

St Margaret Mary Parish



Middle Road,
Park Gate,
SO31 7GH
Tel: 01489 572797

Parish Priest - Rev. Peter Hart

Website: www.stmm.org.uk

Email: parkgate@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Team: Please see notice in the Porch

TIMES OF MASSES & INTENTIONS

Sunday 2nd December, 2018

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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Sunday	FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8.00am John Forer, RIP (<i>Hibberd</i>) 10.15am Hutley Family, (<i>Hutley</i>) 5pm-6pm Adoration & Confessions 6.30pm Felix Fernando, RIP
Monday	<i>St Francis Xavier</i> 9.30am Roy Harrington, RIP (<i>Ip</i>)
Tuesday	<i>Advent Feria</i> 10.00am Margaret Harrington, RIP (<i>Ip</i>) 12.15pm Funeral Service, Elsie Joel, RIP
Wednesday	<i>Advent Feria</i> 9.30am Daniel Watts, RIP (<i>Watts</i>)
Thursday	<i>Advent Feria</i> 9.30am Hazel Brown, RIP (<i>Relf</i>)
Friday	<i>St Ambose</i> 9.30am Rene Barfoot, (<i>Spacey</i>)
Saturday	<i>The Immaculate Conception</i> 9.30am NO MASS
Sunday	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT 8.00am People of the Parish 10.15am Joseph Johnsom, In Thanksgiving 5pm-6pm Adoration & Confessions 6.30pm Mgr. F. Bickford, RIP, (<i>Morrish</i>)

Confessions: After Saturday Morning Mass & before Evening Mass. By request or appointment at any time.

First Sunday of Advent

Entrance Antiphon:

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God. In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame. Nor let my enemies exult over me; and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

Responsorial Psalm:

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, Alleluia ! Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help. Alleluia !

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord will bestow his bounty, and our earth shall yield its increase.

WEEKLY BIBLE READINGS:

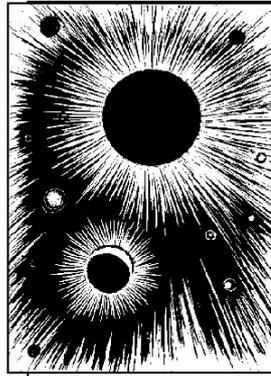
Monday, Isaiah 2:1-5; Tuesday, Isaiah 11:1-10;
Wednesday, Isaiah 25:6-10; Thursday, Isaiah 26:1-6
Friday, Isaiah 29:17-24; Saturday, Genesis 3:9-15,20

AS WE WAIT IN JOYFUL HOPE, FOR THE
COMING OF OUR SAVIOUR JESUS CHRIST

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

2nd December, 2018

As usual, the great Season of Advent begins, not by talking about Christmas, but about the Second Coming. We've had this theme already for the past two weeks, but there is a slight change of emphasis in the Scripture readings offered for this Sunday: here the tone is positive: it is the promise of what is to come that we con-



template. Even in the Gospel, though it talks of the dreadful signs that mark the end times, we hear of a promise - liberation. For this we should stand erect and hold our heads high. The central theme is that we welcome the coming of a person - Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah, and this is what links this Sunday to the coming feast of his birth: we are now preparing to celebrate how he once came: may these preparations also help us to prepare for him when he comes again.

"Your liberation is near at hand."

Marian Antiphon for Advent

Loving mother of the Redeemer,
gate of heaven, star of the sea,
assist your people who have fallen,
yet strive to rise again.

To the wonderment of nature
you bore your Creator,

Yet remained a virgin, after, as before.

You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting,
have pity on us poor sinners.

V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

R. And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of the Resurrection.

Through the same Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

A POPE'S REFLECTION

In the Season of Advent the liturgy highlights in a special way two figures who prepare for the coming of the Messiah: the Virgin Mary and John the Baptist. Today St Luke presents the latter to us and does so with characteristics that differ from those of the other Evangelists. "All four Gospels place the figure of John the Baptist at the beginning of Jesus' ministry and they reveal him as the one who prepared the way for Jesus. St Luke presents the connection between the two figures and their respective missions at an earlier stage.... Even in conception and birth, Jesus and John are linked together" This setting helps us to realize that John, as the son of Zechariah and Elizabeth, both from priestly families, is not only the last of the prophets but also represents the entire priesthood of the Old Covenant and thus prepares people for the spiritual worship of the New Covenant inaugurated by Jesus. In addition, Luke discredits all the mythical interpretations that are often made of the Gospels, by putting the Baptist's life in its historical context and by writing: "In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor... in the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas". The great event, the birth of Christ, which his contemporaries did not even notice, fits into this historical framework. For God the great figures of history serve as a frame for the lowly!



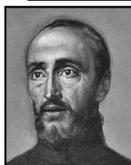
John the Baptist is described as “the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord, make his paths straight”. The voice proclaims the word, but in this case the Word of God comes first, since the word of God came to John, the son of Zechariah, in the wilderness. He therefore plays an important role but always in terms of Christ. St Augustine comments: “*John is the voice, but the Lord is the Word who was in the beginning. John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives for ever. Take away the word, the meaning, and what is the voice? Where there is no understanding, there is only a meaningless sound. The voice without the word strikes the ear but does not build up the heart*”.

Today it is up to us to listen to that voice so as to make room for Jesus, the Word who saves us, and to welcome him into our hearts. Let us prepare ourselves in this Season of Advent to see, with the eyes of faith in the Grotto of Bethlehem, God’s salvation. In the consumer society in which we are tempted to seek joy in things, the Baptist teaches us to live in an essential manner, so that Christmas may be lived not only as an external feast, but as the feast of the Son of God who came to bring men and women peace, life and true joy.

Pope Benedict XVI

Saint of the week

December 3rd, Saint Francis Xavier (d.1552)



Jesus asked, “What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?”.

The words were repeated to a young teacher of philosophy who had a highly promising career in academics, with success and a life of prestige and honour before him. Francis Xavier, 24 at the time,

and living and teaching in Paris, did not heed these words at once. They came from a good friend, Ignatius of Loyola, whose tireless persuasion finally won the young man to Christ. Francis then made the spiritual exercises under the direction of Ignatius, and in 1534, joined his little community, the infant Society of Jesus. Together at Montmartre they vowed poverty, chastity, obedience, and apostolic service according to the directions of the pope.

From Venice, where he was ordained a priest in 1537, Xavier went on to Lisbon and from there sailed to the East Indies, landing at Goa, on the west coast of India. For the next 10 years he laboured to bring the faith to such widely scattered peoples as the Hindus, the Malayans, and the Japanese. He spent much of that time in India, and served as provincial of the newly established Jesuit province of India.

Wherever he went, Xavier lived with the poorest people, sharing their food and rough accommodations.

He spent countless hours ministering to the sick and the poor, particularly to lepers. Very often he had no time to sleep or even to say his breviary but, as we know from his letters, he was filled always with joy.

Xavier went through the islands of Malaysia, then up to Japan. He learned enough Japanese to preach to simple folk, to instruct, and to baptize, and to establish missions for those who were to follow him. From Japan he had dreams of going to China, but this plan was never realized. Before reaching the mainland, he died. His remains are enshrined in the Church of Good Jesus in Goa. He and Saint Thérèse of Lisieux were declared co-patrons of the missions in 1925.

Reflection: All of us are called to “go and preach to all nations—see Matthew 28:19. Our preaching is not necessarily on distant shores but to our families, our children, our husband or wife, our co-workers. And we are called to preach not with words, but by our everyday lives. Only by sacrifice, the giving up of all selfish gain, could Francis Xavier be free to bear the Good News to the world. Sacrifice is leaving yourself behind at times for a greater good, the good of prayer, the good of helping someone in need, the good of just listening to another. The greatest gift we have is our time. Saint Francis Xavier gave his unstintingly to others.

Confessions & Adoration in Advent

During the weekends of Advent, there will be an hour of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament during which confessions will be heard.

Sunday Dec. 2nd, 5-6pm; **Sunday** Dec. 8th, 5-6pm
Saturday Dec. 15th, 5-6pm; **Sunday** Dec. 16th, 5-6pm
Saturday Dec. 22nd, 5-6pm; **Sunday** Dec. 23rd, 5-6pm

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

PLEASE PICK UP AN EVENT LEAFLET

9th & 16th December, Angels and Doves will be available in the foyer after every Mass from on which you can send your greetings to other parishioners. These will be displayed for all to see from 16th December.

SVP Christmas Hampers, Donations are requested towards Christmas hampers. These are distributed to needy families. The cost of each is £40 but any donation towards the cost is appreciated. Please donate using the envelopes at the back of church marking it ‘SVP hampers’ or give people to a member of the SVP. If you know a of a needy family please inform a member of the SVP. Thank you.

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS & READERS

Meetings are planned for all Eucharistic Ministers in the Parish and all Readers. It is important that all who are currently involved in these ministries attend.

The meeting for **Eucharistic Ministers** will be held on **Thursday 13th December**, 7-8pm in the Church.

The meeting for **Readers** will be held on **Thursday 10th January**, 7-8pm in the church.

Grand Christmas Draw

Please collect a few books of raffle tickets (£5 per book) and remember to bring back counterfoils and money to any Mass or Parish Office by **14th December**.

Wonderful prizes to be won - many thanks for your generosity. Full list of prizes in the Church Porch.

Poinsettias are traditionally used to decorate the Church at Christmas. If you would like to donate one, please leave it in the Church on **Dec 21st or 22nd**. If you would like it to be in memory of a loved one, then attach a written tag to it.

Thank you.

Thanks to all involved with the Craft Group for their Christmas Sale. A donation of £700 raised for our Building Projects.

Apostleship of the Sea – Stella Maris (Christmas Drive)

The many ships which deliver the many goods we use each day do not stop operating over the Christmastide. All the on board seafarers are also working, many far from home and friends and family. Each year the **AoS** seeks kind donations of woolly hats, Toblerone chocolate and other personal items to support these good people. Also donations of rosaries, bibles or small crucifixes are welcome. For more information on how you may be able to help, please contact your local parish **AoS** representative or Fr John Lavers, his email being: john.lavers@stellamarisemail.org. The website is: <https://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk>.



Please remember in your prayers

Helen Worstmann, Aileen Hopkins, Pam Hale, Jim Brown, Oliver Russell, Irene Hollywood, Pat Juke, Joseph Dolan, Siobhan Jefferies, Irene Otter, Marion Celan, Samantha Donohoe, Pat & Hugh Cooke, Josie Cutcliffe, Eileen Parsons, Maria & John Marvao, Michelle Gray, Kol Thelis, Thomas McCartney, Pat Elward, Mamie Allen, Netta Tracy, June Paris, John Kinneavy, Susan Bolton, Natalie Mahon, Jeanne Key, Kazy Madeley, Joseph Chisholm, Anne-Marie Mooney, Joyce Redding.
MARY, HEALTH OF THE SICK, PRAY FOR THEM