



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

**Year (C) Weekdays: Year I. Psalter Week 1.
THE FIRST 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* When can we
pray together as a family?

+ *Young
People/
Adults* Where
does our
strength and
confidence
come from?



Advent Calling!

At the start of each new Church Year, the season of Advent heralds a sense of hope, expectation and joy. It expresses that longing which finds its fulfilment in the mystery of the Incarnation: God sending his Son into the world for us.

In Advent the Kingdom of God is resoundingly proclaimed, both within us now and as our future hope. Jesus comes to set us free from fear, to liberate us from all that inhibits our union with the Father. We are being called from darkness into the light. We pray that, in this 'new dawn', the light of Christ will guide us throughout our earthly pilgrimage and lead us to unity with the God of love – Father, Son and Holy Spirit - in our heavenly home.

Today's readings remind us to focus on this future - on the Second Coming - and on the glory to which each one of us is called. At the same time, St Paul exhorts us to make this new dawn a reality now by the progress we make in "the kind of life we are meant to live - the life that God wants". This is stocktaking and reappraisal time!

How, in practical ways, might we move forward this Advent? Perhaps we need to make a renewed commitment to our daily prayer, at the very least to praying every morning and evening. We could set aside some moments during the week to prepare for Sunday Mass by a slow and gentle reflection on the forthcoming readings. We might identify an opportunity to help someone in need, either in our community or beyond, in the period leading up to Christmas, remembering that for some people this can be a lonely and difficult time.

To co-operate with God's grace means responding to God's call with decisive action, not postponing the hour nor thinking that what we might attempt could be someone else's responsibility. Are we awake and ready? How will we proclaim Jesus, 'Christ our Light', to other people this Advent? How do the familiar words 'Thy Kingdom come' resonate with our life and our vocation?

Deacon John.

*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

BISHOP CRISPIAN'S PASTORAL LETTER FOR ADVENT: This will be read and made available at all Masses this weekend.

RCIA RITES OF ACCEPTANCE AND WELCOME: Please pray for Wayne Culver, who at the Rite of Acceptance at the 9am Mass today at St. Edward the Confessor Church, will be accepted into the order of catechumens in preparation for his baptism at Easter. Also for Gemma Murdoch, who at the Rite of Welcome at the 11am Mass at Holy Cross Church, will start her final preparation to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church. Please also pray for Thomas and Matthew Clark, who are preparing to complete their Christian initiation through the Sacrament of Confirmation at Easter.

HOLY CROSS LITURGY SURVEY: At the end of Mass today, you will be given a Liturgy Survey sheet to take away. We hope that you will take a few minutes to consider the questions, complete the form and bring it back. There will be a box in the Welcoming area for completed forms. *Thank you - Liturgy Group.*

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Baruch 5:1-9. Psalm 125. Philippians 1:4-6.8-11. Luke 3:1-6.

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

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.

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 parent's session will be held on Tuesday, 1 December, at 7.30pm, at St. Edward the Confessor Church, Chandler's Ford. 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.

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 starting on 2 December between 7.30pm and 8.30pm at St. Edward the Confessor Church, Chandler's Ford.

CAROL SERVICE: This will be held at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church on Sunday, 13 December, 2009, at 6.30pm. There will also be a raffle and prizes may be left in the church hall. Thank you.

ADVENT SERVICE OF LIGHT: This will be held on Wednesday, 16 December, at 7.45pm, at St. Swithun Wells Church, Allington Lane, Fair Oak. The whole Pastoral Area is invited and will be warmly welcomed.



❖ 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.

SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAMME 2009: A programme of learning, discussion and insight into our Faith, aiming to make Faith the centre of our lives. It will serve to reinforce our understanding of the Scriptures and the meaning of the Sacraments. Finally, it will explain Catechesis and help define our Faith. The next session will be held on Wednesday, 2 December, from 7.30pm for 7.45pm, ending at 9.00pm, at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Church, Martin Street, Bishop's Waltham.

The Theme will be "The Ministry of the Eucharist since Vatican II". This session will be of particular interest to Eucharistic Ministers, but all are very welcome to attend and are likely to find it interesting and informative. For further details please call/text Giles Brady on 07816 569293, or Charles Forrest on 023 8069 4482.

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, 3 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.*

❖ Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast

You are all welcome at the Salvation Army, Blenheim Road, Eastleigh, on Saturday, 5 December, 2009, at 8.30am.

❖ Wisdom House Advent Day

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

Saturday, 5 December, from 10.30am-4pm (coffee from 10am). A Day of Reflection at Wisdom House, reflecting on the theme of "Prophetic Voices" - particularly those of the Advent Season, such as Isaiah, John the Baptist and Mary. The suggested donation is £15 to include refreshments, a light lunch and materials. Please note that those who are unable to contribute financially at this time are most welcome to come to contribute to the day with their presence and insights. Please see poster in welcoming area of our churches.

❖ Supporting each other

CAR PARKING: St. Edward the Confessor Church: Please park in the church car park. If you have to park outside Father David's house, please do not park anywhere on the diagonal white lines as he needs to be able to get in and out. Thank you.

WORLD AIDS DAY—1 December, 2009. Please pray for those affected by HIV and/or AIDS. Please see posters in our churches giving details of Job Vacancies for Project Workers for this Christian Charity.

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, 2 December, the theme will be Advent reflections and discussion. Everyone is very welcome. Enquiries please to Peter Baggott on 023 8069 4060, Bob Birtles on 023 8069 2416 or Steve Holmes on 023 8069 3669.

ST. SWITHUN WELLS CHURCH: *Starting a Cleaning Rota:* Thank you to all who volunteered in response to the recent appeal. However, we still need at least 4, preferably 8, people or couples to clean the church. The commitment will be to do the cleaning once every 8 weeks. Please seriously consider this request and contact 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, at 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. Unused items are needed, also bottles for the Tombola, plus toiletries, jewellery, Christmas goods and crafts for other stalls. Jumble is not required. Enquiries please to the Parish Office in Romsey on 01794 513646.

SKITTLES EVENING: Thank you to those who planned, organised and participated in the recent skittles evening. The results were: Holy Cross 105 pts, Our Lady Queen of Apostles, 93, St. Edward's, 90, St. Joseph's 89, St. Swithun Wells, 78. Congratulations to the Eastleigh team.

❖ 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. Thank you.

BIG CHARITY CONCERT: Friday, 4 December, at 7.30pm. Supported by Councillor Liz Mizon, Mayor of Southampton, Hi Life Band, live music, carols, dance drumming and singing. Supporting Basics Bank and Christian Aid, join forces to fight poverty at Central Hall, St. Mary Street, Southampton. Tickets £6 on the door. Enquiries please to 07989 381948.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT with the Paul Poulton Project, on Saturday, 5 December, at 7.30pm, at Velmore Church, Chandler's Ford. Tickets £3, available at the door. Further details from 023 8057 1414.

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.

❖ Having your say on 'Assisting suicide'

THE KNIGHTS OF ST. COLUMBA have drafted a letter to the Assisted Suicide Policy Team raising the objections that the Bishops' Conference have asked us to raise. A copy of the letter is enclosed with your weekly Pastoral Area Newsletter. Please will you fill in your address at the top of the letter, sign it and post it to the address on the letter. It is our aim to get as many of these letters sent to reach them by 16 December, 2009.

❖ Finance

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS COLLECTIONS HELD IN OUR CHURCHES ON 22 November, 2009.

St. Edward the Confessor: £1,177.37, (Loose plate: £251.53, Envelopes: £152.50, & Standing Orders: £773.34).

Holy Cross & St. Swithun Wells: £880.40, (Loose plate: £190.50, Envelopes: £129.90, & Standing Orders: £560.00).

200 CLUB: No. 19, Damon McDermott, £25. **St. Joseph's and St. Andrew's:** Gift Aid: £409. Non Gift Aid: £185.

On 5/6 December, 2009, 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: £713,554.83 HAS BEEN RAISED FROM 267 PLEDGES. THANK YOU.

Saturday	28	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) Laurence and Kathleen Cashman (anniversary) 6.00pm (OLQoA) MASS 6.30pm (SE) Peter and Rose Barry
Sunday	29	THE FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 9.00am (SE) Deceased members of the O'Donoghue Family RIP 9.00am (HC) Polska Msza Święta 9.15am (SA) Charles Blishen 9.30am (OLQoA) MASS 11.00am (SA) MASS 11.00am (HC) Antonio Cicu FM	
Monday	30	9.15am (SE) Ann and Patrick Sherry <i>St. Andrew</i>	10.00am (OLQoA) MASS 10.00am (SW) Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion followed by the Rosary 7.30pm (SA) MASS
Tuesday	1	9.15am (SE) Henry Wells FM <i>Of the 1st Week of Advent</i>	10.00am (HC) Francesco Papallo RIP 10.00am (OLQoA) MASS followed by the Rosary 6.00pm (SJ) MASS 7.00pm (HC) Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament <i>7.30pm Holy Rosary in the Oratory of Marie Louise House, Romsey</i>
Wednesday	2	9.15am (SE) Catherine Tamor <i>Of the 1st Week of Advent</i>	10.00am (HC) Deceased members of the Queen Family FM 6.00pm (OLQoA) MASS 9.15am (SE) James and Katherine Martin (anniversary) 10.00am (HC) Funeral Mass for Ita Mary Thomas RIP 10.00am (OLQoA) MASS 6.00pm (SJ) Jack Woodmore (anniversary)
Thursday	3	<i>St. Francis Xavier</i>	9.15am (SE) Mary Uphill RIP 10.00am (HC) Deceased members of Maria Papallo's Family RIP 10.00am (OLQoA) MASS 10.00am (SA) Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion with Morning Prayer 11.30am (SJ) MASS
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) Helen Christian FM
Sunday	6	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 & Light Mass (All welcome)	

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.
The Holy Rosary will be prayed on the first Saturday of every month, at 3pm, at the home of the Blishen Family, 20 Brownhill Road, North Baddesley, SO52 9EZ. All are welcome.

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,
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01489 895889
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Fr Michael Dennehy
(Co-ordinating Pastor)
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Fr George Lyons
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RETIRED PRIESTS

Fr Clement Marshall

Fr Maurice Twomey

Fr David Whitehead

~ + ~

DEACONS

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Deacon Paul Owen
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