

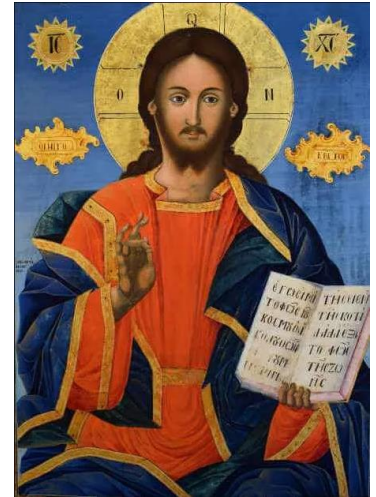
CATHOLIC WIGHT

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

SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD

On 30th September 2019, the feast of renowned biblical scholar St Jerome, Pope Francis released an Apostolic Letter ('Aperuit Illis') in which he declared that the Third Sunday of Ordinary time is to be celebrated as 'Sunday of the Word of God'. He encourages us to make it "a day devoted to the celebration, study and dissemination of the Word of God."

Quoting the famous words of St Jerome: "Ignorance of the scriptures is ignorance of Christ", the Pope is wanting us to be aware of how spiritually beneficial it is to constantly ponder and get to know Holy Scripture more deeply. Explaining why being immersed in God's Word is so important, he writes:



"A day devoted to the Bible should not be seen as a yearly event but rather a year-long event, for we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the risen Lord, who continues to speak his word and to break bread in the community of believers. For this reason, we need to develop a closer relationship with sacred Scripture; otherwise, our hearts will remain cold and our eyes shut, struck as we are by so many forms of blindness."

On this Sunday devoted to the Word of God, I pray the following saintly words of St Bonaventure will help inspire within you even greater love for the Bible and all the inexhaustible riches it contains: "The fruit of sacred Scripture is not any fruit whatsoever, but the very fullness of eternal happiness. Sacred Scripture is the book containing the words of life, so that we may not only believe in, but also possess eternal life, in which we will see and love, and all our desires will be fulfilled." (*Breviloquium*)

Fr Stephen Vooght

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01983 867610 southwight@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Totland/Newport The Catholic Presbytery, 96 Pyle Street, Newport, PO30 1EU
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READINGS FOR SUNDAYS in Year B

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – Jonah 3:1-5, 10; 1Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20.

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Dt 18:15-20; 1Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time - Job 7: 1-4, 6-7; 1Cor 9: 16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PREPARATION SESSIONS recommence this week with session 3. The session at Totland is on Saturday 20 January, 0930-1030 and the session at Newport on Sunday 21 January, 1530-1630.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION – JANUARY Pope Francis invites us to pray **For the gift of diversity in the Church.** We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different traditions and rituals in the Catholic Church.

VOCATIONS “Follow Me and I will make you fishers of men.” Is the Lord calling upon you to cast a wider net with a vocation as to the priesthood or consecrated life?

Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318869.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE CATHEDRAL This weekend 20/21 we take the annual second collection in support of your Cathedral in Portsmouth. This collection is the only support our Cathedral receives from the wider Diocesan family. Understandably, we all are aware that these are difficult times for us all, but please give generously to support your cathedral, gift aiding your donation wherever possible. <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/cathedral-annual-appeal> Message from Father James McAuley, Cathedral Dean, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia:

“I became Dean of our Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist in September 2022. Since then, the parish has paid for emergency repairs of serious leaks in the Blessed Sacrament and St Patrick chapels, and in the Discovery Centre, which cost £23,060 in total. The cost of these repairs was paid for by parishioners, who responded generously to an appeal for contributions. In January 2023, the 120-year-old West Window began to collapse because of deterioration in the lead work. Its restoration was completed in December 2023 at an estimated final cost of more than £100,000. So far, we have raised almost £38,000 towards the cost of restoration of the West Window. These projects have used up virtually all the Cathedral’s available funds. The heating and electrical systems are in urgent need of upgrading. One of the three boilers, which heat the Cathedral and Cathedral House, has been broken since spring 2022. The money I had allocated to replace it had to be diverted to pay for the repairs to the West Window. The two remaining boilers both failed in late November 2023. After a week of no central heating, the two boilers were repaired, but we have been advised that all three boilers have come to the end of their useful life, having been installed about 25 years ago. We have no money to replace the boilers, never mind upgrade the heating system to a more energy efficient, “greener” system. In the summer of 2023, the quinquennial architectural survey was completed and the report we received in September outlined work required over the next five years to the roof, windows, heating, and electrical systems at an estimated cost of more than £1 million. I fully appreciate the financial pressures being felt by you and by your parishioners but would appeal to you to promote and support the Second Collection for the Cathedral on 21st January. Never has this annual collection by parishes for the Mother Church of the Diocese been more critical or needed. Your support is vitally important to us.”

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18-25 JANUARY The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2024 has been prepared by an ecumenical team from Burkina Faso facilitated by the local Chemin Neuf Community (CCN). The chosen theme is 'You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbour as yourself' (Lk 10:27). Brothers and sisters from the Catholic Archdiocese of Ouagadougou, Protestant Churches, ecumenical bodies and the CCN in Burkina Faso collaborated generously in drafting the prayers and reflections. They experienced their work together as a real path of ecumenical conversion. In choosing this passage, the churches of Burkina Faso have invited us to join with them in a process of self-reflection as they consider what it means to love our neighbour in the midst of a security crisis. <https://ctbi.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity-2024/>

All are cordially invited to the Bembridge Churches Together Social on Saturday 27 Jan in the Methodist Church Hall starting at 6.00pm. The evening will include quizzes, entertainment, a raffle and food. The theme is SPUDS R US. Tickets on sale from Rob Hudson at the bargain price of £5.00.

A WEEK OF GUIDED PRAYER ONLINE, 22nd - 26th January 2024 - with daily guidance to help us reflect on the NEWNESS that God wants to bring us this New Year, and to help us live our daily life with a greater awareness of God's presence. Led by the Verbum Dei Community. For more information, please contact: verbumdei.iow@gmail.com

CAFOD An invitation to all Parishioners to come to a CAFOD meeting on Saturday 3rd February to hear about CAFOD's work this Lent. Coffee and cake from 10.30am. for 11am start at Holyrood Hall, Newport, adjoining St Thomas of Canterbury Church. It would be lovely to meet up and welcome Parishioners from across the IW. Look forward to meeting you then. Geraldine Heath IW CAFOD Volunteers coordinator (294822)

ST MARY'S COMMUNITY GROUP & SVP TEA PARTY The next tea party is on Monday 5 February 2024, 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

TACKLING LONG-STANDING AND CONTROVERSIAL QUESTIONS IN MEDICAL CARE. Register for our 2024 Symposium '**What does it mean to be Human? Medical Ethics and Social Care Today**' taking place at The Arc, Winchester on Saturday 16 March. The day programme will consider multiple issues in clinical medicine, from collective responsibility in healthcare to challenges in patient-physician relationships and feature key note addresses and panel discussion. Find out more: [Click Here.](#)

"ST PATRICK'S NIGHT" on Saturday 16th March 7pm, Holyrood Hall in Newport. We have 60 tickets to sell for the evening. The tickets are £12 each and this includes a 2 course meal and entertainment. We shall have a big raffle too and all proceeds after expenses will go to our "Youth Club". Please contact Barbara or Patrick if you'd like a ticket 653900 "First come first served"

SAFEGUARDING MINISTERS

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Peter Ricks 01983 292782 safeguarding.cow@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

MASS TIMES

P: Perpetual F: Foundation

Saturday 20 January *The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B*

1700 OLW John Dines
1800 OLR People of the Parish
1800 SST Philip Bovil

Sunday 21 January *The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B*

0900 SMB Christian Unity
0900 SPS Holy Souls
0900 STC Joanna Pryce & Tony Ricks RIP
1000 STN Conor Riordan RIP
1100 OLR Mary Low (F)
1100 SDE Pro Populo
1100 SHS All Parishioners Living and Dead
1700 STN Joanna Catharina Warden (F)
1730 STC (Ordinariate)

Monday 22 January *feria*

1200 OLR Fr Clement Marshall RIP
1000 STC
1200 STN

Tuesday 23 January *feria*

1000 SMB Eve Ellerton RIP
1200(*) SHS No Mass today
1200(*) STN
1200 STC

Wednesday 24 January *St Francis de Sales, Bishop Doctor of the Church, memorial*

0945(*) SDE
1100(*) OLW No Mass today
1200 OLR Guy Fison RIP (F)
1800(*) STC

Thursday 25 January *The Conversion of St Paul, feast*

1100 (*)SPS No Mass today
1100 (*)SST
1200(*) STC (Latin) Stella Muriel Spokes RIP

Friday 26 January *St Timothy, Bishop, Martyr & St Titus, Bishop, memorial*

1200(*) STC
1200(*) OLR Pamela Fraser Cox GE
1200(*) STN
1200(*) SHS No Mass today

Saturday 27 January *The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B*

1700 OLW Joseph O'Hara and Living and Dead O'Hara Family
1800 OLR People of the Parish
1800 SST Dermot McKavanagh RIP

Sunday 28 January *The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year B*

0900 SMB Charlotte Elliot (P)
0900 SPS All Parishioners Living and Dead
0900 STC Fr Michael Brazil RIP
1000 STN
1100 OLR Sheila Ferris GE
1100 SDE Pro Populo
1100 SHS Fr Marcin Drabik
1700 STN Marjorie Joyce Sheeran RIP
1730 STC (Ordinariate)

(*) Eucharistic Adoration starting one hour before Mass followed by Holy Rosary at SHS, SPS & OLW

CHURCHES ACROSS THE ISLAND

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
STN St Thomas of Canterbury, Newport PO30 1UH	