

# CATHOLIC WIGHT

## THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES IN THE ST. BONIFACE DEANERY ISLE OF WIGHT

Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. This feast is part of the Christmas season, and we should place today's Gospel in the context of what Luke's Gospel tells us about the birth of Jesus. Luke has been answering the question "Who is Jesus?" through his stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Today's Gospel reading continues this theme. It has no parallel in the other Gospels and is the conclusion of Luke's Infancy Narrative.



Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are presented in this Gospel as a faithful Jewish family. They are participating in the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, an event shared each year with family and friends. When Jesus is found, Luke describes him as seated in the Temple in the midst of the Jewish teachers. Although he is young, Jesus seems not to need teaching about his Jewish tradition. In his dialogue with these learned teachers, Jesus astounds them with his insight and understanding. Jesus is a child of Israel. His Father is God.

The dialogue between Mary and Jesus contains many references to family relationships. In fact, in this Gospel reading Mary and Joseph are never identified by name. Instead, they are referred to by their relationship to Jesus. Ultimately, this emphasises Luke's point about the identity of Jesus. When Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple, they question Jesus and express their anxiety. Jesus replies in words that many have thought to be disrespectful. Jesus says that he was never lost; he was at home. Jesus is God's Son, and he is in his Father's house. Luke will continue to suggest that faith in Jesus establishes new family relationships as he describes Jesus' public ministry.

In Luke's Gospel, Mary's importance is even greater than her role as Jesus' mother. Mary is the first disciple and will be present with Jesus' disciples after his Resurrection at Pentecost.

**Father Steven**

### PARISH OFFICES

**Cowes & East Cowes** The Presbytery, 22 Terminus Road, Cowes PO31 7TJ  
01983 292739 jredversharris@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Ryde & Bembridge** Presentation House, 55 High Street Ryde, PO33 2RE  
01983 812127 stmarysryde@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**South Wight** 7 Atherley Road, Shanklin PO37 7AT  
01983 867610 southwight@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Totland/Newport** The Catholic Presbytery, 96 Pyle Street, Newport, PO30 1EU  
01983 522027 stsandstc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**Parishes:** Cowes • East Cowes • Newport & Totland • Ryde & Bembridge • South Wight  
**Schools:** Holy Cross • St Francis • St Mary's • St Thomas of Canterbury • St Saviour's • Christ the King

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Clergy

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**READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN YEAR C**

**Holy Family** – 1Sam 1:20-22. 24-28; 1Jn 3:1-2. 21-24; Lk 2:41-52

**The Epiphany of the Lord** – Is 60:1-6; Eph 3:2-3, 5-6; Mt 2:1-12.

**The Baptism of the Lord** – Is 40:1-5. 9-11; Titus 2:11-14. 3:4-7; Lk 3:15-16. 21-22.

**VOCATIONS** "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph serves as a model of love, faith, and obedience. Just as Jesus was guided by His Father's will, so too can we be guided in our marriages by God's love. Reflect on how your family life mirrors the faith and devotion of the Holy Family. Strengthen your commitment to each other by nurturing a deeper relationship with God.

**CHRISTMAS MESSAGE** 'Peace on Earth & Good Will to All' Warmest wishes for faith, hope, and peace this Christmas season. May your days be merry and bright!  
Fr Jonathan, Fr Nishan, Fr Stephen & Fr Steven

**A SHORT CHRISTMAS PRAYER** Loving Father, help us remember the birth of Jesus that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men. Amen

**CRIB OFFERINGS** This year, at the request of Bishop Philip, we will be donating crib offerings to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

**HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION – DECEMBER** Pope Francis invites us to pray **For Pilgrims of Hope**. We pray that this Jubilee Year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

**EPIPHANY CAROL SERVICE** South Wight Parish will be holding an Epiphany Carol Service on Sunday 5th January 2025 at 5pm at the Sacred Heart Church followed by refreshments. Many thanks to the Catholic Women's League for organising the service.

**USED CHRISTMAS CARDS** (and other used greetings cards throughout the year) are very gratefully received by St. Cecilia's Abbey, Ryde. Thank you.

**ORGANIST AT ST MARY'S** It is with sadness that Leo Boucher the organist at St Mary's has had to stand down due to ill health. I would like to thank Leo for his 6 years of voluntary service to the church. Please keep him in your prayers.

**SUNDAY ORGANIST** St Mary's is looking for a volunteer to play the organ for masses at St Mary's on a Sunday and a few other times in the year. If you can help or offer assistance please contact Fr Steven or St Mary's Office.

**IOW CATHOLIC HISTORY SOCIETY** You can keep up to date with the Island's Catholic history by visiting their website and downloading their recent newsletter. <http://www.iow-chs.org>

**KEEP IN TOUCH** To receive the Island newsletter by email please send a blank email to [iowadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:iowadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) putting 'email newsletter' in the subject line.

**ISLAND PASTORAL COUNCIL** Our single Island Parish will require a new name – the Bishop has invited the Committee to suggest 3 names. One suggestion is “Holy Spirit”. Others to be discussed at future meetings – parishioners are invited to submit suggestions. NB With regards to the name of the new parish, we cannot use any existing dedication e.g. Sacred heart, St Thomas of Canterbury, St Wilfrid or St Boniface etc

We would love to hear your thoughts or feedback on the Novena of Prayer, held around the different churches on the island, and on the whole Island Mass at Christ the King. Your views will help us improve what we arrange in future.

Here is the online feedback form: <https://forms.gle/RE8wbTJBhosFXed99> or as an alternative, find paper feedback forms at the back of the church and once filled, give it to the priest. Thank you.

**ST MARY’S COMMUNITY GROUP & SVP TEA PARTY** The next tea party is on Monday 6 January 2025 1400-1600, St Therese Hall, Presentation House, High Street, Ryde. Come for tea and a chat. Car parking is available at the back of the church. If any homebound parishioner needs transport, contact the Parish Office 01983 812127

**THE TEA AND CHAT CLUB** will be meeting again in St Saviour's Holy Family Centre, Totland every Monday 1400-1600. Please come and join us, bring a friend if possible and enjoy a lovely cuppa with a biscuit, friendly chat and a game of bingo or HOY!, all for the bargain price of £1. For more information please contact Ita Malia 756017. We're looking forward to seeing you.

**CATHOLICS GOING INTO HOSPITAL** It is always an issue, but **it is crucially important** that when a Catholic is admitted to hospital, the family ensure that the Catholic Chaplaincy is contacted so that appropriate support can be given. As access to the hospital may be restricted, one suggestion is that the patient carries a note to give to hospital staff on admission notifying staff that they are Catholic and that they would really appreciate the Catholic chaplaincy service (Bishop Philip).

**PLEASE PRAY** for everyone who is sick, for the protection of the elderly and the vulnerable, for all who are suffering anxiety and worry, for the NHS medical staff and all who care for the sick. Please pray for the sick and homebound of our parish communities. For those who have died and for those whose anniversaries occur at this time. Please remember to pray for the Holy Souls in Purgatory. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

### **SAFEGUARDING MINISTERS**

Dee Becker 01983 812127 [safeguarding.ryd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.ryd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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### **CONTACTLESS GIVING**

It is now possible to contribute to Offertory giving via Contactless Payments or Chip ‘n’ Pin using the electronic pad at the back of church by touching the screen and following the simple instructions. There is also an option to Gift Aid contributions. Alternatively, use the myDona link: <https://donate.mydona.com/cdp-catholic-wight> or the QR Code



**BOOK “ISLE OF WIGHT HISTORIC SITES VOL. II CHURCHES”** 258 pp £16.99. This was researched over several years and has 12 geographical sections with photos of every church and some vicarages etc. It details all the historic Anglican churches with their history, architecture, famous people in the registers, and full lists of rectors and vicars. There are also three Appendices of churches (1284), bells and organs, and famous church architects. The book also covers the Catholic and Nonconformist edifices and provides a comprehensive guide to historic island churches. There is a companion "Isle of Wight Historic Sites Vol. I Buildings" 334 pp £17.99, and both are available in Waterstones or other bookshops on the island. Regards John Blythe Smart (author and researcher)

**CONFESSION TIMES**

Ryde: Saturday 1730-1800 Quarr Abbey: Saturdays 1000-1030 Newport: Sunday 0900-0930 & 1600-1630 Totland & Cowes: during Eucharistic Adoration. Any by request

**KEY TO CHURCHES ACROSS THE ISLAND FOR MASS TIMES**

P: Perpetual F: Foundation

<b>OLR</b> St Mary's, Ryde PO33 2RE	<b>OLW</b> Our Lady & St Wilfrid, Ventnor PO38 1NL
<b>SDE</b> St David's, East Cowes PO32 6DP	<b>SMB</b> St Michael's, Bembridge PO35 5RA
<b>SHS</b> Sacred Heart, Shanklin PO37 7AT	<b>SPS</b> St Patrick's, Sandown PO36 8NE
<b>SST</b> St Saviour's, Totland PO39 0HE	<b>STC</b> St Thomas of Canterbury, Cowes PO31 7TJ
<b>TCN</b> St Thomas of Canterbury, Newport PO30 1UH	

(\* Eucharistic Adoration starting one hour before Mass and opportunity for Confessions followed by Holy Rosary at SHS & OLW, and for half-an-hour or so, without the Rosary at SDE and STC.

**Saturday 28 December** *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Year C*

1700 OLW George Cole RIP  
1800 OLR People of the Parish

**Sunday 29 December** *The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph Year C*

0900 SMB For Dougie  
0900 SPS All Parishioners Living and Dead  
0900 STC Titular Solemnity Mass  
Kitty & Remi Wang & family GE  
  
0945 TCN  
1100 OLR Angela & Paul Doyne  
1100 SDE Pro Populo  
1100 SHS Jane Scott-Health  
1200 SST Chris Mallon RIP  
1700 TCN  
1730 STC (Ordinariate) Gudrun Gilson RIP

**Monday 30 December** *Liturgy of the Day*

1000 STC No Mass Today  
1200 OLR Rowenna V Brank GE  
1200(\*) TCN No Mass Today

**Tuesday 31 December** *Liturgy of the Day*

1000 SMB Goodwin Cotter GE  
1200 STC No Mass Today  
1200(\*) TCN No Mass Today  
1200 SPS

**Wednesday 1 January** *Mary, Mother of God, solemnity*

0945(\*) SDE  
1000 OLR Charlotte Elliot P  
1100(\*) OLW  
1800(\*) STC

**Thursday 2 January** *Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church, memorial*

1100(\*) SST No Mass Today  
1200(\*) STC No Mass Today

**Friday 3 January** *Liturgy of the Day*

1200(\*) STC  
1200 OLR Geraldine Doyne & Thomas Cain  
1200(\*) TCN No Mass Today  
1200(\*) SHS

**Saturday 4 January** *The Epiphany of the Lord, solemnity [transferred]*

1700 OLW  
1800 OLR People of the Parish

**Sunday 5 January** *The Epiphany of the Lord, solemnity [transferred]*

0900 SMB Rt Rev John Hine RIP  
0900 SPS  
0900 STC Elzbieta & Stanislaw Bugay RIP  
0945 TCN Dominic Fitzpatrick RIP  
1100 OLR Beryl Restori RIP  
1100 SDE Pro Populo  
1100 SHS  
1200 SST Lily Kelly, Sally & Jimmy RIP  
1700 TCN  
1730 STC (No Mass this evening)