

Our Lady Help of Christians

(Diocese of Portsmouth – Registered Charity No.246871)

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| Deacon | Rev Paul Page Tickell | Tel: 01252 413043 |
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| Deacon Paul's E-mail address: deaconpaul@pagetickell.me.uk | | |

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This afternoon we welcome **Charlotte Macdonald** into the Family of God and that of the Church through the Sacrament of baptism. We ask God's blessing on her and on her family. Charlotte is in Year 6 at St Patrick's and it has been her desire to be baptized. Let us pray that she will live "closer to God", as she expressed it.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

In 1854 Pope Pius IX in his letter 'Ineffabilis Deus' declared "that from the first moment of her conception, the Blessed Virgin Mary was, by a singular grace and privilege of Almighty God, and in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, Saviour of all people, kept free from all stain of original sin" and that this "is a doctrine revealed by God and therefore must be believed firmly and constantly by all the faithful". The Feast of the Conception of the Mother of God had been kept in the East from early times. St John of Damascus (675-749) maintained that perfect sinlessness was implicit in the title 'Theotokos' (Mother of God) at the Council of Ephesus in 431.

In 1854 Pope Pius IX declared it a Dogma of Faith to be held by all the faithful. In 1858 Mary appeared to Bernadette at Lourdes and when the illiterate girl asked who she was she replied "I am the Immaculate Conception". Bernadette didn't have the slightest idea what the words meant. St John Bosco began his work for poor boys on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

HELP FOR POOR FAMILIES

Christine Wilson and myself took the Christmas presents and domestic goods to the **The Lions Community Store** in Fleet on Tuesday. We collected three car loads. It was a wonderful response from the Parish and St Patrick's School. One person was extremely generous and contributed the equivalent of about 10 parcels. Beverley Allardice MBE was delighted with the gifts and asked me to thank everyone for their generosity. The Lions Community Store will make up about 200 Christmas Boxes for the poor whilst continuing to supply needy people with beds and domestic items – small pieces of furniture etc.

If you have items of furniture that you no longer need you can always contact the Lions Community Store at Basingbourne Road, Off Reading Road South, Fleet, Hants.

Tel: 01252 616998.

Christine Wilson has very kindly volunteered to be our representative in this area of Church commitment.

The Parish Repository

I think you will all agree that Carole Byrne keeps a wonderful Repository and looks after the stocks and the needs of people with meticulous care. Don't forget to send Christian Cards for Christmas. Perhaps it can become our contribution to keeping Christ in Christmas. Sadly, we can take people for granted and presume that it is their 'job' and not their pastoral commitment to the Gospel and the Parish. Wouldn't it be lovely this Advent if we made a point of saying "Thank You" to those who contribute to the Pastoral needs of our Community.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER RAFFLE

Tickets will be available from this weekend 5/6 December. The proceeds will go towards the building of a Church and Bell Tower in Mafinga, Tanzania.

Mass Intentions for the week beginning Sunday 6 December 2009

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| Saturday | 6.00pm | Nora and Jim Cleary RIP |
| Sunday | 8.30am | Deceased of Verling and Levanzin families. |
| | 10.30am | Diana Baker RIP |
| Monday | 9.30am | Mr Mrs James Brooks RIP |
| Tuesday | 9.30am | Fred May RIP |
| Thursday | 9.30am | Delia, John and Pat RIP. |
| Friday | 9.30am | Owen McArdle RIP. |
| Saturday | 9.30am | Brian Wijekson de Silva RIP. |
| Saturday Vigil Mass | 6.00 pm: | The sick of the Parish |
| Sunday | 8.30am | Mr Mrs Lobo (Golden Jubilee) |
| | 10.30am | Bill Hussey RIP. |

Mass and events beginning 7 December 2009

Prayer of the Church - Psalms Week 2.

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| Monday | 7 | Mass of the Memorial of St Ambrose. 7.30pm RCIA. <i>Theme: Prayer and Liturgy</i> 8.00 SVP Meeting in the Parish House. |
| Tuesday | 8 | Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Patrick's. |
| Wed'day | 9 | 2.00pm Mass and celebration for the Elderly Parishioners. |
| Thursday | 10 | Mass of the Second Week of Advent. 7.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Swithun's Yateley |
| Friday | 11 | Mass of the Second Week of Advent. |
| Saturday | 12 | Mass of the Second Week of Advent. |
| Sunday | 13 | Third Sunday of Advent. |

Mass not celebrated in the Parish Church

Liam Doyle RIP

DATES, TIMES and CHURCHES for RECONCILIATION

IN THE PASTORAL AREA

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| 10 December | - Yateley & Hartley/Wintney | at 7.30pm |
| 13 December | - Fleet and Church Crookham | at 7.30pm |
| 15 December | - Our Lady and St Dominic | at 7.30pm |
| 16 December | - Our Lady Help of Christians | at 7.30pm |
| 17 December | - St Joseph's Aldershot | at 7.30pm |

Services in the Parish Church on Saturday mornings

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| 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

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| 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. 11.30pm. Carols followed by Midnight Mass |
| 25: 9.30am | Christmas Day Mass. |

Times of Services for Christmas

Copies of our Advent and Christmas Services are available on the table in the Narthex this weekend. Please take one and if you know anyone near you who might be interested in going to Church at Christmas then give them one or drop it through the letter box. It might be an encouragement to people who have been away from Church for some time.

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

Ray Hickman, Katie Turner, Geoffrey Freeman, Edward Tottle, Norah Amy Masterson, George Hack, Fr Andrew Russell SDB, Elizabeth Turton, John Hornsby Madeleine Goldsmith. Mary Crowdy.

May they Rest in Peace