



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

**Year (C) Weekdays: Year I. Psalter Week 2.
THE SECOND 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* John the Baptist asks us to change in Advent. What needs changing in my life?



+ *Young People/Adults* If the messiah brings justice and peace, how can Christians look honestly at our world and yet claim that the messiah has come?

Advent Call to Repentance

On the second Sunday of Advent one of the great figures of Advent, John the Baptist, makes his appearance. John appears in the wilderness and "proclaims a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins." He is a voice crying in the wilderness; "Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight."

The baptism of John called for repentance (metanoia), a conversion, or change of mind and heart. He was not one to mince his words so the repentance he proclaimed meant complete and radical change. The image of valleys being filled in, mountains and hills being laid low, winding ways straightened and rough roads made smooth express the extent of the transformation he had in mind.

Advent is a time of yearning for such transformation. It is the time of preparing for its arrival. Throughout Advent we hear of the hope of the Old Testament prophets as they looked forward to the one who was to come and the transformation that would accompany it. In Advent we too look forward in hope and we respond to the call to repentance.

As Catholics we have the great gift of the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession). In celebrating this sacrament we repent and we are forgiven by God who loves us. It is not just a matter of going through the motions but of true repentance, change of mind and heart. Advent is a wonderful time in which to celebrate this sacrament and there are plenty of opportunities in the Pastoral Area.

Father Michael.

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES

Tuesday, 15 December, 2009. ... 7.30pm: St. Andrew's Church, Fleming Avenue, North Baddesley.

Sunday, 20 December, 2009. ... 6.30pm: Holy Cross Church, Leigh Road, Eastleigh.

Monday, 21 December, 2009. ... 8.00pm: Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, Martin Street, Bishop's Waltham.

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

Holy Cross Church - Saturdays, at 11am, and also on Tuesday, 22 December, 2009, at 8.00pm.

St. Edward the Confessor Church—Saturdays, 12 noon, and also on Wednesday, 23 December, 2009, at 7.30pm.

Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, Bishop's Waltham; Saturday evenings at 5.30pm, or by appointment.

St. Joseph's Church, Romsey. Saturdays, from 5.30pm-5.55pm

St. Andrew's Church, North Baddesley. Sundays from 9.00am-9.15am.

*Items for the next Pastoral Area Newsletter are required please by Tuesday, noon, by post or phone, direct to the Parish Office at Chandler's Ford on 023 8027 3882, or email 3rivers@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
This newsletter can be sent to you by email service — just email website@3rivers.org.uk*

❖ Liturgy and Sacraments

DETAILS OF CHRISTMAS MASSES AND ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES IN 3 RIVERS PASTORAL AREA ARE ENCLOSED WITH THIS NEWSLETTER. CHILDREN ARE NEEDED AT CHRISTMAS MASSES IN 3 RIVERS PASTORAL AREA:

We would like the children to be involved as much as possible during the Christmas Masses. The children are invited to join in the procession at the beginning of the Christmas Masses, gathering around the crib as it is blessed, and dress as an angel, a shepherd, or Mary or Joseph, (*the costumes need not be elaborate, a simple tea-cloth for boys, or a band of tinsel for girls, as a head-dress, will be sufficient*).



THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: We welcome into the family of the Church, Kristen Anne Aldhouse and Allana Grace Aldhouse, who will be baptised at St. Edward the Confessor Church, on Sunday, 6 December, 2009.

FAITH AND LIGHT: The Annual Advent Mass is on Sunday, 6 December, at 3pm, at St. Edward's Church. All are very welcome.

BAPTISM PREPARATION: For parents seeking the Sacrament of Baptism for their child in 3 Rivers Pastoral Area there will be a Baptism Preparation Course on Sunday, 6 December, 2009, from 4.30pm-6pm, in the Resource Centre of Holy Cross Church, Leigh Road, Eastleigh. Application forms are available from the Parish Office in Chandler's Ford, on 023 8027 3882, or Romsey Parish Office, on 01794 513646.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION—2009: There will be a Post Confirmation gathering in the Resource Centre of Holy Cross Church, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, on Sunday, 6 December, 2009, from 6.15pm-8pm. Enquiries please to Lyn Preston on 023 8009 0329.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Zephaniah 3:14-18. Psalm Isaiah 12: 2-6. Philippians 4:4-7. Luke 3:10-18.

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: The next children's sessions will be held on Monday, 7 December, from 6.30pm-7.30pm, at the church where the child is to make their First Holy Communion. Masses at St. Edward's Church and Holy Cross Church, on Sunday, 13 December, will particularly involve children. 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.

CAROL SERVICE: This will be held at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church on Sunday, 13 December, 2009, at 6.30pm, followed by the Christmas Raffle, mince pies and drinks. Any donations for the raffle would be appreciated and can be placed in the box provided in the church hall.

❖ Ongoing Formation

BIBLE STUDIES EVENING: Tuesdays, at 7.30pm, at St. Andrew's Church, North Baddesley.

CAFÉ (CATHOLIC FAITH EXPLORATION): Please bring a lunch to share while exploring the relevance of the Gospels to our everyday lives, on Wednesdays, from 12.30pm-2pm, in the Parish Centre, Romsey. Old and newcomers very welcome.

JOURNEY IN FAITH: These meetings are for anyone who wishes to know more about the Catholic Faith, or would like to find out about becoming a Catholic. The next session at St. Edward the Confessor Church, 191/193 Winchester Road, Chandler's Ford, will be held on Thursday, 10 December, 2009, from 7.30pm until 9pm. All will be warmly welcomed. 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*.

❖ Wisdom House

WISDOM HOUSE: Wisdom Centre, Wisdom House, Romsey, SO51 8EL. Tel: 01794 830206.

Blue Christmas Service: Tuesday, 22 December, 2009, at 6.30pm. A short service of remembrance and hope for those of all denominations or none who will find Christmas difficult. Families are most welcome and the Service will be followed by mulled wine/fruit punch and mince pies. People are welcome simply to turn up, but it would help with catering if they could let us know they are coming by lunch-time on Tuesday, 22 December, 2009.

❖ Finance

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS COLLECTIONS HELD IN OUR CHURCHES ON 29 November, 2009.

St. Edward the Confessor: £1,136.76, (Loose plate: £255.92, Envelopes: £107.50, & Standing Orders: £773.34).

Holy Cross & St. Swithun Wells: £939.99, (Loose plate: £220.69, Envelopes: £159.30, & Standing Orders: £560.00).

200 CLUB: No. 62, K. Cox, £25. **St. Joseph's and St. Andrew's:** Gift Aid: £527.00. Non Gift Aid: £169.00.

This weekend, at St. Swithun Wells, Holy Cross and St. Edward the Confessor Churches, there will be a special collection for flowers for our Churches at Christmas.

LIVING OUR FAITH UPDATE: £720,093 HAS BEEN RAISED FROM 272 PLEDGES. THANK YOU.

❖ Supporting each other

A.P.F. (ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH): St. Edward's - Promoters please note that 39 out of 85 box holders are not gift aiding their donations. Can you please arrange for them to be asked if they wish to do so, as it would make such a huge difference, and notify Helena Bedford on 023 8027 4232 accordingly.

ST. SWITHUN WELLS FELLOWSHIP: The group meets regularly at St. Swithun Wells Church, Allington Lane, Fair Oak, on Wednesdays, during term time from 7.45pm to 9pm. On Wednesday, 9 December, there will be an opportunity to look at St. Luke's infancy narratives. On 16 December, there will be an Advent Service of Light and all in the Pastoral Area are most welcome. Enquiries please to Peter Baggott on 023 8069 4060, Bob Birtles on 023 8069 2416 or Steve Holmes on 023 8069 3669.

ILLUSTRATED TALK—VIETNAM: Alison Wright, a parishioner, will give an illustrated talk about her travels and work in Vietnam, on Wednesday, 16 December, from 7.30pm, at St. Andrew's Church meeting room. All are very welcome.

ST. JOSEPH AND ST. ANDREW CHURCHES: The Parish Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday, 19 December, 2009, from 10am to 1pm, in the United Reformed Church Hall, Romsey. More gifts are needed please and also bottles for the Tombola. There will be a raffle at the Fair in aid of the Leonard Cheshire Home in Romsey. Tickets are available at St. Andrew's and St. Joseph's Churches, at the Fair and also from the Parish Office in Romsey on 01794 513646.

ST. ANDREW'S DAY: Many thanks to all who participated in the St. Andrew's Day celebrations. It was really good to see so many parishioners and friends together in St. Andrew's Church enjoying such an uplifting and happy evening.

MUSIC: St. Joseph's Church. Choir rehearsals will be each Sunday in December, at 7.30pm, in St. Joseph's Church, in preparation for the 11pm Mass on 24 December. Anyone interested in joining is welcome to come along.

❖ Outreach

TWO SAINTS (ST. DISMAS) AND POITIERS PROJECT: Holy Cross, St. Swithun Wells, and St. Edward the Confessor Churches: In each of our churches we have boxes for gifts for two charities - tins of soup and items of men's clothing for Two Saints (St. Dismas) Night Shelter, and food items (and furniture) for the Poitiers Project, for families in crisis. In addition, this Christmas, the children have the opportunity to make their special contribution to Two Saints. The children can collect labelled gift tags from all churches after Mass this Sunday. They are asked to wrap the items in Christmas paper, attach their label and return their gift to church on the 3rd Sunday of Advent (13 December). The children will be invited to bring their gifts up as part of the Offertory Procession on this date. If, as a family, you would like to give a Christmas present for the Poitiers Project, please bring a tin of biscuits, chocolates or sweets to church on the 3rd Sunday of Advent. The Poitiers Project are supporting approximately 70 families every week with food in local areas.

CAFOD NEWS: St. Edward the Confessor Church: The monies from the Green Boxes totalled £314.79 and this brings to an end our commitment in NIGER. Thanks to your immense generosity £20,411 has been raised, helping to fund feeding centres for malnourished children. Martin Brown from CAFOD Portsmouth will be speaking at the Masses on 12/13 December, to explain a new scheme named CONNECT 2. He will outline two possible projects for us and after the Masses there will be an opportunity to vote on one of them.



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS - CAFOD: Christmas Greetings Displays will be available in the participating churches in our Pastoral Area from Sunday, 6 December. Please look out for them. Monies raised will go towards purchasing gifts from **CAFOD'S** World Gift Christmas Catalogue.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS—FOR THE MEN OF ELDERFIELD: Once again we shall be purchasing gifts for the men of Elderfield. We know how much they look forward to their parcels and cards. We would like to thank all who have contributed so generously in the past and hope you can support us again this year. Enquiries please to Mary Holder, 4 Woodlands Close, Chandler's Ford, on 023 8025 2167.

❖ School Matters

St. George Catholic Voluntary Aided College, Leaside Way, Southampton, SO16 3DQ. Tel: 023 8032 2603.

A Christmas Concert, will be held at the College on Tuesday, 8 December, 2009, from 7pm-9pm, approximately. Tickets, adults £2.50, children (over 5 years old) students and OAP's, £1.50, can be purchased on the door or reserved over the phone on 023 8032 2603. Please see full details on the poster in the welcoming area of all our churches.

St. Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School, Hillcrest Avenue, Chandler's Ford, SO53 2JP. Tel: 023 8026 6210.

The school are holding a School Community Christmas Party for Senior Citizens on Tuesday, 15 December, at 2pm. The children will be singing carols and refreshments will be served. Please let the school know if you would like to join them. The school also invites parishioners to their Infant Nativity on the 9 and 10 December, at 2pm, in the school hall, and to the KS2 Carol Service which will be held on Thursday, 17 December, at 7pm, at Holy Cross Church, Eastleigh.

SCHOOL ADMISSION APPEALS PANEL: Volunteers are required to become panel members for schools in the Diocese of Portsmouth. These panels enable parents to exercise their right to appeal when their application for a school place for their child has been turned down. Panels must contain a mixture of people involved in education and lay people. Panel members must have no connection with the school for which appeals are being heard. Training will be over two days and held in Basingstoke on Monday, 25 January, and Friday, 5 February, 2010. For further information/details please see poster in the welcoming area of our churches or phone Department for Schools, Park Place Pastoral Centre, Wickham, on 01329 835363.

Saturday	5	10.00am (HC) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i> (<i>The First Mass of Sunday</i>)	5.00pm (SW) The People of 3 Rivers Pastoral Area 6.00pm (SJ) Una's family 6.00pm (OLQoA) MASS 6.30pm (SE) Peter and Rose Barry RIP
Sunday	6	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.00am (SE) Ted and Ethel Travers RIP 9.00am (HC) Polska Msza Święta 9.15am (SA) Anne Blishen 9.30am (OLQoA) MASS 11.00am (SA) MASS 11.00am (HC) Kenneth Sweet RIP 3.00pm (SE) Faith and Light Mass	
Monday	7	9.15am (SE) <i>Katheleen Harvey RIP</i> <i>St. Ambrose</i>	10.00am (OLQoA) MASS 10.00am (SW) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion followed by the Rosary</i>
Tuesday	8	9.15am (SE) <i>Deceased members of the Baker and Hanrahan Families</i> <i>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	10.00am (HC) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i> 10.00am (OLQoA) <i>MASS followed by the Rosary</i> 10.00am (SA) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i> 6.00pm (SJ) MASS 7.00pm (HC) <i>Ecumenical Advent Prayer</i> 7.30pm <i>Holy Rosary in the Oratory of Marie Louise House, Romsey</i>
Wednesday	9	9.15am (SE) <i>Ron and Mary Uphill FM</i> <i>Of the 2nd Week of Advent</i>	10.00am (HC) Kenneth Sweet RIP 6.00pm (OLQoA) MASS 7.00pm (HC) <i>Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament</i> 7.30pm (SE) <i>Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament</i> 9.15am (SE) <i>Jane McClatchey - return to good health</i> 10.00am (HC) J. Jakubowski 10.00am (OLQoA) MASS 6.00pm (SJ) <i>Paula Woodmore (anniversary)</i>
Thursday	10	9.15am (SE) <i>Lillian and Anthony de Melo</i> <i>St. Swithun Wells</i>	10.00am (HC) Luis Castro FM 10.00am (OLQoA) MASS 10.00am (SA) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion with Morning Prayer</i>
Friday	11	10.00am (HC) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i> <i>Of the 2nd Week of Advent</i>	10.00am (HC) Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion 5.00pm (SW) Brian Howes RIP 6.00pm (SJ) Louise and Grant Elgin (marriage) 6.00pm (OLQoA) MASS 6.30pm (SE) Maureen Sinnot RIP
Saturday	12	10.00am (HC) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i> <i>Of the 2nd Week of Advent</i> (<i>The First Mass of Sunday</i>)	
Sunday	13	THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.00am (SE) The People of 3 Rivers Pastoral Area 9.00am (HC) Polska Msza Święta 9.15am (SA) Deceased members of the Harrison Family. 9.30am (OLQoA) MASS 11.00am (SA) MASS 11.00am (HC) Luis Castro RIP	

HC: Holy Cross, SW: St. Swithun Wells, OLQoA: Our Lady Queen of Apostles, SA: St Andrew's, SJ: St. Joseph's, SE: St Edward's.

SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES:

St. Swithun Wells Catholic Primary School 023 8026 6210
St George Catholic V.A. College 023 8032 2603
St Anne's Catholic School 023 8032 8200

Fr John Buckley
 ☒ The Presbytery, Martin Street, Bishop's Waltham, SO32 1DN
 ☎ 01489 895889
 ✉ jrbuckley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Michael Dennehy
 (Co-ordinating Pastor)
 ☒ 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF
 ☎ 023 8061 2430
 ✉ mdennehy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr George Lyons
 ☒ 53 Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF
 ☎ 023 8062 0795
 ✉ glyons@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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RETIRED PRIESTS

Fr Clement Marshall
Fr Maurice Twomey
Fr David Whitehead
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DEACONS

Deacon Bob Birtles
 ☒ 3 Shorts Road, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, S050 7EJ
 ☎ 023 8069 2416
 ✉ bob.birtles@gmail.com

Deacon John di Meo
 ☒ 'Kleines Tal', Bridge Road, Romsey, SO51 8JD
 ☎ 01794 515688
 ✉ jdimeo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Deacon Paul Owen
 ☒ 34 Foyle Road, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 4QP
 ☎ 023 8025 4806
 ✉ paul.anne.owen@ukgateway.net
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PARISH OFFICES

Parish Co-ordinator, Pauline Parsons
 ☒ 191/193 Winchester Road, Chandlers Ford, SO53 2DU
 ☎/☎ 023 8027 3882
 ✉ 3rivers@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary, Rosemary Peacock
 ☒ St Joseph's Parish Office, 26 Abbey Water, Romsey, SO51 8EJ
 ☎/☎ 01794 513646
 ✉ sasj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
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