

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 OPT

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: 16th December 2023 - 25th December 2023

DAY	DATE	CHURCH	TIME	SERVICE	LITURGY	MASS INTENTION	
SAT	16 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	3 rd Sunday of Advent Yr B	Helen May Burne RIP Anniv F/M	DMA
SUN	17 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	3 rd Sunday of Advent Yr B	John "Pip" & Joan Lloyd RIP Annivs	DMA
SUN	17 th	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	3 rd Sunday of Advent Yr B	Francis Walker (Ints)-MT	DMA
SUN	17 th	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	3 rd Sunday of Advent Yr B	Nell Whelan RIP	DMA
TUE	19 th	OLMSJ	10.00am	Mass	Liturgy of the Day	Mary Barker RIP Anniv	DMA
TUE	19 th	St Anne	2.00pm	Service	Funeral Service - Audrey Gourlay RIP	N/A	DMA
WED	20 th	St Francis	10.00am	Mass	Liturgy of the Day	Di Mussert RIP	DMA
THU	21 st	St Anne	11.30am	Requiem	Requiem Mass	Leo Pearson RIP	DMA
SAT	23 rd	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	4 th Sunday of Advent Yr B	Catholic Womens League-OLMSJ-MT	DMA
SUN	24 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	4 th Sunday of Advent Yr B	Mary Elguezabal RIP	DMA
SUN	24 th	St Anne	10.30am	Mass	4 th Sunday of Advent Yr B	Normina Marshall RIP F/M	DMA
SUN	24 th	OLMSJ	5.00pm	Mass	Christmas Night Mass	Peace in Palestine, Israel & Ukraine	DMA
MON	25 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	Christmas Dawn Mass	Sarah Bell (Int)	DMA
MON	25 th	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	Christmas Day Mass	People of the Parishes	DMA
MON	25 th	St Anne	12 noon	Mass	Christmas Day Mass	People of the Parishes	DMA

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION: - SATURDAY MORNING 10AM - 10.30AM - 23rd Dec in OLMSJ Church

SHARING IN GOD'S JOY

(Joy is not a superficial happiness, contentment or satisfaction. It is not the result of, nor dependent upon, self-centred acquisition, possession or achievement. It is not to be identified with pleasure but it can co-exist with pleasure. Paradoxically, joy can be experienced (not necessarily felt) even in suffering. And while great sorrow obscures it, joy is not lost but remains hidden for a while as the sun behind the clouds. It is the natural state of God's gift of pure being in loving relationship with all.)

Mary tells us where the source of true joy is to be found: *My spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.* We are all seeking happiness but deep down, almost unknown even to ourselves we are seeking God's joy and blessedness. The good news is that we do not have to search very far. Jesus said: The kingdom is within you, it is among you.

The joy is not far no matter what clouds get in the way. The pearl of great price, the hidden treasure is already within us. We have only to discover it, to accept it and rejoice in it. When, like Mary, we realize our nothingness and realize at the same time that God looks upon us with love, then our joy will blossom.

Just like Mary, God has done great things for us and is still doing great things for us at this very moment. God has lavished love upon us. The Law with its record of debt has been abolished and sinful humanity is forever forgiven.

We have been made God's daughters and sons. God has shared the Holy Spirit with us and blessed us with every spiritual blessing in Christ. All holiness, virtue, freedom is ours in Christ. It can never be lost. It is always there for us to receive, and to receive as often as we need to. As Paul wrote, our spiritual nature is being renewed every day. God's giving now is as fresh and as lavish as the first giving we experienced.

God is the secure rock of our faith. God is our temple. God is everything we need. When we realise this and accept it in trust then we are not dismayed by our nothingness. If we haven't got goodness it is okay – Jesus says: *No one is good except God alone.* If we feel undeserving, unworthy, useless, empty, and a failure, that is okay. It is our nothingness. Our nothingness and our emptiness is the space that God fills. It provides the room for God to work.

Once we begin to appreciate this then our joy arises from the deepest part of our souls because God is there! No disaster or misfortune can take this away from us because it is always secure in God. It is not a possession we can lose because it is not ours to lose. We must just do what we can to keep the space empty!

This joy can begin now but our experience is necessarily weak at first because our awareness of this grace has only just begun to penetrate into our hearts and minds and influence our lives. When sorrows come this joy cannot be felt near the surface of our souls so we have to rely on the anchor of hope. When God will be all in all, our joy will be complete. (DMA)

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: Blanche Gertrude Grantham-Hill (18th), Antonio (Tony) Prieto-Ruiz (19th), Irene (Mac) Hutchinson (20th), Anna-Marie Bares (22nd), Robert Joseph Lynch (23rd)

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

SPECIAL PRAYERS PLEASE: for Josie Warren who is very poorly in Bournemouth Hospital. She has rallied somewhat today. Our thoughts and prayers are with Josie & Roger and the family also.

DI MUSSERT RIP: she died very peacefully on Friday afternoon surrounded by her family. Our condolences are with Nick & all the family. May Di rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

Sunday 24th December 4th Sunday of Advent - Mass at 9am

Monday 25th December Christmas Day - Mass at 9am

COFFEE/TEA MORNING this Sunday after Mass, our thanks to Deborah, Connie, Linda & Jude for making this such a success during the year.

HOT WATER BOTTLES for Ukraine. people there are desperate. Please remember the box in the porch. Thank you very much to those who have contributed already. - Judith.

St Anne, Brockenhurst

Anniversaries this week: Joseph Claude Marshall (18th), Maureen Patricia O'Riordan, Josephine Margaret Kershaw, Irene Mansbridge (21st), Sheelah Munford (22nd)

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

MASS AT ST ANNE'S: on the 4th Sunday of Advent, Sunday 24th December **WILL BE AT 10.30am, NOT 6PM;** **Monday 25th December:** Christmas Day Mass at 12 noon.

CHRISTMAS GREETING FROM MALAWI: Father Charlie sends his thanks and Christmas Greeting to everyone in our Parish. He has been very busy as he has 11 outstations as well as his main church. The newest outstation does not have a church but the parishioners have built a makeshift hall with wood and straw. Father Charlie has raised enough from a charity to build a basic church which should take about 3 months. He wanted to let us know that he is using the money from our parish which was £320 from cream teas and £777 from a collection to buy the church furniture, benches, a lectern, altar, stations of the cross etc. He offers his thanks and blessings and assures us of his prayers for us.

CHURCH CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS: Due to the 4th Sunday of Advent falling on Christmas Eve, it will be necessary for the church to be decorated before Mass takes place on the 24th.

DONATIONS FOR UKRAINE: A big thank you to everyone who has responded so far to the appeal for hot water bottles and knitted items for Ukraine. St Anne's has donated 11 hot water bottles (some bought with donated cash) and a number of other lovely warm items which have all been taken to the New Forest for Ukraine Hub for dispatch before Christmas. The box for donations will remain at the back of the church and we will continue to collect hot water bottles, knitted items for children, tins of soup and bars of soap.

ST ANNE'S EPIPHANY CELEBRATION: Our Parish celebration will take place after Mass on Sunday, 7th January. Join us for drinks, nibbles and good cheer as we head into 2024. If you have any questions call Henrietta on 01590 682347

CHRISTMAS OFFERTORY: If you would like to make a Gift Aided offertory to Fr David using the plate at church would you please make the cheque payable to "CDP Brockenhurst St Anne". If you want to give cash please put it in an envelope marked Christmas Offertory and include your name which we need to claim back the tax. If you have any queries please ring Bill Pignatelli 01590 623360.

All Parishes

CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR YOUR PARISH PRIEST: The Christmas Offering is one of the ways the Church tries to ensure that clergy have a sufficient income. If you wish to contribute, there are 3 ways:

1) a personal gift given or sent directly to your parish priest; this is not eligible for Gift Aid.

2) an amount paid to the parish by cash or cheque. (CDP Lyminster Our Lady or CDP Brockenhurst St Anne or CDP Milford-on-Sea St Francis) To add the benefit of Gift Aid to your donation you must be registered with the parish for Gift Aid and state your name & the purpose of the donation.

3) You can use the Diocesan Give-As-You-Live (GAYL) facility. The links are below:

For Lyminster:
<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/lyminster-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-assisi-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2023>

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

Our Lady & St Joseph, Lyminster

Anniversaries this week: Hazel Barrett (16th), Andre Mathey (17th), John Hooker, Marie O'Reirden (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, Terrence (Terry) Iles (21st), William Custis, Christopher Leslie Barker (22nd)

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

SPECIAL PRAYERS PLEASE: Frances Walker is in Southampton hospital at the moment where she is being assessed for chemotherapy. We continue to keep Frances in our prayers.

AUDREY GOURLAY RIP: The Funeral Service for Audrey will be at St Anne's on Tues, 19th Dec at 2pm followed by Committal at the New Forest crematorium at 4pm. May Audrey rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

LEO PEARSON RIP: The Requiem Mass for Leo will take place at St Anne's on Thurs, 21st Dec at 11.30am followed by Committal at the New Forest Crematorium at 1pm. May Leo rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

MISSIO RED BOX COLLECTION: This is the last weekend to hand them in. 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.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH AT ST THOMAS'S: It is in the Church Hall again this year. We hope to give a small gift to all our guests (max.value £5) and would be grateful to receive any wrapped gifts labelled lady or gentleman. If anyone would like to help on the day before or Christmas Day, please let us know. Suzie and Daphne. St.Thomas and All Saints, Lyminster, 01590 676194

CANDLELIGHT CAROL SERVICE at the URC Church for churches together. Starts at 4.30 pm on Sunday 17 December, doors open at 3.30pm for seasonal refreshments, all are welcome.

SVP MEETING: This coming Monday, 18th Dec, in Joseph's Place from 7pm - 8pm

MASS TIMES FOR NEXT WEEKEND AND CHRISTMAS

Mass for the 4th Sunday of Advent at OLMSJ will be on Saturday 23rd December at 6pm.

THERE WILL NOT BE A 10.30am MASS ON SUNDAY MORNING 24th DECEMBER.

10.30am Mass will be at St Anne's instead.

Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve

First Mass of Christmas 5pm OLMSJ *Please park elsewhere if you can to reduce congestion in our car park.* We expect this Mass to be very full, but we will be opening Joseph's Place for the overflow.

Monday 25th December Christmas Day

10.30am Mass OLMSJ

BUILDING FUND UPDATE: As Frances, our parish accountant is currently in hospital this cannot be updated at the present

All Parishes

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

SR VERONICA'S WEEKLY REFLECTION: Welcome to this 3rd Sunday of Advent <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Csd11TC-r6A&t=19s> Today is Gaudete Sunday where we reflect on the word Joy. Are we joyful in all that we do? In Jesus we can find full joy particularly in the Eucharist. Watch out for next week's double reflection for 4th Sunday Advent and Christmas. God Bless Sr Veronica

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

The 4th Sunday of Advent falls on 24th Dec, which is also Christmas Eve.

ST FRANCIS

Sunday 24th December 4th Sunday of Advent Mass 9am

Monday 25th December Christmas Day Mass 9am

ST ANNE'S

Sunday 24th December 4th Sunday of Advent Mass 10.30am **NOT 6pm**

Monday 25th December Christmas Day **Mass 12noon**

OLMSJ

Saturday 23rd December, Vigil Mass for 4th Sunday of Advent, Mass 6pm

Sunday 24th December** NO 10.30am MASS*****

Sunday 24th December Christmas Eve Mass (no Carols) 5pm

Monday 25th December, Christmas Day, Mass 10.30am