

CATHOLIC WIGHT

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

PREPARING A HIGHWAY FOR THE LORD



As Islanders, we know all too well about the challenge of roads: endless closures, diversionary routes, damaging pot-holes . . . But, as Pilgrims of Hope, we journey on, and at the same time, in the holy season of Advent, we are invited to prepare a highway for the Lord as he comes to visit his people.

The prophet Baruch, in this Sunday's first reading, speaks of the exiled and scattered people of God, returning to their homeland, and especially their capital Jerusalem — here personified, as she "sees her children gathered from west and east". Mountains and hills are made low, and valleys filled to make a level highway for them to walk safely in the glory of God.

This finds an echo in the Gospel of St Luke, with John the Baptist in the wilderness proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, and (quoting Isaiah), calling for a "way" to be prepared: crooked paths straightened, valleys filled, and mountains laid low.

The holy season of Advent is a time to reflect on how we may have meandered and wandered from the straight path, descended into valleys of negativity, doubt or despondency, or set up mountains and hills of pride, arrogance or selfishness. In this period of scrutiny and self-examination, illumined by the Holy Spirit, we recognise, as today's psalm voices, our struggle and cry to God, sowing in tears and reaping in song, and coming home full of joy. May we, as the Apostle prays, in the Epistle, for the church at Philippi, become pure and blameless in preparation for the Day of Christ Jesus – that our lives may become fitting highways for the coming King of kings and Lord of lords, ready for us to be born anew in him and he in us.

Fr Jonathan

PARISH OFFICES

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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

Second Sunday of Advent – Bar 5:1-9; Phil 1:4-6, 8-11; Lk 3:1-6.

Third Sunday of Advent – Zeph 3:14-18; Phil 4:4-7; Lk 3:10-18.

Fourth Sunday of Advent – Micah 5:1-4; Hb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-45.

DECEMBER IS THE MONTH OF THE DIVINE INFANCY *During this month of December, as we look forward to Christmas, we call the Divine Infancy of Christ. This month, let the paradox of Christ's birth and childhood strike us anew. Let us pray with Mary in the words of an ancient hymn by St Ephrem the Syrian: "I am your Mother but I will give honour to you. I have engendered you, but you are older than I am. I have carried you in my womb, but you sustain me on my feet. You have been born of me like a little one, but you are as strong as a giant. The height of the heavens are filled with your majesty, and yet my womb has not been too small for you."*

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.

VOCATIONS "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." John the Baptist's call to prepare for Christ can also be a call to prepare your heart for a vocation. Is Christ calling you to serve Him as a priest or religious brother or sister? Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

NEW SUNDAY MISSALS The new Sunday Missals have arrived and will be released once payment is made at £13 per copy. Payment can be made by the following methods: Bank Transfer (BACS) 309304 01862260 CDP CATHOLIC WIGHT reference New Missal; Cheque payable to CDP Catholic Wight - posted to New Missal, Presentation House, 55 High Street, Ryde PO33 2RE; Debit or credit card payment using a DCP in your church or via the Contactless Giving QR code using option Candles/Repository. Thank you.

THE NEW SUNDAY MISSAL is also available from Quarr Abbey Bookshop

SUPPORT FOR OUR HOSPICE Our priests and the Island Pastoral Council have agreed that there will be a second collection after all Masses next weekend, 14/15 December, Gaudete Sunday, in support of the Mountbatten hospice. There are two reasons for this: first, they urgently need financial support and secondly, as a response to last week's Parliamentary vote on assisted suicide. We and the whole Church oppose this legislation but we have to do more by offering an alternative and positive vision. The antidote to assisted suicide is better palliative care and on the Island we rely heavily on our hospice for this. Next weekend we will share a letter from the Mountbatten CEO giving more information, but please be ready to give generously!

SHANKLIN CENTERING PRAYER GROUP The next meeting will be held at 1745 on Wednesday 11 December in the hall at Sacred Heart Church, Shanklin. The group is open to everyone, and no previous experience of Centering Prayer is necessary. Each meeting will include 20 minutes of silent prayer. Time will also be given to sharing and encouraging each other in the practice of Centering Prayer. We finish at 1845

PARISH LADIES GROUP December 11 we will have a Beetle drive share mince pies and Christmas cards, everyone is welcome the more the merrier. Cost is £3 info: Eileen 523901

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE are organising a Christmas Quiz with some festive stalls on Saturday 14th December 2024 at the Sacred Heart Hall, Shanklin from 1400. £3 entry fee. Proceeds to raise money for Across, taking island people to Lourdes by Jumbulance.

BRO FRANCIS RIP (Mr Peter McFarlane) passed away peacefully in the Hospice on November 18, aged 94 years. His Funeral Mass will be held on Friday 20 December 1200 at St Saviour's church.

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 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.

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.

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/RE8wbTJBho5FXed99> or as an alternative, find paper feedback forms at the back of the church and once filled, give it to the priest. Thank you.

KEEP IN TOUCH To receive the Island newsletter by email please send a blank email to iowadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk putting ‘email newsletter’ in the subject line.

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>

SAFEGUARDING MINISTERS

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CONFESSION TIMES

Ventnor: Wednesday 1000-1030

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

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

1100(*) SHS IOW Catholic Women's League
 1700 OLW Jane Dell RIP
 1800 OLR People of the Parish

Sunday 8 December *Second Sunday of Advent Year C*

0900 SMB Diana Walles RIP
 0900 SPS All Parishioners Living and Dead
 0900 STC Elżbieta and Stanisław Bugaj RIP
 0945 TCN John Kris
 1100 OLR Fr Albert Lion **P**
 1100 SDE Pro Populo
 1100 SHS Irma, Sabatino, Arvino RIP
 1200 SST Jeremiah O'Flatherty RIP
 1700 TCN Anne & Peter Quinn RIP
 1800 STC (Ordinariate) NB later time

Monday 9 December *The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, solemnity [transferred]*

1000 STC
 1200 OLR Julies, David & Hudleston family
 1200(*) TCN Elizabeth Heneage **P**

Tuesday 10 December *of the 2nd Week of Advent*

1000 SMB Jane Von Sumeran & Charlotte Lazuras
 1200 STC No Mass today
 1200(*) TCN Nora Prentice
 1200 SPS Sr Marie Rose LSU 70 Years

Wednesday 11 December *of the 2nd Week of Advent*

0945(*) SDE Anne Orlik RIP
 1100(*) OLW Janice & Allan Webb RIP & family
 1200 OLR Matilda Wood **P**
 1800(*) STC

Thursday 12 December *of the 2nd Week of Advent*

1100(*) SST Funeral Mass Charlie Marlow RIP
 1200(*) STC (Latin) Ron Stanbrook RIP

Friday 13 December *of the 2nd Week of Advent*
St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr, memorial

1200(*) STC
 1200 OLR Jenny, Russel, Isabel Vickers
 1200(*) TCN
 1200 SHS Funeral Mass Michael McCarthy RIP

Saturday 14 December *Third Sunday of Advent*

1700 OLW Gwendoline Spencer
 1800 OLR People of the Parish

Sunday 15 December *Third Sunday of Advent*

0900 SMB Edmund Randolph **P**
 0900 SPS All Parishioners Living and Dead
 0900 STC Fred Badger RIP
 (& Commemoration of Island martyrs on 95th anniversary of beatification)
 0945 TCN Ken Prangnell RIP
 1100 OLR Private Intention
 1100 SDE Pro Populo
 1100 SHS May McCarthy RIP
 1200 SST Ken Berry RIP
 1700 TCN
 1730 STC (Ordinariate)