

Our Lady Help of Christians

(Diocese of Portsmouth – Registered Charity No.246871)

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The Advent Season is roughly four weeks and reminds us of the threefold coming of Christ – in time at Christmas, at the end of time, but perhaps most importantly Christ's coming into our hearts and lives during these four weeks. That is the acid test of what Advent means to us.

Of course it is the beginning of the Church's Year. It is a penitential season, in which the Gloria is not said or sung at Mass; purple vestments are worn and flowers are not used.

This afternoon we welcome **Mark Henry and Nathan Francis Billington** into the Family of God and that of the Church through the Sacrament of Baptism. We invoke God's blessing on them and their parents Graham and Josephine.

The Parish Bazaar

The final total for the Parish Bazaar was **£3176.30** including Gift Aid. Heartfelt thanks to the Organizers, Stall Holders, those who contributed goods and prizes and all those who came along and bought items. It was a wonderful result because the numbers seemed to be down on previous years. A special word of thanks to Noreen Murphy who worked so hard for the success of the event. This sum of money will reduce substantially the debt on our Church.

Mass Intentions for the week beginning

Sunday 29 November 2009

Saturday	6.00pm	Gene Gibson RIP
Sunday	8.30am	People of the Parish
	10.30am	Mass of Gratitude.
Monday	9.30am	Fred May RIP
Tuesday	9.30am	Philip Woods-Scawen RIP
Thursday	9.30am	Diana Baker RIP.
Friday	9.00am	Mr Mrs Alfred Walk.
Saturday	9.30am	Baby George Pettifor and Family.
Saturday Vigil Mass at	6.00 pm:	Nora and Jim Cleary RIP
Sunday	8.30am	Deceased of Verling and Levanzin families.
	10.30am	Diana Baker RIP.

Mass and events beginning 30 November 2009

Prayer of the Church - Psalms Week 1.

Monday	30	Feast of St Andrew, Patron of Scotland. 7.30pm RCIA. Theme: <i>Mary the Mother of God</i> 8.00 SVP Meeting in the Parish House.
Tuesday	1	Mass of the First Week of Advent. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Patrick's.
Wed'day	2	Morning Prayer and Eucharistic Service 7.30 – 9.30 CRB Session in the Hall.
Thursday	3	Mass of the First Week of Advent. 8.30am Mass at All Hallows (Fr Dan).
Friday	4	Mass of the First Week of Advent at 9.00am .
Saturday	5	Mass of the First Week of Advent.
Sunday	6	9.30 First Communion Programme begins. Second Sunday of Advent.

Services in the Parish Church on Saturday mornings

9.15	Morning Prayer of the Church.
9.30	Holy Mass
10.00 – 10.40	Reconciliation/Confessions
10.00 – 11.00	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DECEMBER

9: **2.00pm:** Advent Mass for the Elderly and Party
14: **7.30pm** Advent Talk given by Fr Dickson SDB.
16: **7.30pm** Parish Service of Reconciliation.
19: Mass and Party for the Little Church.
24: **4.00pm.** Children's Christmas Vigil Mass.

First Holy Communion

The Final Call to hand in Application Forms (2010) for First Communion Children. Thank you.

Mass not celebrated in the Parish Church

Fred May RIP, Fr Michael Power SDB

Diana Baker's Funeral RIP

We said Goodbye to Diana, a very dear parishioner on Friday. The Farewell was most fitting both liturgically and socially. We must have the most generous and caring parishioners in the Diocese. How wonderfully you rallied round and produced a feast of food for those who attended the funeral. Diana would have loved every bit of it and I am certain her family graciously accepted all you did for Diana's memory. That is what a parish community is all about.

The Sacrament of Confirmation

The last day for receiving applications for the Confirmation Programme 2009/10 is this Monday 30th November.

Application Forms are on the table in the Narthex.

ANY ROOM IN THE INN

We are coming up to the hectic pre-Christmas time of work, shopping, carol concerts, school runs, cooking etc. – and, even more to do when people are coming to stay! Then – how about Mary, Joseph AND their donkey!?

The Travelling Nativity begins its journey to Bethlehem this weekend. **Would you, could you manage a night or two for them?**

HELP FOR POOR FAMILIES AT CHRISTMAS

This weekend we will collect non perishable goods and household items like soap, washing-up liquid, toothpaste, towels, sheets, socks, clothing for young people (especially teenagers) for **The Lions Community Store** in Fleet. They need basic things as well as presents for children.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Tickets will be available from next weekend 6 December. The proceeds will go towards the building of a Church and Bell Tower in Mafinga, Tanzania.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

The four sessions on Proclaiming the Word came to an end on Wednesday evening. I think we all gained a great amount from the Course and I hope that will be reflected in the way we proclaim the Word of God. There are copies of the statement of St Caesarius of Arles

(469 – 541) on the table in the Narthex. He says, “*..the Word of God is not less than the Body of Christ*”. It is worth reflecting on those words. They might help us to be more attentive to the Word of God in the Mass.

We were encouraged to sing the 'Alleluia' at every Mass. So, if the Reader feels up to it then please intone the 'Alleluia'.

The Bidding Prayers or Prayers of the Faithful are important. They should be short, relevant and with a space to reflect on each intention.

Sincerest thanks to Cecilia White who organised the Course and to Nicky Stevens and Paul Inwood who presented it.

Let us pray for the Sick

Val Ryan, Dominic Clark, Elizabeth Pearce, Joan Schieder, Claire Hilder, Dave Pearce, Anthony Leakey, Julie Hall, Ellen Hack, Ruth Taylor, Grace Bilyard, Nora O'Connor, Joan Schieder, Bernard Shiels, Grace May, Mary O'Connor, Delphine Lannon, Jack Pollicutt, Ann Croombs and all the names in the **Petition Book**.

We pray for our deceased parishioners

Thomas Milligan, George Stacey, Mary Hannon, Charles Maloney, Major Novis, Margaret Ward, Elide Pozzo, Theodore Stephan, Raymond Hackett, Fr George Davis SDB, Gerald Zuereb, Ida Fitzgerald, Patricia Byrne, Johanna Hicks.

May they Rest in Peace