



Waterside Catholic Parish St Bernard's & St Michael's



**Parish Diary week commencing Sunday 17th December 2023,
THIRD Week in ADVENT, GAUDETE SUNDAY.**

Parish Priest: Fr. Innaiah Maddineni: Email imaddineni@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk The Presbytery, 20A Southbourne Avenue, Holbury, SO45 2NT. *For emergencies please message, call or WhatsApp 07515001645.*

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Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth is a Registered Charity, Number 1199568

Date	Weekday	Mass Time	Where	Days	Proper
17-12-2023	Sunday	9am	St Bernard's	Sunday	3rd Sunday of Advent 'O Wisdom'
17-12-2023	Sunday	11am	St Michael's	Sunday	3rd Sunday of Advent 'O Wisdom'
18-12-2023	Monday	9am	St Bernard's	Weekday	Liturgy of the Day 'O Adonai'
19-12-2023	Tuesday	9am	St Michael's	Weekday	Liturgy of the Day 'O Root of Jesse'
20-12-2023	Wednesday	9am	St Bernard's	Weekday	Liturgy of the Day 'O Key of David'
21-12-2023	Thursday	9am	St Michael's	Weekday	Liturgy of the Day 'O Morning Star'
22-12-2023	Friday	No Mass	Churches available	Weekday	Liturgy of the Day 'O King of the nations'
23-12-2023	Saturday	9am	St Michael's	Weekday	Liturgy of the Day 'O Emmanuel'
24-12-2023	Sunday	9am	St Bernard's	Sunday	4th Sunday of Advent
24-12-2023	Sunday	11am	St Michaels	Sunday	4th Sunday of Advent
24-12-2023	Sunday	7.30pm	St Bernard's	Sunday	THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD VIGIL MASS
25-12-2023	Monday	10am	St Michael's	Sunday	THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

The parish office is now open every Tuesday and Thursday between 10.30am—12.30pm.

Andrea or Angela will be there and delighted to see you if you want to pop in during that time.

The office will not be open on Tuesday 26th or Thursday 28th December.

Tuesday 19th December 7pm—8pm

St Bernard's Church

**There will be two priests available for
hearing Confessions**

Advent Prayer group will be running alongside
Confessions from 7.30pm in the Hall

Last weeks Collections

St Bernard's £100.40

St Michael's 97.66

Envelopes £119.10

Direct to bank figure for November £1366.00

We keep in our prayers the sick and housebound members of the parish:

John Allen, Pauline Moore, Mike Slipper and Paola McCarthy

To comply with GDPR legislation, the express permission of the sick parishioner is needed before inclusion in this part of the Parish newsletter. Registration forms are available at both churches.

IN MEMORIAM

We pray for the dear departed of the parish and for those whose anniversaries occur this week

17th Sarah-Jane Morrison (2017), Patrick Bradley (1993)

18th Marcus Childs (1999)

19th Ruth Adams (2001), Christina Croucher (2002), Jean Cummings (2003), Sarah Trotman (1979),

20th Charles Dennison (1978)

23rd Dorothy Cornaccia (1987), Brandon Kelly (2009), Elizabeth Jone Sinclair (2012), Anna Marie Jensen (2012)

Pious tradition holds that Jesus promised St. Gertrude that a thousand souls would be released from purgatory each time the following prayer is said devoutly: "Eternal Father, I offer You the Most Precious Blood of Your Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the universal church, those in my own home and within my family. Amen."

What is Gaudete Sunday?

Gaudete Sunday is the third Sunday of Advent and takes its common name from the Latin word Gaudete ("Rejoice"), the first word of the introit of this day's Mass: "Gaudete in Domino semper: iterum dico, gaudete. This may be translated as: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice."

History of Gaudete Sunday: Gaudete Sunday, holds a significant place in the liturgical calendar, marking a joyful midpoint in the season of anticipation before Christmas. The history of Gaudete Sunday is deeply rooted in Christian tradition. The observance dates back to the medieval period when the church recognized the need to balance the penitential nature of Advent with moments of joy and hope. The third Sunday of Advent serves as a brief respite from the more sombre aspects of the season, allowing believers to rejoice in the imminent arrival of the Christ child.

The liturgical colour for Gaudete Sunday is rose symbolizing joy and a departure from the traditional purple associated with penance and preparation. This distinctive colour choice is a visual cue to the faithful that a shift toward celebration and gladness is underway. It is also marked by the lighting of the third candle on the Advent wreath, often known as the "Gaudete Candle" or the "Candle of Joy." This candle represents the joy that we experience as we draw closer to the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

The Legend of the Poinsettia

A legend is told of Pepita, a poor Mexican girl who had no gift to present the Christ Child at Christmas Eve Masses. As Pepita walked slowly to the chapel with her cousin Pedro, her heart was filled with sadness rather than joy. Pedro said consolingly, I am sure, Pepita, that even the most humble gift, if given in love, will be acceptable in His eyes. Not knowing what else to do, Pepita knelt by the roadside and gathered a handful of common weeds, fashioning them into a small bouquet. Looking at the scraggly bunch of weeds, she felt more saddened and embarrassed than ever by the humbleness of her offering. She fought back a tear as she entered the small village chapel. As she approached the altar, she remembered Pedro's kind words: Even the most humble gift, if given in love, will be acceptable in His eyes. She felt her spirit lift as she knelt to lay the bouquet at the foot of the nativity scene. Suddenly, the bouquet of weeds burst into blooms of brilliant red, and all who saw them were certain that they had witnessed a Christmas miracle right before their eyes. From that day on, the bright red flowers were known as the Flores de Noche Buena, or Flowers of the Holy Night, for they bloomed each year during the Christmas season and thus, the legend of the poinsettia was born.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

TUESDAY 16TH DECEMBER

ADVENT PRAYER & DISCUSSION GROUP

This small parish group will be focussing on HOPE in this final meeting which will be running alongside Confessions this Tuesday

7.30pm St Bernard's Hall

Our grateful thanks go to Jo Culver for producing this disappointingly under supported spiritual course.

Heating St Michael's Church during this cold weather is an enormous task for its aging heating system, the heating is now on for extended hours daily in an effort to retain heat. Your patience and fortitude is greatly appreciated and we ask that you please dress warmly for Mass for your comfort and health.

Please accept our regrets and sincere apologies that the

'LOCAL' CHURCHES HOLDING MIDNIGHT MASS

St Edmund's The Avenue, Southampton.

St Boniface Shirley, Southampton (Starts at 11pm, carols from 10.15pm))

Wednesday 20th December

Please note that there will be no Eucharistic Adoration, Rosary or Grandparents group this Wednesday at St Bernard's.

Please bring your Poinsettias to Church from December 17th. With so little time (mere hours between the end of Advent and Christmas) it is important that we are as prepared as possible to decorate the churches. Labels are available at both churches.

@ Pontifex

Love makes us happy not only in heaven but also here on earth. If we want to be truly happy, then let us learn to transform everything into love, offering to others our work and our time, speaking kindly words and doing good deeds. We can all do it!

Christmas Draw—update.

A late addition to the total raised by the Christmas Draw has increased the amount raised to **£1,124.26**

Congratulations to you all.

Did you know that 800 years ago St. Francis of Assisi set up the very first Nativity scene? Today almost every Catholic household has one. We would love to see yours!

Send (or bring) in a picture of your nativity scene to put on the notice boards at both churches.



Parish Diary for 24th and 25th December

Sunday 24th December

St Bernard's Church 9am Mass. Last Sunday in Advent

St Michael's Church 11am Mass. Last Sunday in Advent

Sunday 24th December

St Bernard's Church 7pm Carols and Readings.

7.30pm Vigil Mass. The Nativity of the Lord

Monday 25th December

St Michael's Church 10am Mass. The Nativity of the Lord

The Christmas Collection for Father Innaiah

The Christmas collection is an opportunity for parishioners to acknowledge the dedication, service and witness of our parish priest, Father Innaiah. This forms part of his major annual income, so please give generously as a way to show our deep appreciation and huge thanks.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING: If you visit the sick, run the First Holy Communion and/or Confirmation programmes, or work as part of the Childrens Liturgy team then this course is essential.

Did you miss the Diocesan Safeguarding Training this year run by Julie Minal, a diocese safeguarding officer. Julie will be running more training days on

Saturday 13th January 2024 in Waterlooville and Saturday 20th January 2024 in Woolston

PLEASE BOOK A PLACE by emailing Julie Minal - jminal@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

A REMINDER ABOUT TRAINING FROM THE DIOCESAN SAFEGUARDING OFFICE: 'The training is valid for 2 yrs so if they have completed the adult/child safeguarding training they should complete the adult safeguarding refresher training. Their training & DBS should be in date in order for them to volunteer.'

MASS READINGS FOR THE 3rd SUNDAY IN ADVENT

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2,10-11

The spirit of the Lord has been given to me, for the Lord has anointed me.

He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to bind up hearts that are broken; to proclaim liberty to captives, freedom to those in prison; to proclaim a year of favour from the Lord. 'I exult for joy in the Lord, my soul rejoices in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of salvation, he has wrapped me in the cloak of integrity, like a bridegroom wearing his wreath, like a bride adorned in her jewels. 'For as the earth makes fresh things grow, as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord make both integrity and praise spring up in the sight of the nations.'

Responsorial Psalm: Luke 1:46-50,53-54 *My soul rejoices in my God.*

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Be happy at all times; pray constantly; and for all things give thanks to God, because this is what God expects you to do in Christ Jesus. Never try to suppress the Spirit or treat the gift of prophecy with contempt; think before you do anything – hold on to what is good and avoid every form of evil. May the God of peace make you perfect and holy; and may you all be kept safe and blameless, spirit, soul and body, for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. God has called you and he will not fail you.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1:6-8,19-28

A man came, sent by God. His name was John. He came as a witness, as a witness to speak for the light, so that everyone might believe through him. He was not the light, only a witness to speak for the light.

This is how John appeared as a witness. When the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' he not only declared, but he declared quite openly, 'I am not the Christ.' 'Well then,' they asked 'are you Elijah?' 'I am not' he said. 'Are you the Prophet?' He answered, 'No.' So they said to him, 'Who are you? We must take back an answer to those who sent us. What have you to say about yourself?' So John said, 'I am, as Isaiah prophesied: a voice that cries in the wilderness: Make a straight way for the Lord.'

Now these men had been sent by the Pharisees, and they put this further question to him, 'Why are you baptising if you are not the Christ, and not Elijah, and not the prophet?' John replied, 'I baptise with water; but there stands among you – unknown to you – the one who is coming after me; and I am not fit to undo his sandal-strap.' This happened at Bethany, on the far side of the Jordan, where John was baptising.

Communion Antiphon: *Say to the anxious: be strong and fear not, our God will come to save us.*