

Our Lady Help of Christians

(Diocese of Portsmouth – Registered Charity No.246871)

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

'GAUDETE' SUNDAY

The reading from the prophet Zephaniah is typical of Advent. It contains the theme of hope. It looks forward to the deliverance of God's people from their enemies. The Lord will do this as he renews his people by his love and rejoices in their salvation. Paul, too, strikes an Advent note as he declares that the Lord is near. And because of this he exhorts the Christians of Philippi to be tolerant, not to be worried. Rather they should pray for whatever they need and God's peace will be theirs and will keep them always in Christ. For St Luke the Baptist's ministry is central to the whole Advent theme. As in last week's Gospel passage, John had made a deep impression on people by his teachings and baptising. But he is quick to dispel any idea that he is the Messiah, putting himself in a quite subordinate role to that of the One to come – Jesus.

ADVENT TALK – Monday Evening at 7.30

We all enjoyed Fr John Dickson's Talk last Year. This year he has chosen the topic of the Nativity Narratives in Matthew and Luke. This is a fascinating subject because we are challenged to see how the Gospel writers approach the subject from different perspectives.

Please make a big effort to join us on Monday evening. I am certain you will enhance your knowledge of the Birth of the Messiah and also be challenged by it.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - Wednesday

Last Sunday's Gospel reminded us that "John went through the whole Jordan district proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, as it is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah: 'A voice cries in the wilderness; Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight.'"

Repentance and Reconciliation are at the heart of our Advent preparation for the Coming of the Lord.

We will have a short service and the opportunity to go to the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Wednesday evening at 7.30**. There will be three priests available to hear confessions.

Mass Intentions for the week beginning

Sunday 13 December 2009

Saturday	6.00pm	The sick of the Parish
Sunday	8.30am	Mr Mrs Lobo (Golden Jubilee).
	10.30am	Bill Hussey RIP.
Monday	9.30am	Edmund Murphy (Intention)
Tuesday	9.30am	Richard and Elizabeth Walk.
Thursday	9.30am	Wilfred McKenna RIP.
Friday	9.30am	Lionel and Clive Fowler RIP.
Saturday	9.30am	The Searson Family (Intention)
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Saturday Vigil Mass	6.00 pm:	Frank Deffains RIP (10 yrs)
Sunday	8.30am	John and Ian Hinks RIP.
	10.30am	Special Intention (Family illness)

Mass and events beginning 14 December 2009

Prayer of the Church - Psalms Week 3.

Monday	14	Mass of the Memorial of St Ambrose. 7.30pm Advent Talk (Fr John Dickson SDB).
Tuesday	15	Memorial of St John of the Cross.. 7.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation at Our Lady and St Dominic, Cove.

Wed'day	16	7.30 Sacrament of Reconciliation at Our Lady Help of Christians.
Thursday	17	Mass of December 17. 'O Wisdom'
Friday	18	Mass of December 18. 'O Adonai'
Saturday	19	Mass of December 19. 'O Root of Jesse'. Special Children's Liturgy at Evening Mass, followed by a Disco for the Children.
Sunday	20	Fourth Sunday of Advent.

Mass not celebrated in the Parish Church

The Sick of the Parish

DATES, TIMES and CHURCHES for RECONCILIATION IN THE PASTORAL AREA

13 December	- Fleet and Church Crookham	at 3.00pm
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

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

- 19: Mass and Party for the our young parishioners
- 24: **4.00pm. Children's Christmas Vigil Mass.**
11.30pm. Carols followed by Midnight Mass
- 25: **9.30am Christmas Day Mass.**
- 26: **10.00am** Mass in honour of St Stephen the First Martyr.
6.00pm Vigil Mass of the Holy Family
- 27: **Feast of the Holy Family**
Mass at 8.30 and 10.30.

Mass will be at 10.00 each morning during the week from the 28 December to 2nd January 2010.

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.

Please **NOTE** that the **Christmas Day Family Mass is at 9.30** and not at 10.00 as indicated in the schedule.

MASS AND PARTY FOR OUR ELDERLY PARISHIONERS

We had a most enjoyable celebration on Wednesday afternoon for the Elderly Members of our Community. It was good to see so many people. They received the Sacraments of Anointing and the Eucharist. Thanks to the Children of St Patrick's they were regaled with very beautiful renditions of Christmas Carols. We wish to thank Mrs Dix, Mrs Licence and the Staff from who escorted the children to the Church. Thank you very much. You made elderly people very happy.

Needless to say our warmest thanks to the members of the St Vincent de Paul Society who provided the food and transport for the occasion, as well as making all the preparations for the day.

They do a wonderful work in our Parish. We are most grateful to them. We must also remember that they visit the elderly and homebound people in the area each week. Thank you.

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

Beryl Carrall (Fegredo), Graham Barnard, Rose Harding, Sydney Willatts, Francis Farrugia, Christina Styles, Barney O'Kane.

May they Rest in Peace