

OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

(Diocese of Portsmouth – Registered Charity No.246871)

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Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

Mary Mother of God

It was the Nestorian controversy which indirectly promoted Mariology in the fifth century. The Nestorians had so emphasized the distinction of the two natures in Christ (Divine and Human), and the integrity of the human nature in particular, that they concluded that there were two persons as well. The crisis broke when Nestorius publicly denied to Mary the title 'Mother of God' (Theotokos). According to him, she was only the mother of Christ (Christotokos), to whom the Person of the Word of God had been united.

The Council of Ephesus (431) ruled against the Nestorian position in favour of the term theotokos. Mary is indeed the 'Mother of God' for there is only one Person in Jesus Christ, not two, and that Person is the very Word of God. The definition, one must remember, was not a Marian definition, but a Christological one. It was intended to safeguard not the motherhood of Mary but the true unity of Christ in one divine Person.

It is, therefore, fitting that we celebrate the Feast of the Motherhood of Mary immediately after the Feast of the Nativity. All the other titles we attribute to Mary (about 48) logically flow from the supreme title of 'Mother of God'.

CRIB OFFERINGS

The Crib Offerings this year are for the Christians in the Holy Land. Please don't forget them and the discrimination they have to endure. Be as generous as you can.

A time to say 'Thank you'

As we begin a New Year and contemplate what has just been, it is appropriate to thank many people for making the past year and the Feast of Christmas special. As a parish we are indebted to so many people who most willingly offer their services and talents for the good of the community. It is inevitable that in any list there will be omissions and I apologise. Thinking of the Christmas season one must thank Maureen and the choir. We still haven't got the culture which encourages us to join the choir! A special word of thanks to Elizabeth McConnell and the team of wonderful florists. What a wonderful display they produced for Christmas! Thanks too to the Gallagher and Axby families for giving us the beautiful crib in the Narthex. Our electrician John Loader did his usual professional job, as well as many other mechanical problems that he solves. Very many thanks to the Church cleaners who quietly get on with the job of keeping the Lord's House spotless. We are deeply indebted to John Power and Noreen Murphy who keep our accounts in order and supervise any work that has to be carried out. A special word of thanks to Jim Manderson who looks after our computers and Website. Thanks, too, to the various groups and organizations in the parish for their outreach to the homebound and needy.

I am deeply indebted to our Altar Servers and the Mums and Dads who supervise them. Aileen Joyce is still so enthusiastic about the kitchenette and Sunday coffee.

On a personal note may I thank you all for your kindness in giving me Christmas Cards, gifts and the Clergy Collection. Please forgive me for not sending you cards. I would love to do so but the life of the Parish Priest is pretty hectic during the run-up to Christmas! Please accept my heartfelt thanks for all the support you give me and the kindness and understanding that you show.

May J wish you all a happy and healthy New Year.

Mass intentions for the Week Beginning

Sunday 1 January 2012

6.00pm Vigil Mass	James Merdell RIP.
Sunday 8.30am	Baby Amelia Hodgetts (Sick)
10.30am	People of the Parish
Monday 9.30am	Mary Mulligan RIP.
Tuesday 9.30am	Holy Souls
Thu'day 9.30am	Sandra Mullen RIP
Friday 9.00am	Jeanette Collins (Intention).
Saturday 9.30am	Geordie Daly RIP
6.00 pm Vigil Mass	John Radley RIP
Sunday 8.30am	Deceased parents of Margaret and George Reid.
10.30am	For the People of the Parish

Time of Epiphany

Prayer of the Church (Psalms Week 2)

Monday	Memorial of Basil and Gregory Nazianzen
Tuesday	Tues. of Christmastide before Epiphany.
Wednesday	Morning Prayer and Eucharistic Service.
Thursday	Thurs. of Christmastide before Epiphany.
Friday	Friday of Christmastide before Epiphany.
Saturday:	10.15am School Mass – the Epiphany Sat'day of Christmastide before Epiphany 10 – 2pm First communion session.
Sunday:	Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. On the 7/8 January we take up a Voluntary Collection in aid of the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.

Diocese of Portsmouth Directory 2012

There are a few copies of Diocesan Directory 2012 available on the table in the Narthex. Cost £3.

Dates to remember

8 January	The Epiphany of the Lord. Enrolment of First Communion children.
10 January	7.30 pm. Meeting of Confirmation parents.
11 January	8-9pm Meeting of First Communion parents.
14 January	Salesian Study day at Chertsey.
22 January	Parish Annual General Meeting.
22 February	Ash Wednesday.
8 April	Easter Sunday.

We remember the sick in our Prayers

Fr Bill Carroll (Abercorn House), Bridgette Timmins, Maria Fraser, Dominic Clark, Nick Mills, Debbie de Bono, Matt Murphy, Elizabeth Pearce, Claire Hilder, Audrey Phoenix, Anthony Leakey, Ellen Hack, Ruth Taylor, Grace Bilyard, Bernard Shiels, Grace May, Mary O'Connor, Delphine Lannon, Jack Pollicutt, Ann Croombs and all the names in the Petition Book.

We pray for the deceased members of our Parish

Alice Barnard, Edmund Agar, Jane Fearnley, Eddie Irwin, William Lannon, Edith O'Reagan, Maureen Reid, Albert Tattersall, John Morrin, Michael Morrin, Ivy Yeoman
May they Rest in Peace.