

St Francis of Assisi Church

Windsor & Ascot Pastoral area
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Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
Charity number 1199568

www.stfrancisascot.co.uk

NEWSLETTER
17TH MARCH
2024

Fr Phillip writes...

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, we veil the crucifixes and images in our churches with purple cloth. Why do we do this? It is principally to focus our minds more intently on the whole purpose of Lent itself.

Lent is a time of preparation for the most important events in human history: the Passion, that is, the suffering, crucifixion, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Purple is a sign of penitence and mourning, and so the veiling of the cross and statues, reflects our penance and our sorrow as we journey with each other in the Church towards Christ's saving Sacrifice on the Cross for us all.

Our Gospel today underlines this important shift in perspective: Jesus recognises that his "hour" has come. He is the grain of wheat that falls on the ground and dies in order to yield a rich harvest: through him being lifted up on the Cross and dying, our whole world is changed. He overthrows all that holds us – sin and death, pain and suffering – and opens for us the way to eternal life. As he is lifted up on his Cross, he draws all of us to himself so that we can reap his rich harvest in our own lives.

It is therefore very appropriate that, as we focus more and more in these last two weeks of Lent on Christ's Passion, that we also allow our own lives to reflect more clearly the Lenten spirit of repentance, to metaphorically "veil" ourselves in purple. Our young people, preparing for their First Holy Communion in May, are having First Reconciliations this week and this Wednesday, 20th March at 6.30pm, we have our Penitential Service here at St Francis of Assisi. Coming to confession/reconciliation is the best way to prepare our hearts as we move through these last two weeks of Lent towards the great events of Holy Week and Easter. Let us allow ourselves to be drawn in this way closer to Jesus so that we may enjoy the rich harvest of eternal life which he has won for us.

*Live stream: <https://www.youtube.com/@rp54996/streams>

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

- ◇ Sat, 16th Mar at 5.30 pm: Maria Pereira Anniv R.I.P
- ◇ Sun, 17th Mar at 8.30 am: Lalita Thaker R.I.P
- ◇ Sun, 17th Mar at 10.00 am: People of the Parish
- ◇ Tue, 19th Mar at 6.30 pm:
- ◇ Wed. 20th Mar at 10 am: James & Johanna Moriarty R.I.P
- ◇ Thu, 21st Mar at 6.30 pm:
- ◇ Fri, 22nd Mar at 10 am:
- ◇ Sat, 23rd Mar at 10 am: Fr Kevin Bidgood

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

- ✦ Sat, 16th Mar, at 5.30 pm: VIGIL: 5th Sunday of Lent
- ✦ Sun, 17th Mar, at 8.30 am and 10 am: 5th Sunday of Lent
- ✦ Mon, 18th Mar: **NO MASS AT ST FRANCIS**
- ✦ Tue, 19th Mar, at 6.30 pm: St Joseph, Solemnity
- ✦ Wed, 20th Mar, at 10 am: 5th Week of Lent
- ✦ Wed, 20th Mar, at 6.30 pm: Penitential Service
- ✦ Thu, 21st Mar at 6.30 pm: 5th Week of Lent
- ✦ Fri, 22nd Mar at 10 am: 5th Week of Lent
- ✦ Sat, 23rd Mar at 10am: 5th Week of Lent

Confessions after Saturday Mass

*2nd Collection next Friday [Good Friday]:
Holy Places

FRIDAY, 22ND MARCH - STATIONS OF
THE CROSS AFTER 10 AM MASS,
FOLLOWED BY LENT LUNCH.



WE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND:

MARIA WILLIAMS, BRIAN LYNCH, PAT SASSI, SIMON SAINT,
ERNESTO AND NAPOLEON MANNOIS, JANE THOMAS, DANIEL
OFFER, MARIE HALL, NINA MULLINS, GEORGIA MACKINLEY,
EILEEN HOARE, SR. JOSEPHINE COLLIER, PAULINE PAINTER,
GERALD GRIFFITHS & MAGORZATA CORDOBA.

IF YOU'D LIKE TO ADD A NAME TO THIS LIST, WITH CONSENT,
OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE A NAME REMOVED, KINDLY EMAIL OR
PHONE THE PARISH OFFICE. WHATSAPP: 07851 092431



Enjoy refreshments after Saturday
Vigil Mass and Sunday 10 am Mass!



Lord, make me an instrument of your peace:
where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
where there is sadness, joy.
St Francis of Assisi

EASTER IMPORTANT DATES 2024



Little Franciscan Toddler Group
During term time, every **Tuesday** from 11am to 12.45pm. All welcome!

Children's Liturgy of the Word
Every Sunday, during the 10am Mass (during term-time). We accept children from 3y-o to Year 3. Enrolment forms available in the Narthex.

For further queries, email **Sue Roche** on: sue.roche1@btinternet.com

Rosary said every Saturday at 9.30 am, before Mass, at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima.



ACCOMODATION PLEA

There's one of our new parishioners who is a new nurse based at Heatherwood Hospital. The Hospital gave all new international nurses accommodation for 2 months, where they're staying and going through a rigorous period of studies and training. Unfortunately, the hospital accommodation ends on 14th of March. This young lady is asking any of us here at St Francis of Assisi if anyone has a spare room available to rent to her so she can stay for 2 or 3 months until she finds a 2 bedroom flat for her family to join her. If you can, kindly contact the Parish Office and I will put you in contact with this young nurse. Many thanks.

[Samia Passos, Parish Secretary]



Have you lost your phone?

Contact the Parish Office or speak with Father Phillip.

SVP - Society of St. Vincent de Paul - helping needy families locally

A huge thank you for your donations, sales from end of December - February

amounted to approximately £590. Thank you

all very much. Your unwanted items always needed and gratefully received to help this worthy cause. Please leave them under the table in the narthex. Many thanks.



Penitential Service

* Wed, 20th March at 6.30 pm

Pascal Triduum

* Thu, 28th March at 7.30 pm: The Solemn Evening Mass of the Last Supper

* Fri, 29th March at 3 pm: The Celebration of the Passion of the Lord

* Sat, 30th March at 7 pm: Easter Vigil

* Sun, 31st March at 10 am: Easter Sunday

VOLUNTEER READERS FOR EASTER

Dear Parishioners, in preparation for our Easter services we are asking for readers to come forward for the various masses to support Father. You do not have to be a regular reader to participate and you do not have to have read before.

There's a sheet in the Church porch for you to put your name down. Please do take a look and sign up where you are able to.

If you should like to ask any questions about this liturgy or volunteer on a regular basis please contact Michelle Anderson on:

stfrancisreaders@gmail.com or speak to her at Mass.



ST FRANCIS PRE-SCHOOL ADVERTISES!

St Francis Pre-School is looking for 3 new volunteer Trustees as part of a restructure with the hope of reopening to children aged 2-5 in September 2024. If you are interested (or would like more information), please contact stfrancispschair@hotmail.com

Please, help us rebuild this much loved part of the community!

FACE TO FACE SAFEGUARDING TRAINING EVENT

Unfortunately, safeguarding training due to take place on Saturday 16th March in Ascot, has been postponed until further notice. Apologies for any inconvenience caused.

WATER AID APPEAL - KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA ANNUAL CHARITY FUNDRAISING



Thank you to all parishioners who took a jar last weekend, and as they ran out, I have put a few more in the porch for anyone who missed out and wish to take a jar. Return any time between now and October.

Pledge of £20 per jar from now until October. Thank you.

DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH JOB VACANCY: PARISH ADMINISTRATOR IN SOUTHAMPTON CITY CENTRE CATHOLIC PARISH OF ST JOSEPH AND ST EDMUND

Hours of work: Part time 20-25 hours a week

Salary: £12 per hour

Role: The role will support a busy parish office, helping with secretarial services for the clergy, supporting day-to-day administration of the parish, hall bookings, sacramental registrations & record keeping, alongside phone and email correspondence.

We're looking for: Someone sympathetic to the teachings of the Catholic Church, with office experience, confident in the use of Microsoft Office 365, self-motivated, diplomatic, friendly, approachable, good timekeeping and telephone manner.

Closing date for applications: Monday 18th March 2024 at 9am

Interviews to be held: Wednesday 20th March 2024

For more info & to apply, contact recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



Please pray for the rest and peace of the soul of Mr Michael Blair RIP who has died recently.

✠ Funeral Mass on Wednesday 27th March at 11.30am ✠

(There will NOT be 10 am Mass on 27th March)



**ST FRANCIS
FATIMA DEVOTIONS
KSC HOME PRAYER GROUP
Monday - Friday at 1.30pm
30 Minutes of praying the Rosary
As requested by Our Lady
ZOOM ID & PASSWORD BELOW
MON 18th March - 22nd March 2024
ZOOM ID : 733 1523 7412
PASSWORD : rosary**



Sponsored by the KNIGHTS of ST COLUMBA - Province 41 WESTMINSTER

**London North - Hanwell - Edmonton - Palmers Green - Sudbury - Harrow - St Albans - Northfields - Uxbridge - Willesden Green - Mill Hill
High Wycombe - Wood Green - Chiswick - Cockfosters - Hemel Hempstead - Letchworth - Enfield - Stevenage - Hoxton Square
Yeading - Whitton Wembley - Thames Valley**

