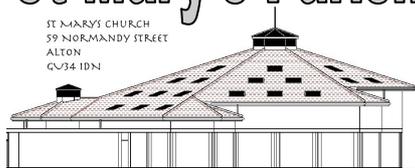


St Mary's Parish Newsletter

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MASS INTENTIONS

w/c Sunday 10th January, 2021

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

Year (B 1) (Office Proper)

Saturday 5.30pm	<i>of Christmastide after Epiphany</i> Mary & Jack Lucas, RIP
Sunday 11.00am	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD Marian & John David Bird, RIP
Monday	Beginning of Ordinary Time Cycle 1—Psalter Week 1 <i>Feria</i>
<i>Anstey Convent</i>	<i>Community only</i> The People of The Parish
Tuesday <i>Private Mass</i>	<i>Feria</i> Rosamma, RIP,
Wednesday 9.30am	<i>Feria</i> Andrew Martin, RIP
Thursday <i>St. Lucy's</i>	<i>Feria</i> <i>Community Only</i> Intentions of the Sisters of St. Lucy's
Friday 9.30am	<i>Feria</i> Patricia Sullivan, RIP & the Welfare of Sr. Mary Francis & Sr. Barbara
Saturday 5.30pm	<i>Our Lady on Saturday</i> The People of The Parish
Sunday 11.00am	<i>Second Sunday of The Year</i> Nemesio Absulio, RIP
Confessions:	<i>Please email or call the Parish Office for an appointment</i>

**NO BOOKING REQUIRED FOR WEEKDAY MASSES
BUT PLEASE CONTINUE TO BOOK FOR WEEK-ENDS**

Please Note:

We have limited numbers due to COVID19 Restrictions.

If your request to book is successful, I am unable to guarantee a seat in the Church—you may be seated in the hall where the Mass will be live streamed when possible. There are currently no toilet facilities available.

Hands: Please use the Sanitiser at the point of entry .

Face: Face masks/coverings must be worn until you leave the building.

Space: Please observe the 2 meter social distancing rule whilst waiting to enter the Church.

The rule of 6 applies.

Thank you for your co-operation. Fr. James

**THE DISPENSATION FROM SUNDAY
OBLIGATION REMAINS IN PLACE**

**MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS,
I IMPORE, THE GRACE TO LOVE YOU
DAILY MORE AND MORE**

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

It may seem strange, but this is a Christmas Feast. Not if we think of Christmas only in terms of the Baby in Bethlehem, but if we have followed the ideas of the Feasts of Holy Family and especially Epiphany, and have seen the Season in terms of the growing manifestation or appearing of the Son of God: first to the shepherds and then to the wise men from the East. Now in the River Jordan, Jesus, Son of Mary, is revealed to all as the fullness of all Gods promises:

This is my Son, the Beloved.

On this day we stand before the revelation of God's love for us, such that he would send his only Son into the world. Christmas without the Baptism of the Lord, and the words that are spoken from heaven, would be incomplete, since it is only in them that we fully see the wonder of what happened in Bethlehem, that we fully understand the reason for the joy with which we celebrated Christmas Day. As we come to the end of Christmas today, and look forward to hearing the Gospel in Ordinary Time, we do so having been shown who it is we listen to:
the only Son of God, the
Beloved.

***You are my Son, the beloved; my favour
rests on you***

Entrance Antiphon

After the Lord was baptised, the heavens were opened, and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove, and the voice of the Father thundered: This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

The Gloria

First Reading: Isaiah 55: 1-11

Come to the water. Listen and your soul will live.

Responsorial Psalm

With joy you will draw water from wells of salvation.

Second Reading: John 5:1-9

The Spirit and water and blood.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia !

John saw Jesus coming towards him, and said: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Alleluia.!

Gospel: Mark 1:7-11

You are my Son, the Beloved: my favour rests on you.

The Creed

Communion Antiphon:

Behold the One of whom John said: I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

SUNDAY MASS—LIVE STREAM

You can now join with the Sunday Mass at St. Mary's as below.

**[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UCQm0AflgS6wBFM4F331oXWA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQm0AflgS6wBFM4F331oXWA)**

By following this link you will be able to see up-coming streams, past streams and uploaded videos.

This can also be done directly through the St. Mary's website.

Marian Antiphon until the Presentation

Loving Mother of the Redeemer,
gate of heaven, star of the sea,
assist your people who have fallen,
yet strive to rise again.

To the wonderment of nature
you bore your Creator,

Yet remained a virgin, after, as before.
You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,
have pity on us poor sinners.

V. After childbirth, O Virgin,
you remained inviolate.

R. O Mother of God, plead for us.

Let us Pray.

O God, Who by the fruitful virginity
of blessed Mary has given to mankind
the rewards of eternal salvation:
grant, we beseech You,
that we may experience her intercession for us,
by whom we have been made worthy
to receive the Author of Life,
our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son,
who lives and reigns with You
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God,
world without end. R. Amen.

Wednesday, 13th January—Feria

Entrance Antiphon

Upon a lofty throne, I saw a man seated, whom a host of
angels adore, singing in unison; Behold him, the name of
whose empire is eternal

First Reading Hebrews 2:14-18

*It was essential that he should in this way become completely
like his brothers so that he could be compassionate.*

Responsorial Psalm

The Lord remembers his covenant for ever.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia !

Let the message of Christ, in all its richness find a home with
you; through him give thanks to God the Father.

Alleluia !

Gospel Mark 1:29-39

*He cured many who were suffering from diseases of one kind
or another.*

Communion Antiphon

With you, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in your light
we see light.

Friday 15th January—Feria

Entrance Antiphon

Upon a lofty throne, I saw a man seated, whom a host of
angels adore, singing in unison; Behold him, the name of
whose empire is eternal

First Reading: Hebrews 4:1-5,11

*We must therefore do everything we can to reach this place of
rest.*

Responsorial Psalm

Never forget the deeds of the Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia !

May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ enlighten the eyes of
our mind, so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.

Alleluia !

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

The Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins.

Communion Antiphon

With you, O Lord, is the fountain of life, and in your light
we see light.

**'I have baptised you with water, but he will
baptise you with the Holy Spirit'**

*Almighty ever-living God,
who, when Christ had been baptised in the River Jordan
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,
grant that your children by adoption,
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
may always be well pleasing to you.*

Today's feast of the Baptism of Our Lord brings to an end
the season of Christmas. Coming after the Epiphany of the
Lord, it can be seen as a second manifestation of Christ, as
the heavens are opened before the whole world.

Through Christ's baptism, in which the entire Trinity is
present (Gospel), the world is made into a second creation.
In the First Reading, from Isaiah, we hear how God's word
will bear fruit in us. The one we see being baptised in the
Gospel is the Word and, by carrying out the Father's will
perfectly, all creation is restored.

This is why we can join with the Psalmist:

'With joy we shall draw water from the wells of salvation'!

St John develops this theme (Second Reading) when he
says that because Jesus overcame the world by water and
blood, so we, with the Spirit living in us, can be saved.

This coming week, let's strive to deepen our trust in the
Father, who is our salvation; to nurture our faith in the
Spirit, who works in us to ensure we do not return
empty-handed; and to strengthen our joy in the Son,
through whose incarnation and baptism we are made into
God's children.

Oh, come to the water all you who are thirsty!

First Reading

Listen, and your soul will live. *First Reading*

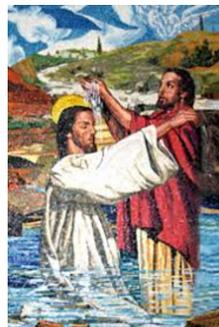
Truly, God is my salvation, I trust, I shall not
fear. *Responsorial Psalm*

For the Son of God became man so that we might become
God. *St Athanasius*

This week's texts if you want to explore further:

Isaiah 55: 1-11; Resp. Psalm: Isaiah 12: 2-6;

John 5: 1-9; Mark 1: 7-18



*Lord, I believe that You are the Son of the
Eternal Father and the Saviour of
the World. I believe that You have
brought about a new era of grace and
truth and that I am called to follow You
wherever You lead. As we begin this
liturgical season of Ordinary Time,
may it be a time of extraordinary grace
in which I daily heed Your voice.*

Jesus, I trust in You.

Please remember in your prayers

Adi Morando, Carol & Margaret Conway,
Kate Cradock, Francesca Adams,
Bill Wood, Rita Rawling,
Brenda Gregory, Margaret Collins,
Alex Smith, Lily Jones, Theresa Davies,
Michael & Jo Rogers, Annie Tomlinson



2021 Readers training and a new course on the Mass Formation for Readers

During the 2020 lockdown we have been able to form about 100 readers over two sets of online workshops in October and November, offering a reading practice to each one with a Diocesan Listener.

We will continue offering these workshops in 2021, Year of the Word in Portsmouth Diocese. The 2021 workshops will take place in February (6th and 13th) and in April (17th and 24th). Participants need to have attended both workshop 1 and workshop 2 and completed a reading practice to receive a Diocesan Recognitio.

Sign up for the workshops here:

<https://www.godwhospeaks.org/readers>

Formation on the Mass

This coming January, I invite you to join us for a Back to Basics Course on the Mass in 6 sessions, to refresh our understanding and deepen our love for the Mass.

After lockdown, some of our friends and family, and even ourselves, may find it difficult to return to the sacramental practice of our faith. Taking time to discover or rediscover what we believe in our faith, how this is celebrated in the Mass, and how we are called to live it may be just what we need at the beginning of the year, to re-ignite our love for the Mass and find the words to encourage others to practice.

Each session will end with a time of prayer. They will be led by Sr Hyacinthe and Angela Wood. This course will be especially helpful to catechists, readers and parents of First Holy Communion children, but it is open to everyone.

It will be taking place on Monday evenings from 7 to 9 pm, from the 11th January to the 15th February.

Sign up for the course here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84451234567>

New online Alpha course

Sacred Heart Hook and St Michael's Tadley are collaborating with to provide ALPHA in the New Year. The course will be lead by Geoff and Gina Poulter and Jon Kent will be hosting it through Zoom...

Are you interested in getting together with like minded individuals to learn more about the Christian faith and have "an opportunity to explore the meaning of life"? Come and journey with us in this 10-week course, learning about the Christian faith through a series of talks and discussions starting on Monday 18th January at 7:30pm.

To register your interest and for more information please contact geoffpoulter@hotmail.com.

Living Laudato Si' in Your Parish

I've been asked to speak at an online conference organised by Sr. Margaret Atkins of Bourbank Hall called *Living Laudato Si: Your Planet and Your Parish*. The conference comprises a long weekend of talks and discussions on Zoom, with practical activities, about living the message of *Laudato Si'* in and through your parish. Any interested parishioner is most welcome to join. The weekend is aimed especially at people with parish responsibilities or who are part of, or want to start, a relevant parish group. The sessions will be on Friday night, Saturday morning and Saturday night, Sunday afternoon and Sunday night and Monday night (leaving people free during the day on Monday). The ecological crisis, Pope Francis writes, is a summons to profound interior conversion, to renew our relationships with God, one another, and the created world.

Cont/.....

Speakers include Trish Sandbach, who worked in Oxfam Education for many years and led to St Benedict's, Garforth, in the

Leeds Diocese, winning a Livesimply award. She is also an assessor for the [LiveSimply award](#), John Paul de Quay, a founder member of the Ecological Conversion Group and [Journey to 2030](#) and Sr Margaret Atkins, an Augustinian Canoness at Boarbank Hall, a teacher of philosophy and theology, with a lifelong interest in the natural world, and author of *Catholics and Our Common Home: Caring for the Planet in a Time of Crisis* (CTS). There will be a panel discussion for sharing advice on practical projects. The Diocese of Portsmouth is to be a special focus over the weekend, and I have been asked to speak at the *Concluding Session* on Monday evening 25th January at 7.30 pm. I'll give more details next week, including how to register.

Special Collection

On the 23rd & 24th January there will be a Special Collection for The Cathedral.

If you are not currently attending Mass but would still like to donate you can do so in various ways.

Posting in an Envelope, marked with your name and 'The Cathedral', through the Presbytery door (or indeed via Royal Mail)

Making a Paypal donation through the St. Mary's website

By direct bank transfer to the St. Mary's account (please email for Bank Details)

You can also make a direct donation through the Diocesan Website.

If you are writing a cheque, please make it payable to: P.R.C.D.T.R. Alton St. Mary

Minute Meditations

The Good News of Jesus Christ is precisely that things have changed and that they are going to change even more. He came to a world that was stuck, to a people that could not find a way out of their sinfulness, to announce that there was another way. Better yet, he came not simply to announce this path and carry us there as passive recipients of grace, but empowered his followers to bring about the kingdom of which he spoke. The kingdom of God is at hand. It is not simply a far distant reality, but something that is inbreaking here and now, something that can be felt and brought about by those who live in communion with him.

In the way we love one another, work for justice, and offer sacrifice—doing as Jesus did—we can actually make a difference in our world because it is in these moments that Christ dwells in us and the Holy Spirit is sent forth from us. What is it that we always pray? "Send down your Spirit and renew the face of the earth!" If we want to follow after Jesus, we must let go of our cynicism and bleak outlook on the world, and instead believe with all our hearts that Christ is in control of this mission. We must look beyond what is not yet redeemed and open our eyes to the overflowing torrent that is God's love in our world, transforming and renewing the face of the earth. We must realize it is through us, those whom Jesus has called as his disciples, that this work is being accomplished.

—from the book [Let Go: Seven Stumbling Blocks to Christian Discipleship](#) by Casey Cole, OFM

A message from Fr. James

As you are all aware, we are now in Lockdown 3.

Many shops and businesses are closed during the lockdown and people are being urged to stay at home and work from home if possible. Churches, however, remain open for communal worship and travel for this purpose is permissible.

As a result, St. Mary's will be open for public Mass on

Saturday at 5.30pm

(maximum capacity in the church is 30 with a limited overflow of 10 in the hall)

Sunday 11am

(maximum capacity in the church is 30 with a limited overflow of 10 in the hall)

Wednesday 9.30am

(with a capacity of 25 and a maximum of 5 overflow in the hall)

Priority for this mass will go to the vulnerable and over 70'.

I am hoping that I shall be able to celebrate Mass each

Friday at 9.30am, starting this coming Friday.

(capacity of 25 and a maximum of 5 overflow in the hall)

This will continue through January, however, continuation through February to the end of lockdown will depend on the availability of Stewards.

If you are able to volunteer, please contact myself or Anne Bothwell.

Please Note that the above is subject to change.

The 11am Sunday Mass is now being broadcast live and the details are in the Bulletin and on the Parish Website.

Funerals may continue with a maximum of 30 people attending.

2 metre separation must be maintained at all times whilst attending Church.

You should not socialise with anyone outside of your family and/or social bubble.

If you feel unwell, suspect you may have COVID19 symptoms, are in a clinically extremely vulnerable group, shielding or self-isolating, please **do not** come to Church.

Face masks/coverings must be worn at all times.

Please use the hand sanitiser provided.

Toilet facilities are currently closed.

Please continue to pray for all those affected by the virus, fellow parishioners who are not able to attend Church and for the success of the vaccine rollout.

Fr. James