK OUR WEBSITE: www.nfwp.org.uk for resources to support us in our faith and in our care of one another.

SEASON OF ADVENT: Sunday, 3rd December, is the First Sunday of Advent, when the Church enters into a short but magical season that prepares us for the Coming of Christ. Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us in Bethlehem is remembered, and as a season when that remembrance directs our minds and hearts to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period of hope, of devout and joyful expectation. The liturgical colour is violet, and not the purple of Lent and penance. At Sunday Mass, the Gospel readings each have a distinctive theme: the Lord's coming at the end of time (First Sunday of Advent), John the Baptist (Second and Third Sunday), and the events that prepared immediately for the Lord's birth (Fourth Sunday). The Old Testament readings are prophecies about the Messiah and the Messianic age, especially from the Isaiah. On weekdays, there are two series of readings: one to be used from the beginning of Advent until 16th December, the other from 17th to 24th December. In the first part of Advent there are readings from Isaiah, distributed in accord with the sequence of the book itself and including those texts that are also read on the Sundays. In "late Advent," the last week before Christmas, the events that immediately prepared for the Lord's birth are presented from Matthew and Luke.

With all the secular preparations for Christmas, Advent is always a busy period! The challenge is to find time for prayer and reflection. This year, with Christmas Day being on a Monday, we have the shortest possible Advent of all, just three weeks, so do try and find the time in order to keep a sense of true perspective during this holy season and thus be able to find from the Lord much joy and happiness. We have 3 events you may wish to attend during Advent which meet the need for prayer and reflection: 3rd December: The Youth Mass at 10.30am Mass at OLMSJ.

7th December: A reflection for Advent by Mary Dunn *Born in my stable*.

13th December: *Facing Christmas*, a service of peace and tranquillity before the manic build up to Christmas.

CLERGY CHRISTMAS COLLECTION VIA GIVE AS YOU LIVE (GAYL):

For Lymington:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/lymington-our-lady-of-mercy-and-st-joseph-catholic-church-christmas-collection-2023>

For Milford:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/milford-on-sea-st-francis-of-assis-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2023>

For Brockenhurst:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/brockenhurst-st-anne-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2023>

The Christmas collection for your parish priest is a voluntary offering from parishioners which helps to make up Fr David's income. With thanks in advance for your kindness and generosity.

Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington

Anniversaries this week: Harold Everett, May Phillips (2nd), Patrick Rickman (4th), Emily Andrews (6th), John Alan Curtis Read (7th), Dorothy Borrie (8th)

Sick and Housebound: Frances Riches, Ron & Rita Barrett, Canon Peter Wilkie, John & Nicki Collins, Den Walker, Sean Dunn, Deacon Anthony Cairns, Simone Cluett.

MANY THANKS to our Saturday morning fund-raisers who enabled us to donate £300 to St Thomas Church to help fund their Christmas Lunch for local people. It was incredibly busy last Saturday and we salute the hard work and efficiency which went into serving so many people and also creating a warm, welcoming atmosphere. The next fund-raising coffee morning will be on 30th December and will be in aid of CAFOD: Gaza/Israel relief fund.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB CHRISTMAS PARTY is on Monday 4th December from 2-4pm in Joseph's Place. We have the Christmas quiz, raffle, Eddie Edwards to entertain us, a beautiful hand-knitted crib to admire all followed by afternoon tea at 3pm with Christmas carols to finish. Everyone most welcome.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL AT ST THOMAS from 1-5th December. Many beautifully decorated trees including the Friendship Club/Church tree which is NUMBER 62! (on the left hand side, just back from the altar) There is also entertainment and refreshments. A beautiful occasion and well worth a visit.

CWL: will be selling cakes tomorrow after Mass in St Joseph's Place. Grab yourself a very delicious bargain!

This year the The Catholic Women's League, Portsmouth Branch, Lymington Section raised funds for the following charities: Dominican Sisters At Sway - £200; Women's Refuge Now SDVS - £120 And £200; Fr David - £40; Water Aid - £150; Pact (Prisoners Aid Care Trust) - £200; Ukraine - £70; Medaille Trust - £600. Congratulations to the CWL members for this great work and to all who contributed. We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 2.15 in the parish room. New members welcome.

MISSIO RED BOX COLLECTION: We will be having a collection point for MISSIO Red Boxes at the back of the church at Saturday evening and Sunday morning masses next weekend (9th & 10th December) and the following weekend (16th & 17th December). If you have a red box and are able to bring it along, it would be much appreciated. Please make sure that your box has your name on it before handing it in so that we can identify your donation.

BUILDING FUND UPDATE: Total in bank as at: 24/11/23: £260,835.08 This includes GAYL contributions.

All Parishes

CHECK OUR WEBSITE: www.nfwp.org.uk for resources to support us in our faith and in our care of one another.

LOTS OF DATES FOR YOUR DIARY Please make a note of them. ADVENT

Thursday 7th December: 7pm OLMSJ. 'Born in my stable' A reflection for Advent by Mary Dunn. This is open to all 3 parishes. You may want to bring a cushion as we will be sitting throughout!

Sunday 10th December: 2.30pm OLMSJ Back by popular request 'Carols, mince pies and Linda's delicious Mulled wine'! Just what you need to get in the mood for Christmas! **This is open to all 3 parishes.**

Wednesday 13th December: 7pm OLMSJ Facing Christmas- A candlelit service recognising that Christmas can be a difficult time for some or sometimes people just want a quiet service in the lead up to hustle and bustle of Christmas. **This is open to all 3 parishes.**

CHRISTMAS - PLEASE NOTE :

This year the 4th Sunday of Advent is also Christmas Eve, so that Sunday falls into 2 halves:

the 4th Sunday of Advent in the morning. Christmas Eve in the evening.

SATURDAY 23rd DECEMBER

Vigil Mass, 4th Sunday of Advent 6pm OLMSJ

SUNDAY 24th DECEMBER 4th Sunday of Advent

9am Mass ST FRANCIS

****THERE WON'T BE A 10.30am MASS AT OLMSJ ON THIS DAY****

10.30am Mass ST ANNE'S
SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER CHRISTMAS EVE
5pm First Mass of Christmas OLMSJ

MONDAY 25TH DECEMBER CHRISTMAS DAY
9am Mass ST FRANCIS

10.30am Mass OLMSJ
12 noon Mass ST ANNE'S

SR VERONICA'S REFLECTION: As we begin a new liturgical year let us seek to place our hope in the coming of the Lord this Christmas which is looking on the horizon! We must be wide awake and vigilant as we await his coming among us in the flesh of Jesus. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Evl7RGM7zAc> (Apologies for the sound quality this week!) God Bless Sr Veronica OP