



**Pastoral Area
Newsletter**
www.3rivers.org.uk

**Year (C) Weekdays: Year I. Psalter Week 4.
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

Welcome to our Pastoral Area

Churches in the Pastoral Area

Bishops Waltham - Our Lady Queen of Apostles,
Martin Street.

Fair Oak - St Swithun Wells,
Allington Lane.

Eastleigh - Holy Cross, Leigh Road.

Chandlers Ford - St Edward the Confessor,
Winchester Road.

North Baddesley - St Andrew's, Fleming Avenue.

Romsey - St Joseph's, Abbey House Drive.

Taking Today's Gospel Home

+ *Children/*

*Families How
can you learn from
Mary's example?*

+ *Young
People/Adults*

*What promises has
the Lord fulfilled
for you this year?*

*What promises are
you still waiting
for God to
fulfil?*



The Joy of Christian Faith

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent we hear of Mary. She plays a key role in the Christmas story and indeed in the story of our salvation.

Those of us who visited the Holy Land in October will recall the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, the Church of the Visitation in Ein Karem and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. As a humble, young girl in Nazareth it was announced to her by the Angel Gabriel that she would conceive and bear a son whose name would be Jesus, and that his reign would have no end. Mary submits humbly to the will of God, "I am the handmaid of the Lord, let what you have said be done to me."

We are told that Mary then went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. The journey from Nazareth to Ein Karem would not have been easy. Despite the journey and the confusion she must have felt, her prayer, the Magnificat, conveys her joy and humility in doing the will of God. The joy she experienced came from the knowledge that she was doing precisely what she was intended to do by God, to make Christ present in the world.

When we celebrate Christmas we all wish each other a Happy Christmas. It is the customary greeting at this time of year. I wonder what we actually mean when we wish someone a Happy Christmas. We could possibly mean, "Enjoy the day," or, "Enjoy the lunch" or maybe "Enjoy the time with the family," all of which we would hope to do.

But perhaps when we wish someone happiness at Christmas, we are possibly wishing for something that is sometimes missing in our lives and that is the sheer joy of Christian faith. That joy is highlighted for us at Christmas when we read the story of the birth of the Saviour in Bethlehem. The joy of the shepherds and angels is our joy too because we believe that, "A Saviour has been born to us, he is Christ the Lord."

May we all be blessed with joy this Christmas and beyond, and may we discover anew the joy of being Christian.

Father Michael.

❖ Liturgy and Sacraments

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: 1 Samuel 1:20-22,24-28. Psalm 83. 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24. Luke 2:41-52.

Please read the Gospel during the week and listen as it is proclaimed on Sunday.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION:

Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church: Enquiries please to Lucy O'Neill, on 01389 878760.

St. Joseph's and St. Andrew's Churches: Enquiries please to Romsey Parish Office on 01794 513646.

St. Swithun Wells/Holy Cross/ St. Edward the Confessor Churches:

Enquiries please to Elizabeth Nash on 01962 712022, or Anne Owen on 023 8025 4806.

ECUMENICAL ADVENT PRAYER: This is being hosted at Holy Cross Church, on Tuesdays, throughout Advent at 7pm, and **HOLY HOUR** throughout Advent has now moved to Wednesdays, between 7pm and 8pm.

PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT FOR ADVENT—YEAR FOR PRIESTS:

Please support our prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction weekly during Advent for the Year for Priests. Each Wednesday evening between 7.30pm and 8.30pm at St. Edward the Confessor Church.

ALTAR SERVERS: St. Edward's Church. Congratulations to Gemma Barry, Alistair Bennett and Edward Hauschild who are to be awarded St. Stephen's Guild Silver Medals. They have served faithfully at the altar for the past ten years and Mae Cagampang, who is to receive a Bronze Medal for serving faithfully for the past year.

❖ Carol Singing at ASDA

Come and sing Carols with the Boys' Brigade at ASDA, on Monday, 21 December, at 7.00pm. This has been organised by Churches Together in Chandler's Ford.

❖ Christmas Masses in our Pastoral Area



THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

Thursday, 24 December, 2009 - The First Mass of Christmas.

Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, Martin Street, Bishop's Waltham.

Family Mass at 6.30pm, and Midnight Mass, preceded by Carols at 11.30pm.

St. Andrew's Church, Fleming Avenue, North Baddesley.

Mass at 7.30pm.

St. Edward the Confessor Church, 191/193 Winchester Road, Chandler's Ford.

Mass at 9.00pm, preceded by Carols at 8.30pm.

St. Joseph's Church, Abbey House Drive, Romsey.

Mass at 11.00pm, preceded by Carols at 10.30pm.

Holy Cross Church, Leigh Road, Eastleigh.

Midnight Mass at midnight.



CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Friday, 25 December, 2009.

St. Edward the Confessor Church, 191/193 Winchester Road, Chandler's Ford.

Mass at 9.00am.

Holy Cross Church, Leigh Road, Eastleigh.

(Polish Mass at 9.00am) and Mass at 11.00am.

St. Andrew's Church, Fleming Avenue, North Baddesley.

Mass at 9.00am.

Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, Martin Street, Bishop's Waltham.

Mass at 9.30am.

St. Joseph's Church, Abbey House Drive, Romsey.

Mass at 10.30am.

❖ Ongoing Formation

BIBLE STUDIES EVENING: Meetings will resume in the New Year.

CAFÉ (CATHOLIC FAITH EXPLORATION): Meetings will resume in the New Year.

JOURNEY IN FAITH: Meetings are for anyone who wishes to know more about the Catholic Faith, those seeking to return to the practice of their faith, and those who would like to find out about becoming a Catholic. The meetings will resume in the New Year.

Enquiries please to:

Deacon Paul on 023 8025 4806, for *St. Swithun Wells, Holy Cross and St. Edward the Confessor Churches.*

Deacon John on 01794 515688, for *St. Joseph's & St. Andrew's Churches.*

Pat Taylor on 01489 895889, for *Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church.*

❖ Supporting each other

SCRIPTURE READING AND SOCIAL MORNING: On Monday, 21 December, at 10am, at the home of Pascale Li Voon Chong, 'Amberwood', Southdown Road, Shawford, SO21 2BX. All are welcome.

❖ New Year's Day Walk

Leave Canada Common car park at 11am on 1 January. No stiles, but probably will be muddy. Finish at a pub for food and/or drink. All are welcome to come along.

❖ Outreach

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS - CAFOD: Christmas Greetings Displays are available in the participating churches in our Pastoral Area. Please look out for them. Monies raised will go towards purchasing gifts from **CAFOD'S** World Gift Christmas Catalogue.

CAFOD: St. Edward's Church: The project for NIGER has been closed with a total donation of £20,411. At last weekend's Masses two possible new schemes were explained by Martin Brown from CAFOD, Portsmouth. A vote resulted in a clear choice (152-119) for El Salvador rather than Cambodia. More information will be available in the New Year. Thank you for your interest and support.

POITIERS PROJECT: We Can Do So Much More Together Than We Could Ever Do Alone!

The Missionaries of the Company of Mary, based at Saint Joseph's in Ashurst, would like to thank each and every member of 3 Rivers Pastoral Area who, over the last year, have contributed in any way to the work of the Poitiers Project. Your support has enabled us to provide two meals a day to hundreds of families who have been really struggling in the last twelve months within Southampton, Portsmouth, Andover and Salisbury. Through our furniture delivery service we have been able to furnish many flats and houses for families who literally, without this free service, wouldn't have a bed to sleep in or a chair to sit on this Christmas. It has been tremendous what the Catholic community has been able to do for some of the poorest people living amongst us through the Poitiers Project. Many, many thanks and may God reward you greatly.

Chris, Luke, Maureen, Jenny, Brother Anthony and Father Des,

i.e. the whole Poitiers Team wish you and those you care for a very HAPPY CHRISTMAS 2009!

❖ School Matters

St. Mary's College, 57 Midanbury Lane, Bitterne Park, Southampton, SO18 4DJ. Tel: 023 8067 0150

Entrance Examination on Saturday, 9 January, 2010, from 9am-12.15pm, for September, Year 7 entry.

For further details please see poster in the welcoming area of all our churches.

❖ Crib Collections

Crib Collections this year are for the Christian Schools in the Holy Land. Jesus was born in a stable in Bethlehem 2000 years ago and today the Christians in the Holy Land, including Bethlehem, are experiencing extreme difficulties and dangers. They are being marginalised in both Palestinian and Israeli society, with the lack of peace, stability and the absence of justice. Education is one area that is severely affected by the situation and is getting worse. Freedom of movement is very difficult, sometimes causing families to be separated. The inability of many to find employment means children's education is drastically affected and equipment for schools is always needed as is financial assistance for their education. Please be generous with your prayers and money to help the children in the Holy Land this Christmas.

❖ Christmas Offerings

The offerings at all Christmas Masses are traditionally your personal offering to your Parish Priest and form a major part of his annual income. Please be generous. If you pay tax at the standard rate your gift to them can be gift aided, so please use the appropriate envelope available in the welcoming area and provide full details where indicated on the envelope. Thank you.

❖ Finance

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS COLLECTIONS HELD IN OUR CHURCHES ON 13 December, 2009.




St. Edward the Confessor: £1,337.00, (Loose plate: £363.69, Envelopes: £202.50, & Standing Orders: £770.81).




Holy Cross & St. Swithun Wells: £1,023.17, (Loose plate: £260.17, Envelopes: £203.00, & Standing Orders: £560.00).

200 CLUB: No.60, M. Walsh, £25.

St. Joseph's and St. Andrew's: Gift Aid £528. Non Gift Aid: £247.

Saturday	19	10.00am (HC) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i> (<i>The First Mass of Sunday</i>)	5.00pm (SW) Jim Russell RIP and the good health of Martin Russell 6.00pm (SJ) Herbert Howie (anniversary) 6.00pm (OLQoA) MASS 6.30pm (SE) Good estate of Charlie Magee
Sunday	20	THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.00am (SE) Canon John Doran FM 9.00am (HC) Polska Msza Święta 9.15am (SA) Charles' Godmother 9.30am (OLQoA) MASS 11.00am (SA) Sean Kelly (anniversary) 11.00am (HC) People of 3 Rivers Pastoral Area 6.30pm (HC) Advent Penitential Service	
Monday	21	<i>Liturgy of the Day</i>	9.15am (SE) Dec'd members of the Brown & Conroy Families 10.00am (OLQoA) MASS 10.00am (SW) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion followed by the Rosary</i> 8.00pm (OLQoA) Advent Penitential Service
Tuesday	22	<i>Liturgy of the Day</i>	9.15am (SE) Bruce and Kathleen Cowling RIP 10.00am (HC) Betty and George White RIP 10.00am (OLQoA) MASS followed by the Rosary 10.00am (SA) Monica Rea (anniversary) 6.00pm (SJ) MASS 7.00pm (HC) <i>Ecumenical Advent Prayer</i> 8.00pm (HC) The Sacrament of Reconciliation
Wednesday	23	<i>Liturgy of the Day</i>	9.15am (SE) Peggy Rice's intentions followed by the Rosary in the Lady Chapel 10.00am (HC) Harold and Pauline Henwood RIP 10.00am (OLQoA) MASS 7.00pm (HC) <i>Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament</i> 7.30pm (SE) <i>Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament</i> 7.30pm (SE) The Sacrament of Reconciliation 9.15am (SE) Expectant mothers
Thursday	24	<i>Liturgy of the Day</i> THURSDAY 24 (<i>The First Mass of Christmas</i>)	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 6.30pm (OLQoA) MASS 7.30pm (SA) MASS - Charity Webster's intentions 9.00pm (SE) MASS - Tim Layzell RIP (preceded by Carols at 8.30pm) 11.00pm (SJ) MASS preceded by Carols at 10.30pm 12.00pm (HC) MASS - Special intention 12.00pm (OLQoA) MASS, preceded by Carols at 11.30pm
FRIDAY	25	CHRISTMAS DAY (Holy Day of Obligation)	9.00am (SE) MASS - People of 3 Rivers Pastoral Area 9.00am (HC) Polska Msza Święta 9.00am (SA) MASS 9.30am (OLQoA) MASS 10.30am (SJ) MASS 11.00am (HC) MASS—Special intention 10.00am (HC) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Saturday	26	<i>St. Stephen</i> (<i>The First Mass of Sunday</i>)	5.00pm (SW) Charles Magee 6.00pm (SJ) Donal Fitzgerald (anniversary) 6.00pm (OLQoA) MASS 6.30pm (SE) Dec'd members of the Magee & Kelly Families
Sunday	27	THE HOLY FAMILY	9.00am (SE) The People of 3 Rivers Pastoral Area 9.00am (HC) Polska Msza Święta 9.15am (SA) Felicity Blishen 9.30am (OLQoA) MASS 11.00am (SA) Robert Twigg (anniversary) 11.00am (HC) Marguerita and Cedric Harris RIP

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Fr George Lyons
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RETIRED PRIESTS
Fr Clement Marshall
Fr Maurice Twomey
Fr David Whitehead

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DEACONS




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