

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.nfwf.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: 23rd December 2023 - 7th January 2024

DAY	DATE	CHURCH	TIME	SERVICE	LITURGY	MASS INTENTION	
SAT	23 rd	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	4th Sunday of Advent Yr B	Catholic Womens League-OLMSJ-MT	DMA
SUN	24 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	4th Sunday of Advent Yr B	Mary Elguezabal RIP	DMA
SUN	24 th	St Anne	10.30am	Mass	4th 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
THUR	4 th	St Anne	10.00am	Mass	The Holy Innocents, Feast	as per celebrant	DQ
SAT	30 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	Holy Family	as per celebrant	PL
SUN	31 st	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	Holy Family	as per celebrant	PL
SUN	31 st	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	Holy Family	as per celebrant	PL
SUN	31 st	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	Holy Family	as per celebrant	DQ
TUE	2 nd	OLMSJ	10.00am	Mass	Ss Basil & Gregory, Mem	For those who are unwell	DMA
WED	3 rd	St Francis	10.00am	Mass	Liturgy of the Day	David Buckland RIP & decd family	DMA
THUR	4 th	St Anne	10.00am	Mass	Liturgy of the Day	as per celebrant	DQ
THUR	4 th	St Francis	11.30am	Mass	Requiem Mass	Di Mussert RIP	DMA
SAT	6 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	The Epiphany	For the spread of the Gospel	DMA
SUN	7 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	The Epiphany	Josie Warren RIP	DMA
SUN	7 th	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	The Epiphany	People of the Parishes	DMA
SUN	7 th	St Anne	1.00pm	Baptism	baby Joshua Ratcliffe	N/A	DMA
SUN	7 th	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	The Epiphany	People of the Parishes	DMA

A Human and Holy Birth *Shortly after giving birth herself, author Kat Armas had new insights into the nativity through the experience of Mary:*

I've often said that the Bible is a book written by men, for men. Throughout the centuries most of its interpreters and preachers have been men as well. It's no surprise then, that the story of the incarnation—and its rendering and interpretations thereafter—would glide over the messy realities of pregnancy and labor. Indeed, we're told about the politics requiring Joseph to register in his hometown, about the shepherds keeping watch, and about heavenly hosts of angels celebrating, but we hear nothing of the blood, the nakedness, the primal groans, the fear, the strength and power of the human body, the first-time shrieks of new life bursting into the world....

Perhaps this is where we received our first antiseptic views of holiness, from a sterilized story of incarnation far removed from its reality. We've come to understand the concept of holiness as uncontaminated from the realities of the world, but is this truly the story of divinity? The story of God entering into our grief, our sorrows, our joys?

Like so many renderings of the narratives in Scripture, the birth of Jesus has been domesticated and dulled to make it more palatable. But there's something subversively fleshly and carnal about Mary birthing God and her role as an active agent in the messy, material, and imminent. I wonder, What was it like for Mary to birth God? What was it like to feel God squirm and settle as he pressed against her organs? She probably got short of breath and had trouble finding a comfortable position for sleep at night....

This matters because a broken, refugee, brown, female, naked, stretched, hormonal, marginalized body is how divinity entered this world and where divinity still makes itself most known today....

The nativity scene, like much of Western theology, is far removed from the very bloody and very raw and very human process of birth. But these are the kinds of things that make up our faith: the naked, the primal, even the offensive. And while Mary's story turned out the way she'd hope it would—with a newborn child in her arms—not all stories turn out that way.

What the nativity scene as we're used to seeing it fails to show us is that our faith is made of that too: the sadness, the questions, the longing, the despair, the anger. Encompassed within the birth of Jesus is the deeply difficult and deeply beautiful, the sacred and the profane, the spiritual and the material. Like our lives, it was fleshly and carnal—and it was also holy. (*Kat Armas, Sacred Belonging: A 40-Day Devotional on the Liberating Heart of Scripture (Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2023), 154, 155.*) *From the Fr Richard Rohr Daily Reflections 19th Dec 2023.*

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: Fortunee Annette Bernard (25th), Thomas Phelan, Paul Bartholomew Meade (26th), Kevin Andrew Ford, Eve Brown (30th), Mary Elizabeth Woolgar (3rd), Mary Charlotte Bushnell (6th)

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

DI MUSSERT RIP: The Requiem Mass for Di will be on Thursday, 4th January at 11.30am in St Francis, followed by the Committal at NF crematorium at 1pm. Our condolences are with Nick & all the family. May Di rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

JOSIE WARREN RIP: The Funeral Service for Josie will take place on Tuesday, 16th January at 1pm followed by burial at All Saints. May Josie 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

Next Coffee Morning Date: Sunday, 7th January 2024. Our thanks to Deborah, Connie, Linda & Jude for making this such a success during the year.

RNIB- USED STAMPS REQUEST. Do you keep the used stamps from your post hoping that a Charity will ask for them as part of a fundraising scheme? Well Deborah Minnock from St Francis has received a small collection box from the RNIB requesting used stamps in order to raise funds for the Charity. She is going to place the box in the entrance to St Francis so that parishioners can fill it with used stamps. When the box is full, she will send the stamps on to the RNIB. I'm sure you'll agree it is a very worthwhile cause. So don't throw any envelopes in the bin without taking the stamp off first!

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: N. Marshall (24th), Winifred Doris Sergeant, Kieran Patrick Holland (25th), Ethel Mary Knight-Grigg (26th), James Kelly, Katherine (Kitty) Hayward (27th), George William O'Donnell, Jessica (Jessie) Emblem (29th), Paul Henry Niekirk (30th), Sheila Doreen Thatcher (31st), Joseph Oswald Williams, Reginald Dudley Hills (2nd), Maria Catherine Wingate, Rosamond Biltcliffe (3rd), Mary (Mollie) Syrett (4th), Winifred Margaret Chainey, Mary Olney (5th)

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.

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 Lynton 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 Lynton:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/lynton-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, Lynton

Anniversaries this week: John Adams, Nicholas James Phillips (24th), Pamela Joan Clifford, Frances Anne Locke (25th), Mary Flood, Annie Foot, Lily Pearce, Eileen Mary Weguelin (27th), Blanche Bardell (28th), Patrick (Paddy) McClean (29th), Henry Hunter, Martha Lally, Sheila Constance Gould (30th), Sydney Teague (1st), Keith Wilson Turner (2nd), Daniel Walsh, Mollie Rosina Hayles (4th), Sylvia Joyce Ahmad (5th)

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.

MESSAGE FROM FRANCIS WALKER: Heartfelt thanks from Frances and Den Walker for the love, prayers, compassion and good wishes we have received from people in the parish. Den has had to move to a care home in New Milton while I battle lung cancer which has struck very swiftly and is terminal. It has been a joy to work with everyone and I can think of no better people anywhere. I am not able to reach out to everyone I would like to, but know that you are in my heart and my prayers.

A BIG THANK YOU: To Cathryn Lawrence and Olivia Cowan who removed all the rubbish from behind the chairs in the Paul Duffy room and took it to the tip.

BUILDING FUND UPDATE: This is the last time Frances will be reporting the figures. Lisa will take over that role in the New Year. On 22/12/23 Church Building Fund stands at £260,965.08 including GAYL contributions

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

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: Wishing everyone a very Blessed Christmas! This week we welcome the word Incarnate, the Son of God who comes to bring peace into our troubled world. A little child who brings hope and salvation to everyone. May we continue to bring this message of hope to our family friends and communities. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xF8fWgHNejM> God Bless Sr Veronica OP.

MIDNIGHT MASS ON BBC RADIO 4 - at 23.30, 24th December 2023. The celebration of the first mass of Christmas will come live from Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in Liverpool, with the preacher The Most Rev Malcom McMahon, the Archbishop of Liverpool and the choir of the Cathedral and Metropolitan Cathedral Brass Ensemble. The mass setting is Jonathan Dove's Missa Brevis and there'll be favourite Christmas carols including O Come all ye faithful, Silent Night and Hark the herald angels sing. The Director of Music is Christopher McElroy, the organist Richard Lea and the Producer is Miriam Williamson.

CHRISTMAS CRIB OFFERING: In the Diocese, our annual Christmas Crib offerings are given alternately one year to the Friends of the Holy Land and one year to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. This year, 2023, our Christmas Crib offerings will go to the *Friends of the Holy Land*. This is a non-political Christian Charity. Their mission is to secure a resilient and enduring Christian community in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan. The focus of their work is providing practical help directly to the most needy and vulnerable of our Christian brothers and sisters through a balance of funding immediate relief of emergency needs and practical small projects to help create a sustainable future in the Holy Land – most importantly to give them HOPE. If you would like to donate directly to The Friends of the Holy Land the Charity's bank details are as follows: Name: Friends of the Holy Land. Account: 24591211. Sort Code: 60-05-41.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY: THE GREAT STORY OF JESUS RETREAT Liza Nahajski invites you to sign up for The Great Story of Jesus Retreat to be held at St Peter's Pastoral Centre, Winchester SO23 9SR on Saturday 13th January 2024 from 10am-4pm. Start the new year with this retreat delivered by Sr Margarida Mondral of the Verbum Dei Community. Refresh and reboot with a renewed appreciation of the core of our faith: the gift of the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit to animate our lived faith. This may appeal to all who want to reflect more deeply on Jesus and how his life relates to our lives. Please apply for a place and more details: lnahajski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

NEW BOOK BY POPE FRANCIS: CHRISTMAS AT THE NATIVITY: Christmas is the perfect time to sit down with warm drink, a mince pie (or the refreshment of your choice) and get lost between the pages of a book. Pope Francis pens the introduction for his new book entitled "**Christmas at the Nativity**", which features various texts by the Pope on the Nativity scene and has been released in English by Vatican News. The book was released in English on 1 November by publishing house Focolare Media/New City Press and can be purchased at the following link: <https://www.focolaremedia.com/bookstore>. The text contains a previously unpublished introduction by Pope Francis and a series of texts, reflections, speeches, and homilies that the Pope has dedicated to the Nativity scene and the characters that populate it.