

# CATHOLIC WIGHT

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

Today is the first Sunday of Advent, which is also the first Sunday of the new liturgical year. The Advent season includes the four Sundays that precede Christmas. Advent is a time of preparation for the coming of the Lord. In this season, we recall two central elements of our faith: the final coming of the Lord in glory and the incarnation of the Lord in the birth of Jesus. The key themes of the Advent season are watchful waiting, preparation, and justice.



In this new liturgical year, the Gospel of Luke will be the primary Gospel proclaimed (Lectionary Cycle C). Today's Gospel is taken from the last chapter before the passion narrative in which Jesus is teaching in the Temple. We hear Jesus speak to his disciples about the need for vigilance and prayer as they wait for the coming of the Son of Man in glory. This passage marks the conclusion of a lengthy dialogue in which Jesus predicts the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem, warns about the persecution and tribulations to follow, and identifies the signs that will signal the coming of the Son of Man in glory.

The community for whom Luke wrote his Gospel may have believed that they were already experiencing some of the events Jesus described. Most scholars believe that Luke's Gospel was written after the destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in 70 A.D. At the time, many Christians interpreted this event as an indication that Jesus' second coming was near.

Though Jesus predicts a time of destruction and fear, Jesus indicates that others will be frightened; Jesus' disciples are not to fear but are to stand tall. Yet Jesus does not promise deliverance from anxiety or tribulations. He encourages his disciples to pray for strength. The early Christian communities did not find consolation in the promise of a utopia, nor should we. Instead, we find in our Christian faith the means by which we witness to God's unfailing love for us in all circumstances.

Like the first Christians, we may encounter events and circumstances that could lead us to despair. Through prayer, however, we find strength and consolation in Jesus' words and in his continuing presence with us to endure all things and to witness to the action of God in our world.

**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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**READINGS FOR SUNDAYS in Year B**

**First Sunday Advent** - Jer 33:14-16; 1Thes 3:12-4:2; Lk 21:25-28, 34-36.

**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.

**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 may 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** "Be vigilant at all times and pray that you have the strength to escape the tribulations that are imminent and to stand before the Son of Man." God calls us to be watchful and alert to His voice. Is He calling you to the priesthood or consecrated life? Be open and vigilant in prayer and talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke, [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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 available from Quarr Abbey Bookshop

**OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE** Solemn Mass at Christ the King College. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the College for their warm hospitality and invaluable assistance, to the talented musicians from both the College and the parishes, and to everyone who attended and contributed through various ministries. A special thanks goes to all who brought and served the refreshments, making the gathering even more memorable. This was the first, and hopefully the beginning of many all-Island Masses, bringing parishioners together to share in the source and summit of our faith and the fellowship enjoyed afterwards.

**ASSISTED SUICIDE** Bishop Philip asks us to mobilise! Pray earnestly that our legislators will see sense. Correct those who use the double-speak of 'assisted dying'; call it what it is: 'assisted suicide.' Don't be seduced by the emotionalism of the media. Say a prayer for the terminally ill and for those who care for them. Speak out. Lobbying MPs works, send a letter to your MP using the provided template to ask him or her to vote against this sinister proposal. All you need do is to write your name and address on the top and put it in the post. Or you can download it from the diocesan website and send it by email.

**ST MARY'S COMMUNITY GROUP & SVP TEA PARTY** The next tea party is on Monday 2 December 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

**QUARR ABBEY** The Friends of Quarr Abbey are holding an Advent retreat on Saturday the 7 December

**ADVENT CAROLS SERVICE** at St Thomas-Newport Saturday 7 December 2024 at 1630 followed by shared refreshments in the Holyrood Hall. All welcome

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE** Next meeting will be on Saturday 7 December at 1200 at the Sacred Heart Hall, Atherley Road, Shanklin, PO37 7AT following the 1100 Mass. New members are most welcome. Feel free to bring lunch for after the meeting. Catholic women with a Catholic voice, Caring with love.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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.

### **SAFEGUARDING MINISTERS**

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

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**CONFESSION TIMES**

Ventnor: Wednesday 1000-1030 Shanklin: Friday 1715-1745 Saturday 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

<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 30 November *First Sunday of Advent Year C***

- 1700 OLW Holy Souls
- 1800 OLR People of the Parish

**Sunday 1 December *First Sunday of Advent Year C***

- 0900 SMB Sally Thomas RIP
- 0900 SPS All Parishioners Living and Dead
- 0900 STC Daniel Lyons RIP
- 0945 TCN
- 1100 OLR Georgina Barnes-Quinn RIP
- 1100 SDE Pro Populo
- 1100 SHS Mary Trench (Birthday)
- 1200 SST Joseph & Julia Villa **F**
- 1700 TCN Johnny & Cristita
- 1730 STC (Not Ordinariate)

**Monday 2 December *of the 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent***

- 1000 STC
- 1200 OLR Mary Quinn RIP
- 1200(\*)TCN Elizabeth Heneage & relations **P**

**Tuesday 3 December *of the 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent***  
*St Francis Xavier, Priest, memorial*

- 1000 SMB Quinn Family intentions
- 1200 STC Alan Patrick Boyle RIP
- 1200(\*)TCN Funeral Mass Roy Mabini RIP
- 1200 SPS Simon Steele - Birthday

**Wednesday 4 December *of the 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent***

- 0945(\*)SDE Lyn Ridler-Lee RIP
- 1100(\*)OLW Therese Duffin-Kidd RIP
- 1200 OLR No Mass Today
- 1800(\*)STC

**Thursday 5 December *of the 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent***

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

**Friday 6 December *of the 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent***

- 1200(\*)STC No Mass Today
- 1200 OLR Ted Williams RIP
- 1200(\*)TCN Elizabeth Brown **P**
- 1800 SHS Michael McCarthy RIP
- Followed by First Friday Devotions

**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
- 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