



St Francis of Assisi Church

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

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Fr Phillip writes...

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Today, the 4th Sunday of Lent, is also known as *Laetare Sunday* – from the Entrance Antiphon, “*Laetare, Ierusalem*”, “Rejoice, Jerusalem”. Today the penitential season of Lent is brightened a little, the Lenten vestments are lightened to Rose, with the Readings meditating on God’s love for his people, even through trials and tribulations, looking towards the coming joys of Easter and the Resurrection.

Our First Reading presents us with God's mercy and his promise of rebuilding the Temple following its earlier destruction and the people's waywardness.

St Paul in our Second Reading reflects on how we have been saved from our sins through God’s grace and merciful love. This is the wonderful gift we are offered by God of new life through the saving Sacrifice of Jesus on the Cross for us.

In our Gospel Reading, Jesus explains how he would soon be lifted up: “so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life.”

This is our faith: we see our Lord Jesus Christ lifted up on the Cross to save us, lifted up in that same Sacrifice at every Mass, his saving grace present here, even among us. Let us Rejoice – *Gaudete* - as we continue our journey through Lent and through life towards the joys of Easter and, we pray, to the joys of eternal life.

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

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

KINDLY NOTE THE WEEKLY MASSES HAD THEIR TIMES CHANGED!

- ✦ Sat, 9th Mar, at 5.30 pm: VIGIL: 4th Sunday of Lent
- ✦ Sun, 10th Mar, at 8.30 am and 10 am: 4th Sunday of Lent
- ✦ Mon, 11th Mar: **NO MASS AT ST FRANCIS**
- ✦ Tue, 12th Mar, at 6.30 pm: 4th Week of Lent
- ✦ Wed, 13th Mar, at 10 am: 4th Week of Lent
- ✦ Thu, 14th Mar at 6.30 pm: 4th Week of Lent
- ✦ Fri, 15th Mar at 10 am: 4th Week of Lent
- ✦ Sat, 16th Mar at 10am: 4th Week of Lent

Confessions after Saturday Mass

*2nd Collection this weekend:
Clergy Assistance Fund

FRIDAY, 15TH 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



MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

- ◇ Sat, 9th Mar at 5.30 pm: Alzerira Alves do Nascimento, in Thanksgiving for her 96th Birthday
- ◇ Sun, 10th Mar at 8.30 am: People of the Parish
- ◇ Sun, 10th Mar at 10.00 am: Margaret Whitters Anniv R.I.P
- ◇ Tue, 12th Mar at 6.30 pm:
- ◇ Wed. 13th Mar at 10 am:
- ◇ Thu, 14th Mar at 6.30 pm: Ernest Deighton R.I.P
- ◇ Fri, 15th Mar at 10 am: Simon John Trapani R.I.P
- ◇ Sat, 16th Mar at 10 am: James & Johanna Moriarty R.I.P



“Whatever a man has in superabundance is owed, of natural right, to the poor for their sustenance.”

St Thomas Aquinas



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]

Soup for Lent



This Fri, 15th March, there will be **Stations of the Cross** after the 10am Mass, followed by an opportunity to share a simple Lenten lunch and raise donation for **CAFOD**.

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.



SATURDAY 23RD MARCH 2024 NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING FOR LIFE

On Saturday 23rd March, the Vigil of Palm Sunday, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of Mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to help save lives with your prayers, fasting and support. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

FACE TO FACE SAFEGUARDING TRAINING EVENT

This is an opportunity to receive updated training in relation to safeguarding matters, with content being tailored to your roles in ministry. The training is open to all those in recruitment for, or currently working in roles with children and/or adults at risk. In accordance with the National Safeguarding Standards, safeguarding training must be completed every 2 years. If this church is not within your parish, but you are able to make your own way, anyone working or volunteering in a relevant role is most welcome.

Date of training: Sat, 16th Mar

Place: Parish of St Francis at St Clare's Room

Schedule as follows: 13.15 to 15.00 Child protection

15.00 to 15.15 Short break

15.15 to 17.00 Working with Adults at Risk

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



St Francis Pre-school

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

SYMPOSIUM: WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HUMAN?

It takes place at **The Arc** (formerly The Discovery Centre) in **Winchester** (opposite St. Peter's Catholic Church) on **Saturday 16th March 2024 from 10.00am until 4.15pm**. Start of life and end of life questions are always in the news these days, together with issues to do with gender and mental health. All these raise the deeper question about what it means to be a human person.

The aim is to bring the Catholic Tradition and its values into a constructive and fruitful dialogue with people of other viewpoints. **Tickets cost £20**, including sandwich lunch and refreshments, and are available on-line [via Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com).



WATER AID APPEAL - KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA ANNUAL CHARITY FUNDRAISING



The Knights of St Columba Lent/Easter project launch this year will be WaterAid. With your help we can provide three villages in Africa with running water. A human right so essential for drinking, cooking, washing and hygiene. £20 per jar between now and October can raise the money to bring fresh water to three villages and so many people who either risk using contaminated water or must walk miles to fetch a clean bucket of water. We have 50 Jars to give away... hope you'll take one. Thank you.

MOTHER'S DAY BLESSING

"Loving God, as a mother gives life and nourishment to her children, so you watch over your Church. Bless these women, that they may be strengthened as Christian mothers. Let the example of their faith and love shine forth. Grant that we, their sons and daughters, may honour them always with a spirit of profound respect. Grant this through Christ our Lord."



Dear mums, help yourselves to a daffodil this Sunday at Mass!
Happy Mother's Day!



IN LENT ... (AND ALWAYS)... TRY THE BISHOP'S SIX HOLY HABITS!

1st - Keep Sunday special by attending Mass

2nd - 5 minutes of prayer using the Scriptures

3rd - Keep Friday as a day of penance, serve the poor and needy

4th - once a fortnight, pay a private visit to short for a short period of prayer

5th - Go to confession once a month

6th - Join a small group for formation, prayer, fellowship



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 11th March - Fri 15th March 2024

ZOOM ID : 794 0584 5315

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 - Whiston Wembley - Thames Valley**

