

CATHOLIC WIGHT

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

The Beatitudes



In this Sunday's gospel we have Luke's version of the 'Beatitudes' (derived from the Latin words *beati sunt*, "blessed are"). Luke includes just four beatitudes compared to Matthew's total of eight. However, what Luke does is to add four corresponding curses (or 'maledictions'). These four blessings, and their opposing curses, relate to material conditions in this life which will be reversed in the next. Thus, the poor will be enriched, whilst the rich become poor; the hungry will have their fill, whilst those with

plenty will go hungry; the bereaved will be comforted, whilst the comfortable will be bereaved; the denounced faithful Christian will be esteemed, whilst the esteemed false Christian will be denounced. Luke 16:25 gives us a clear example of this in the parable of the rich man and the poor man Lazarus, whereby their fortunes are reversed after they both die.

In these beatitudes, Jesus is not saying that poverty, or hunger, or sadness, or hatred are blessings. Instead, Jesus is saying that people are blessed when they are poor, hungry, weeping and hated, because these conditions of need make us rely on God. Whatever cross we may have to carry in life can therefore be the instrument that draws us closer to Christ. So, in this sense, any hardships and discomforts in this life, like not having enough money or food, or the experience of facing painful sorrows and disappointments, or being treated unfairly and rejected by others, such crosses as these can be understood to be blessings, as they keep us humble by reminding us that our ultimate happiness is dependent upon trusting in God's help.

The Catholic Catechism (#1723) teaches us that each 'beatitude' promised by Christ "confronts us with decisive moral choices. It invites us to purify our hearts of bad instincts and to seek the love of God above all else. It teaches us that true happiness is not found in riches or well-being, in human fame or in any human achievement – however beneficial it may be – such as science, technology and art, or indeed in any creature, but in God alone, the source of all good and of all love."

Fr Stephen Vooght

Response to the Psalm: ***Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.***

PARISH OFFICES

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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 C

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Jer 17:5-8; 1Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26.

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time – 1Sam 26:2, 7-9, 11-13, 22-23; 1Cor 15:45-49; Lk 6:27-38

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – Eccl 27:5-8; 1Cor 15:54-58; Lk 6:39-45.

VOCATIONS "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours." A vocation to religious life calls for a life of simplicity and dedication to God's kingdom. Could God be calling you to this blessed path? Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION – FEBRUARY Pope Francis invites us to pray **For vocations to the priesthood and religious life.** Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life

FEBRUARY IS THE MONTH OF THE PASSION OF OUR LORD *For Catholics, the month of February is especially dedicated to the Passion of Our Lord, probably because Lent usually begins in this month. Throughout the centuries, many devotions have developed to help us focus on the Passion of Christ. These help to lead us from sorrow to wonder; sorrow for our sins, wonder at the unbounded love of Christ for us.*

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.

CHANGES TO ISLE OF WIGHT PASTORAL AREA Thank you to those who responded to the invitation and submitted suggestions for the name of the new single Island parish. Following the Island Pastoral Council meeting on Tuesday 21 January seven options were presented to Bishop Philip. He has accepted one of those offered and the name of the new parish will be Holy Spirit, Isle of Wight

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.

SUNDAY ORGANIST St Mary's is looking for a volunteer to play the organ for masses at St Mary's on a Sunday and a few other times in the year. If you can help or offer assistance, please contact Fr Steven or St Mary's Office.

CENTERING PRAYER GROUP The next meeting of the Shanklin Centering Prayer group will be held at the new time of 1400 on Wednesday 19 February in the hall at the Sacred Heart Church. 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.

SVP Coffee and Chat on Thursday 20 February 1100-1230 at the Sacred Heart Hall. All donations go to supporting the work of South Wight SVP. Meet up with friends and enjoy each others' company with raffle and cakes.

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 and Scripture praise God for His greatness, His faithfulness and the absolute truth of His Word. On Saturday, 22 February 1100, at the Sacred Heart Church, we pray in awe and wonder on the theme of the Gloria. During the latter part of the Service there will be an opportunity to share and sing your favourite hymns around this theme. Please feel free to bring your suggestions as we lift God's praises to the highest heavens!

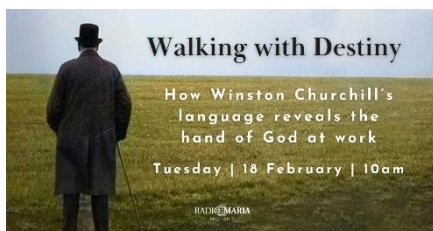
PARISH LADIES GROUP First meeting of the year will be on Wednesday 26 February 2025 in Holyrood Hall and will be a hotpot meal, we will eat about 1600. I would like numbers for catering purposes, please ring Eileen on 523901 or text/ring 0773830098

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE FUNDRAISING EVENT A Race Night, will take place on Friday 28 February at the Sacred Heart Church Hall from 1900. £3 admission to include tea/coffee and a pudding. Raising money for Across, taking island people to Lourdes by Jumbulance. All are welcome

ST MARY'S COMMUNITY GROUP & SVP TEA PARTY The next tea party is on Monday 3 March 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

LENT RETREAT DAY "Jesus loved them to the end" 15 March 1030 – 1630 at Verbum Dei Retreat Centre, Nunnery Lane, Carisbrooke, Newport PO30 1YR A light lunch is provided. The cost for the day is a suggested donation of £20. For more information contact Patricia Yandell on 07835948435 or email patriciam-c@hotmail.co.uk

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.



RADIO MARIA Don't miss "**Walking with Destiny**", an inspiring radio programme with **Edmund Matyjeszek**, exploring how Winston Churchill's language reveals the hand of God at work. Edmund reflects on Churchill's words, the victory won, and England's identity as the **Dowry of Mary**. This thought-provoking discussion will deepen our understanding of our nation's purpose and strengthen our faith. **Part 1** airs on **Tuesday, 18 February**, and **Part 2** on **Tuesday, 25th**, at **10am**. Listen live on the Radio Maria England App, online at radiomariaengland.uk, or on your smart speaker.

CAFOD Everyone is welcome to come to a CAFOD update meeting Saturday 8 March 2025 to hear about CAFOD's Lenten appeal and how your donations have been helping so many in need. Come for coffee and a chat from 1030 for 1100 at St Thomas of Canterbury church hall, Cowes

SAFEGUARDING MINISTERS

Dee Becker 01983 812127 safeguarding.ryd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

CONFESSION TIMES

Ventnor: Wednesday 100-1030 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 15 February *The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C*

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

Sunday 16 February *The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C*

0900 SMB Charlotte Elliot **P**
 0900 SPS Conversion of Sinners **P**
 0900 STC Philip James RIP
 0945 TCN
 1100 OLR Ron Stanbrook RIP
 1100 SDE Pro Populo
 1100 SHS Fie Scholtes RIP
 1200 SST Pat Ashley RIP
 1700 TCN Leo Pecile RIP
 1730 STC (Ordinariate Liturgy)

Monday 17 February *feria*

1000 STC No Mass Today
 1200 OLR No Mass Today
 1200(*)TCN

Tuesday 18 February *feria*

1000 SMB Fr Patrick Cannon RIP
 1200 STC No Mass Today
 1200(*)TCN James Windsor Heneage **P**
 1200 SPS Magrath Family **P**

Wednesday 19 February *feria*

0945(*)SDE No Mass Today
 1100(*)OLW Predegast Family **P**
 1200 OLR Edmund Randolph **P**
 1800(*)STC No Mass Today

Thursday 20 February *feria*

1100(*) SST
 1200(*) STC (Latin) Yvonne Rampton RIP

Friday 21 February *feria*

1200(*) STC
 1200 OLR No Mass Today
 1200(*)TCN
 1200(*)SHS Michael McCarthy RIP

Saturday 22 February *The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C*

1700 OLW Randolph Family **P**
 1800 OLR Ivy & Arthur Richardson RIP

Sunday 23 February *The Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C*

0900 SMB Joseph Terence Talbot RIP
 0900 SPS All Parishioners Living and Dead
 0900 STC Pro Populo
 0945 TCN
 1100 OLR People of the Parish
 1100 SDE Elizabeth Mary Stephens RIP
 (with Children's Liturgy)
 1100 SHS Eileen Fletcher RIP
 1200 SST
 1700 TCN Jon & Delia O'Connor RIP
 1730 STC (Ordinariate Liturgy)