

# CATHOLIC WIGHT

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



## DIVINE VISITATION

On this fourth Sunday of Advent, a theme of divine visitation is contained in the scripture readings. In the first reading we hear the prophecy of Micah regarding the Messiah and his future coming visitation into the world. Micah reveals that the small town of Bethlehem is to be the place where he will be born. This is a recurring biblical theme whereby God often chooses what is considered humble and lowly to accomplish His divine purposes. The prophecy also foretells the Messiah will be

the great ruler of Israel and: **“he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord”** and **“he shall be great to the ends of the earth.”**

Psalm 80 is a lament. It depicts a beleaguered Israel crying out to God for deliverance and restoration. It relates to the situation of the Northern Kingdom at the time of the fall of Samaria to the Assyrians. The refrain: **“Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth and we shall be saved”** is a plea for God to bring Israel back into His presence which has been lost due to their unfaithfulness. **“Let your face shine forth”**: expresses the desire for God’s presence, pleasure, and favour (Numbers 6:24-26). **“Visit this Vine and protect it”** is a phrase that sums up the main appeal of the psalm; the metaphor of a vine is a common biblical symbol for God’s chosen people Israel (Isaiah 5:1-7).

The gospel recounts the story of the visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth. Mary is the new Ark of the Covenant who carries within her the promised Messiah, Jesus, the blessed fruit of her womb. He is the new manna, the new priest and the new Law, **“who visits us like the dawn from on high”** (Luke 1:78) By her visitation to Elizabeth, Mary brings her cousin the joyful blessings of God’s salvation. This causes the baby in her womb to leap for joy and for her to be filled with the Holy Spirit. As we approach the great feast of Christmas, let us remember the best presents we can ever receive in our life is the ‘presence’ of Jesus who comes to share His joy with us (John 17:13)

Fr Stephen Vooght

## PARISH OFFICES

**Cowes & East Cowes** The Presbytery, 22 Terminus Road, Cowes PO31 7TJ  
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**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**

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

**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.

**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** "Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." Like Mary, you are called to trust in God's plan for your life. If you feel that God is asking you to serve as a priest or religious brother or sister, believe in His promise and follow with courage. Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or call 01329 318 869

**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.

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

**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/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](mailto:iowadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) putting 'email newsletter' in the subject line.

**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.

**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

<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

**Saturday 21 December Fourth Sunday of Advent**

1700 OLW All Parishioners Living and Dead  
1800 OLR People of the Parish

**Sunday 22 December Fourth Sunday of Advent**

0900 SMB Fr Michael Cronin RIP  
0900 SPS Robert & Beryl McConkey RIP  
0900 STC Pro Populo  
0945 TCN Beryl Restori RIP  
1100 OLR Countess of Clare P  
1100 SDE  
1100 SHS Mary Teague RIP  
1200 SST Ray Villa F  
1700 TCN Patrick Quinn RIP  
1730 STC (Ordinariate)

**Monday 23 December Liturgy of the Day**

1000 STC Mary Cooper GE  
1200 OLR Mary Pickford RIP F  
1200(\*)TCN

**Tuesday 24 December Liturgy of the Day**

1000 SMB Fr Michael Cronin RIP  
1200(\*)TCN  
1200 SPS Mr & Mrs Flynn P

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD  
solemnity with Octave**

**Tuesday 24 December Mass of Christmas Night**

1600 TCN (Children's Mass)  
1730 SDE (with folk band)  
1800 SMB Norman & Filomena Echlin RIP F  
1900 OLW Priest's intentions  
2100 OLR People of the Parish  
2200 STC  
2200 TCN

**Wednesday 25 December Mass of Christmas Day**

0900 STC  
0900 SST  
0900 SPS Julia Bishop P  
1000 OLR Ron Stanbrook RIP  
1100 SHS All Parishioners Living and Dead  
1100 SDE  
1115 TCN

**Thursday 26 December St Stephen, the First Martyr, feast**

1100 SHS Fr Stephen and the Altar Servers  
1100(\*) SST Beryl Restori RIP  
1200(\*) STC No Mass Today

**Friday 27 December St John, Apostle, Evangelist, feast**

1200 SHS Mary and Bob Snow  
1200(\*) STC No Mass Today  
1200 OLR Randolph family P  
1200(\*)TCN

**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 Robert & Beryl McConkey RIP  
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