

CATHOLIC WIGHT

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



WHAT MUST WE DO? BE JOYFUL.

The prophet Zephaniah, in the first reading, says, “Shout for joy, rejoice, exult with all your heart.” He tells us that God is here with us, within us, and among us. God drives away our enemies, renews us, and brings us new life through His love. He will even dance with shouts of joy for us. Zephaniah gives us a message of hope and joy. Today, we celebrate Gaudete Sunday – Rejoicing Sunday. We hear that God rejoices over us because He renews us with His love. If we want to live joyful and happy lives, we must act with love, beginning by loving ourselves.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we all want to be happy, but often we are reluctant to love. We may want to love but resist humbling ourselves. We might desire humility and forgiveness or want to apologise, but our pride often holds us back.

Here’s a little story you might have heard before: One day, a professor stood in front of his class holding a glass of water. He asked the students, “How heavy is this glass of water?” They gave different answers. The professor held the glass for ten minutes and asked again, “How heavy is it now?” The students replied, “It’s the same.” Of course, the weight of the glass hadn’t changed, but the burden the professor felt was much greater. Holding it for so long had caused pain.

In a similar way, we often hold onto grudges for years, which weighs us down and hinders our happiness. Letting go of these burdens renews our lives. If Jesus is born in our hearts, we will find peace and joy.

We celebrate birthdays for the living, not the dead. At Christmas, we celebrate Jesus’ birthday because we believe He is alive. Just as we give gifts on birthdays, we give presents at Christmas to share and show love.

Today’s Gospel reminds us: *What must we do?* This year, let us try to add some people to our list who we find difficult to love. If we find this hard, St Paul encourages us in the second reading to ask and pray for what we need. Shall we reflect on this together: *What must we do?* **Fr Nishan**

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

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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

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No. 1199568

Clergy

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READINGS FOR SUNDAYS IN YEAR C

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.

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

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 "Rejoice in the Lord always." Are you filled with joy at the Lord's invitation to serve Him in priesthood or consecrated life? This deep sense of joy is a sign that God may be calling you to share His love with others in a special way. Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

THE NEW SUNDAY MISSAL is available from Quarr Abbey Bookshop

SUPPORT FOR OUR HOSPICE There will be a second collection after all Masses this weekend in support of the Mountbatten hospice. There are two reasons for this; firstly, that they urgently need financial support and secondly, as a response to the recent 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 end of life care and on the Island, we rely heavily on our hospice for this. Attached is a letter from the Mountbatten CEO giving more information, so please give generously!

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/RE8wbTJBho5FXed9g> 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.

SVP CHRISTMAS COFFEE AND CHAT on Thursday 19th December 1100-1230 at the Sacred Heart Hall, in Shanklin. All donations go to supporting the work of South Wight SVP. Meet up with friends and enjoy each other's company with raffle and cakes.

ALL ISLAND SVP The next joint meeting of South Wight SVP and Ryde SVP will be on Saturday 21 December at 1030 in the McAuley Centre, 75 High Street, Newport

PRAYER THROUGH MUSIC In the morning I will sing of Your love, O Lord. (Psalm 59:16) An invitation to all, young and old, to offer prayer through song. The Psalms praise God for His greatness, His faithfulness and the absolute truth of His Word. On Saturday, 21st December, 11am, at the Sacred Heart Church, we pray in watchful waiting for the coming of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. During the latter part of the Service there will be an opportunity to share and sing your favourite hymns around the theme of waiting; feel free to bring your suggestions as we lift God's praises to the highest heavens!

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES 2024

Christmas Eve

1600 St Thomas of Canterbury, Newport
(Children's Mass)
1730 St David's, East Cowes (with folk band)
1800 St Michael's, Bembridge
1900 Our Lady and St Wilfrid's, Ventnor
2100 St Mary's, Ryde
2200 St Thomas of Canterbury, Cowes
2200 St Thomas of Canterbury, Newport

Christmas Day

0900 St Patrick's, Sandown
0900 St Thomas of Canterbury, Cowes
0900 St Saviour's, Totland
1000 St Mary's, Ryde
1100 Sacred Heart, Shanklin
1100 St David's, East Cowes
1115 St Thomas of Canterbury, Newport

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
Vince Grant 07958 491023 safeguarding.totnew@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Mike Green 07761 122382 safeguarding.newp@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
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Liz Hopkins 07714 675756 safeguarding.easc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Peter Ricks 01983 292782 safeguarding.cow@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CONFESSION TIMES

Ventnor: Wednesday 1000-1030 Shanklin: Friday 1100-1130

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 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 Beryl Restori RIP
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 Edmund Randolph P
1100 SDE Pro Populo
1100 SHS May McCarthy RIP
1200 SST Ken Berry RIP
1700 TCN Roy Mabini RIP
1730 STC (Ordinariate)

Monday 16 December *of the 3rd Week of Advent*

1000 STC for Holy Cross Primary School
1200 OLR Sabina Elizabeth Cain RIP
1200(*)TCN Daniel Lyons RIP

Tuesday 17 December *Liturgy of the Day*

1000 SMB Patricia & John Cotter and family
1200 STC
1200(*)TCN Mary Ransom RIP
1200 SPS Sr Patricia LSU 70 Years

Wednesday 18 December *Liturgy of the Day*

0945(*)SDE Arlo Lambie & his family GE
1100(*)OLW Reverend Richard Davey RIP
1200 OLR Hilary Cotter GE
1800(*)STC

Thursday 19 December *Liturgy of the Day*

1100(*)SST The Ronan family
1200(*)STC No Mass Today

Friday 20 December *Liturgy of the Day*

1200(*)STC No Mass Today
1200 OLR Maureen Gale RIP
1200(*)TCN No Mass Today
1200 SST Funeral Mass for Brother Francis RIP
1200(*)SHS Leahy Family

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 Pro Populo
1100 SHS Mary Teague RIP
1200 SST Ray Villa F
1700 TCN Patrick Quinn RIP
1730 STC (Ordinariate)