



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

**Year (C) Weekdays: Cycle 2. Psalter Week 1.
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD**

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

*What difference does your baptism
make to you, to your family and to
those you meet?*

**+ Young People/
Adults**

*What can you do
to live your
baptism
more effectively
than you do?*



THE FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

In the early Church, the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord was considered to hold greater importance than Christmas, the Birth of the Lord, and the Feast of the Epiphany, the revelation of the Christ Child to the non-Jewish world. For the early Christians the baptism of Jesus marked the beginning of his saving work among us.

People went in great numbers to John the Baptist for baptism. John the Baptist's baptism was meant to lead to conversion that gave the whole of life a new direction. It was connected with the proclamation of God's judgement and with the announcement that one greater than John was to come.

Jesus began his public ministry by stepping into the place of sinners. He voluntarily submitted himself to the baptism of John the Baptist, intended for sinners, in order to "fulfil all righteousness." Mt 3:15

All four Gospels refer to the baptism of Jesus. The four evangelists recall Jesus' baptism in similar detail and in virtually the same language. Once Jesus has been baptised a voice is heard from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you."

The first part resonates with Psalm 27 where God says of David and his line, "You are my son, today I am your father." It is one of a number of messianic psalms which speak of the Messiah as a descendant of David's royal line. The second part comes from Is 42:1, in the first reading for this Feast. The suffering servant is portrayed as one who will please God and save Israel through selfless service and sacrifice.

The words of the Father at Jesus' baptism suggest that Jesus is the long-awaited Messiah who has come to save God's people. Though he is a king of David's royal line, he will save Israel not by might or privilege, but by suffering, service and death.

Father Michael.

❖ Liturgy and Sacraments

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS: Isaiah 62:1-5. Psalm 95. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11. John 2:1-11.

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.

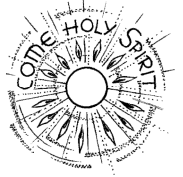
St. Joseph's and St. Andrew's Churches: Enquiries please to Romsey Parish Office on 01794 513646.

St. Swithun Wells/Holy Cross/ St. Edward the Confessor Churches: The next session for parents will be held on Tuesday, 12 January, 2010, at 7.30pm, at St. Edward the Confessor Church, 191/193 Winchester Road, Chandler's Ford, SO53 2DU. The next children's session (parents will also be invited to stay) will be held on Monday, 18 January, 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, 24 January, will particularly involve children. Enquiries please to Elizabeth Nash on 01962 712022, or Anne Owen on 023 8065 8251.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: A Baptism Preparation Session for 3 Rivers Pastoral Area will be held on Sunday, 7 February, 2010, from 4.30pm to 6pm, for parents seeking the Sacrament of Baptism for their child. This will be held 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 and Romsey Parish Office on 01794 513646.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION: Application forms for the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2010, in 3 Rivers Pastoral Area are available in the welcoming area of all our churches. Enquiries please to the Co-ordinator, Lyn Preston on 023 8090 9329.

THE SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE: If you are intending to get married within the next 12 months, please speak to one of the priests as soon as possible, if you have not already done so.



❖ Ongoing Formation

CAFÉ (CATHOLIC FAITH EXPLORATION): Meetings will resume on Wednesday, 13 January, at 12.30pm in the Parish Centre, Romsey. Please bring a lunch to share while exploring the relevance of the gospels in our daily lives. All welcome. Enquiries please to Romsey Parish Office on 01794 513646.

JOURNEY IN FAITH: These meetings are for anyone who wishes to know more about the Catholic Faith, anyone who wishes to return to the practice of their faith, or anyone who 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, SO53 2DU, will be held on Thursday, 14 January, 2010, from 7.30pm to 9pm. Please come along. You will be warmly welcomed. Enquiries please to:

Deacon Paul on 023 8065 8251 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*. Sessions starting Tuesday, 12 January, in Romsey.

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

SPIRITUAL FORMATION PROGRAMME 2009-10: 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, 27 January, 2010, (please note new date)** 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 "Practical aspects of Catechesis in our community". This session will be of particular interest to Catechists, 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.

❖ Lent Groups 2010

LENT GROUPS 2010 Spot the Difference – For the lent house study groups this year the Churches in Chandlers Ford have chosen **Spot the Difference**, a group study course for Lent by Nick Fawcett. If you are willing to lead or host a group for five sessions in Lent, or if you have an existing house group and would like to be included, please put your name on the sheet in the Cloister. Enquiries please to Philip Sheppard on 023 8026 1172.

❖ Women's World Day of Prayer

Bible Study: Monday, 1 February, at Chandler's Ford Methodist Church, Winchester Road, from 10am-12 noon. Speaker Martin Waldron. All very welcome.

Quiet Day: Thursday, 18 February, at Wisdom House, Abbey Water, Romsey, from 10am-4pm. £15 donation includes light lunch and all drinks. Led by Kathryn Turner. Tickets available or details from Heather New on 023 8026 5616.

Women's World Day of Prayer Service: Friday, 5 March, at the United Reformed Church, Kings Road, Chandler's Ford, from 1.45pm-2.45pm. Speaker - Rev. Tim Searle. All very welcome.



❖ Communications Workshop

3 RIVERS COMMUNICATIONS WORKSHOP: Please come to St. Edward the Confessor Church on Saturday, 30 January, 2010, between 10am and 3pm (lunch provided) if you are interested in improving our communications effort both within and outside our Pastoral Area. All will be welcome, but if you are coming please let Pauline in the Parish Office at Chandler's Ford know by **Friday, 22 January**, on 023 8027 3882, for catering purposes. Please call Paul Owen on 023 8065 8251 if you want further information.

❖ Supporting each other

FATHER GEORGE thanks everyone for the cards, good wishes and gifts he received over the Christmas season. Just before Christmas he was taken to hospital where he was diagnosed with pneumonia. We are pleased to say that he is recovering well and has gone to Ireland to recuperate. He sends you all every good wish and blessing for the New Year and assures you that the parish is in his prayers.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH: Unique, limited edition calendars with 4 pictures of St. Joseph's Church, at £1, are available from St. Andrew's and St. Joseph's Churches and the Parish Office in Romsey.

CAR PARKING AT ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH: Please do not park down the middle of the car park, so ensuring that access and exit are possible at all times in case of emergency.

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, 13 January, there will be a planning meeting for the coming term. Do please come along. You will be warmly welcomed. Enquiries please to Peter Baggott on 023 8069 4060, Bob Birtles on 023 8069 2416 or Steve Holmes on 023 8069 3669.

HOLY CROSS AND ST. SWITHUN WELLS CHURCHES: Ministers of the Word: We are hoping shortly to run workshops for anyone who would like to participate in the Mass by reading the Scriptures. If you are interested, please contact Elizabeth Nash on 01962 712022 or Kath Cunningham on 023 8061 6340.

PASTORAL AREA WALKS: Thanks to the ten people who braved the cold and enjoyed a sunny New Year's Day walk. The next walk will be held on Easter Monday.

❖ Outreach

CHRISTMAS GIFTS: Many thanks to all who contributed so generously towards the purchase of Christmas gifts for the men of Elderfield. £300 was raised and the gifts were very much appreciated.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS—CHRISTMAS GREETINGS DISPLAY:

St. Edward the Confessor Church. As a result of the money raised under the above scheme, £120 was collected and it will now be possible to bring clean, safe water to four families. Thank you to all who took part.

St. Swithun Wells Church: £121 was collected and a 'Business start-up', 'Mother and baby care' and 'Support for a child in need' were purchased. **Holy Cross Church:** £102 was collected and 'Chickens', 'Water for a family' and a 'Bicycle for a community care worker' were purchased.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: St. Joseph's and St. Andrew's Churches: A profit of £450 was made and a cheque has been sent to the Leonard Cheshire Home, Romsey. Proceeds from the Christmas Fair, approximately £715, will go to the parish funds.

❖ Catechists, Youth Leaders, etc.

'HOPE'—To coincide with the launch of the new Catholic Youth Ministry Federation (CYMfED), the "Hope Congress" will be providing fresh inspiration for catechists, youth leaders, etc., on Saturday, 27 February, at Friends Meeting House in Euston, London. Details available in the welcoming area of all our churches. Present during the day will be Bob and Maggie McCarty, Fr. Timothy Radcliffe, Abbot Christopher Jamison, David Wells and Archbishop Vincent Nichols.

If you would like to attend please contact Deacon Paul Owen on 023 8065 8251, in the first instance for further details, and by no later than Wednesday, 20 January, 2010. It is hoped that transport will be available.

❖ Malayalam

HOLY MASS IN MALAYALAM (SYRO-MALABAR RITE) Every first Friday of the Month at Holy Cross Church, starting with the Rosary at 5pm, followed by the Mass at 5.30pm. Please contact Joji at 023 8064 7643 or Sibi at 07872315685 for more information.

MALAYALAM RETREAT (KERALA LANGUAGE): There will be a retreat from 3pm to 8pm on Thursday and Friday, 4th and 5th February, 2010, at Holy Cross Catholic Church, Leigh Road, Eastleigh, SO50 9DF.

This has been organised by parishioners of Holy Cross Church from Kerala. For more details please contact Joji Joseph, Jose Athirampuzha, Sibi on 07876653859/07877728236/07872315685.

❖ Finance/Pastoral Area Newsletter

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS COLLECTIONS HELD IN OUR CHURCHES ON 3 January, 2010.

St. Edward the Confessor: £1,217.75, (Loose plate: £238.94, Envelopes: £208.00, & Standing Orders: £770.81).

Holy Cross & St. Swithun Wells: £963.20, (Loose plate: £200.60, Envelopes: £202.60, & Standing Orders: £560.00).

200 CLUB: No. 72, Mrs. Tuffield, £25.

St. Joseph's and St. Andrew's: Gift Aid £460. Non Gift Aid £246.

Items for inclusion in the 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



Saturday	9	10.00am (HC) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i> (<i>The First Mass of Sunday</i>) 5.00pm (SW) Lydia Fonseca RIP 6.00pm (SJ) MASS 6.00pm (OLQoA) MASS 6.30pm (SE) Eileen Magee RIP
Sunday	10	THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD 9.00am (SE) The People of 3 Rivers Pastoral Area 9.00am (HC) Polska Msza Święta 9.15am (SA) MASS 9.30am (OLQoA) MASS 11.00am (SA) Tony Kelly (undergoing surgery) 11.00am (HC) Michael Lane FM
Monday	11	9.00am (OLQoA) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i> 9.15am (SE) The good estate of Richard Carr 10.00am (SW) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion followed by the Rosary</i>
Tuesday	12	9.00am (OLQoA) <i>Liturgy of the Word followed by the Rosary</i> 9.15am (SE) Patrick and Jane Kelly RIP 10.00am (HC) Josephine Fay 10.00am (SA) MASS 6.00pm (SJ) MASS 7.00pm (HC) <i>Holy Hour before the Blessed Sacrament</i> 7.30pm <i>Holy Rosary in the Oratory of Marie Louise House Newton Lane, Romsey</i>
Wednesday	13	9.15am (SE) The good estate of Mary McGinty <i>followed by the Rosary in the Lady Chapel</i> 10.00am (HC) Walter Smyth FM
Thursday	14	9.15am (SE) George and Doreen Horn RIP 10.00am (HC) Michael Lane RIP 6.00pm (SJ) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i>
Friday	15	9.00am (OLQoA) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i> 9.15am (SE) Kathleen Mouton FM 10.00am (HC) Catherine Mary Robinson FM 10.00am (SA) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion with Morning Prayer</i>
Saturday	16	10.00am (HC) <i>Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion</i> (<i>The First Mass of Sunday</i>) 5.00pm (SW) Maisie and Robert Austin 6.00pm (SJ) MASS 6.00pm (OLQoA) MASS 6.30pm (SE) Deceased family and friends of the Bennett Family RIP
Sunday	17	THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME 9.00am (SE) The People of 3 Rivers Pastoral Area 9.00am (HC) Polska Msza Święta 9.15am (SA) MASS 9.30am (OLQoA) MASS 11.00am (SA) MASS 11.00am (HC) Richard and Hilda Marin 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
 jbuckley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr Michael Dennehy

(*Co-ordinating Pastor*)
 53 Leigh Road,
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 023 8061 2430
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Fr George Lyons

53 Leigh Road,
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 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**

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Deacon John di Meo

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Deacon Paul Owen

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PARISH OFFICES**Parish Co-ordinator, Pauline Parsons**

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 023 8027 3882
 3rivers@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary, Rosemary Peacock

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