

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: 6th January 2024 - 14th January 2024

DAY	DATE	CHURCH	TIME	SERVICE	LITURGY	MASS INTENTION	
SAT	6 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	The Epiphany	Flora Weld RIP Anniv / Harry Newenham RIP FMs	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	Canon John Hally RIP / Baker Family FMs	DMA
TUE	9 th	OLMSJ	10.00am	Mass	1 st Week of the Year (2)	Joseph & Flora Weld RIP F/M	DMA
WED	10 th	St Francis	10.00am	Mass	1 st Week of the Year (2)	Joseph & Flora Weld RIP F/M	DMA
THUR	11 th	OLSJ School	9.00am	Mass	Epiphany	For the OLSJ School Community	DMA
THUR	11 th	St Anne	10.00am	Mass	1 st Week of the Year (2)	Patrick Whelan RIP Anniv	DQ
SAT	13 th	OLMSJ	6.00pm	Mass	2 nd Sunday of the Year	Hal & Eileen Box RIP F/M	DMA
SUN	14 th	St Francis	9.00am	Mass	2 nd Sunday of the Year	Di Mussert RIP & Josie Warren RIP	DMA
SUN	14 th	OLMSJ	10.30am	Mass	2 nd Sunday of the Year	People of the Parishes	DMA
SUN	14 th	St Anne	6.00pm	Mass	2 nd Sunday of the Year	People of the Parishes	DMA

THANK YOU, EVERYONE FOR SUCH KIND AND GENEROUS GIFTS AND CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS: Some of you give very generously but wish to remain anonymous. Others do so with a card and a gift as well. My heartfelt thanks to you all. I had every intention of giving a personal thankyou if it was possible. But work has come flooding in at the start of the new year. So please forgive me if I fail to achieve this and be assured of my deep gratitude to you and my prayers for you all.

WHAT ARE WE OFFERING THE WORLD? Traditionally the Epiphany is the manifestation, the revelation of Christ to the pagan world. If Christianity is to play its part in making known the Christ to the world it must be continually renewed and enlightened by the same Christ. Individually and collectively we are “earthen vessels” that hold a treasure. Our ignorance, prejudices & vested interests can distort the good news. Sometimes this distortion is such that, albeit, unwittingly, we communicate, or are perceived to communicate bad news instead. When it comes to offering Christ’s life to the world we are “wounded healers”. This only becomes an obstacle when we refuse to recognise & acknowledge the “wound” or the “shadow”.

The most fundamental obstacle to the “good news” is the failure to exorcise the demonic image of God as an eternal torturer. The threat of eternal damnation became an all too easy weapon of abuse, control and domination. Coupled with countless examples of barbarity over the centuries it is a miracle that the emphatic Scriptural affirmation “God is love” retained any credibility at all. For Christianity to be good news for the whole world the dark shadow of fear and threat must be dispelled. All we need is a realistic recognition of consequences.

Secondly, Christianity must bring out from its storehouse of wisdom the healing and unifying dynamism of the Word. Now is the opportune time to proclaim that: “God is in all, through all and with all”, that: “in God we live and move and have our being”, that God’s purpose is to “reconcile and unite all things, in heaven and on earth”. This is particularly relevant to the relationship between faith & science.

Thirdly, Christianity must present itself not as the promoter of one religion in competition with others, but as the guardian and seed bed of a “new humanity”. Everything that causes hostility must be “abolished”. Humanity doesn’t exist for religion, religion exists, should exist, for humanity. The simple, yet all encompassing axiom, too often obscured by human rules & taboos, that can give light to everyone is: “No one has ever seen God, as long as we love one another, God will live in us and his love will be complete in us”.

Fourthly, Christianity must be healed of, and recover from, its gender and sexual neurosis which blighted the most basic human relationships with fear, shame & guilt. The wholesome and divinely transformative potential of ordinary human relationships must be clearly celebrated and communicated. Jesus offers friendship as the ultimate goal of all relationships, both human & divine.

Fifthly, there needs to be a healthy relativisation of all identities, forms and structures. When these are allowed to be absolutes, then the tyranny of earthly “gods” & “idols” ensues. Here we need to proclaim: “there is no male or female, no slave or free, no Jew or Greek, you are all one in Christ Jesus”. This is not a denial of diversity but a recognition that the diversity is held and is secondary to an all-encompassing unity. Respecting diversity and transcending diversity are both necessary for future global harmony. (DMA)

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: Eileen Greenfield Thirsk (7th), Madeleine Gertrude Chaplin (8th), Catherine Frances Webdale (11th), Stanley Henry Barlow, Joan Helen Hennes (12th), Vincent Jodrell (13th)

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

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.

A GREAT TRIBUTE TO DI MUSSERT RIP: I have never seen St Francis church so full and overflowing with people who wanted to pay their respects to dear Di and to support Nick & the family. Di was a "good news" person in her life and she obviously had such a positive effect on all she met.

COFFEE MORNING: 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: Peter Charles Bishop (7th), Mary Ann Hurt, James Emery (9th), Laura Bartram, Patrick Whelan (10th), Helen Beatrice Margaret Mary Parsons (11th), Percy Edward Charles (13th)

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

PARISH PARTY – THIS SUNDAY AFTER MASS: We are having a little post-Christmas parish gathering after Mass this Sunday in the parish rooms. Lots of nice foodie things have been prepared. So please come along and join us for drinks, nibbles and good cheer & share some Christmas tales, flood adventures & New Year wishes.

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.

All Parishes

GREETINGS FROM PAX CHRISTI ENGLAND AND WALES: Every year on the second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Pax Christi promotes Peace Sunday with the support of the International Affairs Department of the Bishops' Conference, England and Wales. This year, Peace Sunday will be on the **14th January** and the theme is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the World Day of Peace: **'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'**.

Attached is a copy of a letter from Archbishop Malcolm McMahon our President, introducing Peace Sunday and encouraging us all to mark it in some way in our churches and parishes. We have produced a number of resources to support churches who would like to do that, including resources for children. A copy of the Liturgy Booklet we have prepared is attached and you can find our other resources on the Peace Sunday page of our website here: <https://paxchristi.org.uk/peace-sunday/>

As Archbishop Malcolm explains in his letter, Peace Sunday is a significant opportunity for Pax Christi to raise funds for our work and we are very grateful to all those who contribute to our work. . If you would like to know more about how to do that or know more generally about Peace Sunday, please let us know via our website. With our thanks and our best wishes for 2024. On behalf of the Pax Christi Team. **Andrew Jackson**, Chief Executive, Pax Christi England and Wales

Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington

Anniversaries this week: Stella Smith, Muriel Bokata, Julia Lewcock (6th), Peggy Packwood, Joseph Myers, Ann Dolores Gower (7th), Millicent Ada Devine (8th), Albertina Moles, Sergio Parmesan (9th), Anne Frogley, Harold (Roy) Cozens (10th), Catherine (Kit) Webdale (11th), Charles Ireland, 'Joseph' Jose Maria Caneda-Aguar (12th)

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. **We continue to keep Frances very much in our prayers.**

CATHOLIC WOMENS LEAGUE: The next meeting of the CWL is on Tuesday 9th January at 2.15pm in the Parish Room.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB: The first meeting of the year for the Friendship Club will be held in Joseph's Place on Monday 8th January between 2pm and 4pm and everyone is welcome. In addition to our usual activities of a quiz, raffle, tea and homemade cake we are looking for your views on how you would like the club progress this year, so come with your ideas! You can be sure of a very warm welcome.

MARY DUNN'S LIBRARY CARD: Somebody found Mary's library card and very kindly phoned her last week. Unfortunately, Mary didn't catch the person's name. Please can that person contact Mary again or drop the card off at the parish office and we'll get it to her.

BUILDING FUND UPDATE: On 05/01/24 Church Building Fund was £261,330.08.

All Parishes

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

OLSJ SCHOOL NEWS: TWO EXCITING COMPETITIONS TO START THE SCHOOL YEAR! OUR CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL IS TAKING PART IN THE NATIONAL READING CHAMPIONS QUIZ! This half term, our academic House Competition will be a 'Reading Quiz!' Pupils will work in their house teams during Weeks 1-4, recapping, learning about and discussing key texts that are part of our school curriculum, across all year groups! Within Week 5, we will host an in school final, with a quiz to see how much our pupils have learned and retained about our school storybooks, titles, characters, plots and texts! In Week 6, selected children from Years 5/6 will also take part in a grand 'Partnership Final' at Mansel Park! Pupils at Holy Family, Sinclair, OLSJ, Bitterne Park and Mansel Park will compete in a Reading Quiz together, to find the ultimate school reading champions! Which school will be victorious? Additionally, pupils from across our partnership schools will also be entered into the "National Literacy Championships," an initiative run by the National Literacy Trust. They will partake in the regional South East heats in March - watch this space for more details!

POETRY BY HEART NATIONAL COMPETITION KEY STAGE 2: We are very excited that Key Stage 2 pupils will be partaking in Poetry By Heart during the Spring term. Each class in Years 3-6 will select two poems, one from pre 1914 and one from post 1914, to learn by heart. We will be hosting two special 'poetry' days in class to support exploring, learning and performing each poem, focusing on our oracy, presentation and storytelling skills. Pupils will perform their chosen poems to each other. Up to eight pupils from each year group will be selected as individual 'school finalists' and will be entered into the *Poetry By Heart National competition!* Should any pupil be successful in reaching the National Finals, they will have the opportunity to perform their poem at the Globe Theatre in London! Each class will enter a 'freestyle' group poem into the competition, where all pupils will be represented. This poem will also be performed to parents - please look out for an invitation via letter coming soon! We will share a recording with parents unable to attend via our website. You can find out more about the competition here: <https://www.poetrybyheart.com>