

2024

NEWSLETTER
21ST JAN

St Francis of Assisi Church

Windsor & Ascot Pastoral area

Coronation Road, Ascot, SL5 9HG

Parish Priest: Fr Kevin Bidgood

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01344 620 591 [Tue to Thu: 9.30am to 1.30pm & Fri: 9.30am to 12.30pm]

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Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
Charity number 1199568

www.stfrancisascot.co.uk

Fr Kevin writes...

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

THIS WEEK WE ARE CONTINUING TO REFLECT ON CHRIST'S CALL FOR US TO FOLLOW HIM. IT IS OFTEN A MISTAKEN IDEA THAT JESUS HAD ONLY 12 DISCIPLES - IT IS HOWEVER CLEAR FROM THE GOSPELS THAT AT ONE POINT 72 'OTHERS' WERE SENT OUT ON MISSION AND THE SCRIPTURES ALSO TELL US THAT THERE WERE MANY OTHER FOLLOWERS - AS WE LEARN FROM THE NAMES OF THE MANY WOMEN WHO ALSO FOLLOWED AND SUPPORTED THE LORD. IN OUR OWN DAILY LIVES, WE MAY NOT BE CONSCIOUS THAT WE ARE FOLLOWING THE LORD - BUT WE ARE! FOR EXAMPLE, WHEN WE NURTURE OUR CHILDREN IN THE FAITH AND ENCOURAGE THEM TO COME TO MASS - THAT IS FOLLOWING THE LORD! WHEN WE CARRY OUT SOME ACT OF CARE AND KINDNESS TO ANOTHER - THAT TOO IS FOLLOWING THE LORD! AND SO, WE COULD GO ON - IN A MYRIAD OF DIFFERENT WAYS WE FOLLOW CHRIST. LET US PRAY THIS WEEK THAT WE MAY ALWAYS FIND NEW WAYS OF SERVING HIM IN OUR PERSONAL LIVES, IN OUR FAMILY LIFE AND IN THE LIFE OF OUR PARISH.

* OUR OPENING PRAYER ASKS GOD OUR FATHER TO: "... DIRECT OUR ACTIONS ACCORDING TO YOUR GOOD PLEASURE, THAT IN THE NAME OF YOUR BELOVED SON WE MAY ABOUND IN GOOD WORKS ... "

* THE OLD TESTAMENT READING IS FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET JONAH. THE PROPHET IS SENT ON WHAT HE CONSIDERS AN ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE MISSION - TO CALL THE PEOPLE OF THE HUGE CITY OF NINEVEH TO REPENTANCE - BUT IT WORKS! "... THE PEOPLE OF NINEVEH BELIEVED IN GOD ... FROM THE GREATEST TO THE LEAST ... "

* OUR SECOND READING IS FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS. IT WAS A COMMONLY HELD BELIEF AMONGST THE FIRST CHRISTIANS THAT CHRIST WOULD RETURN VERY SOON. THE APOSTLE TELLS HIS READERS TO BE READY FOR THIS AND REMINDS THEM THAT: "... THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT IS PASSING AWAY ... "

* IN OUR GOSPEL READING FROM ST MARK, WE HEAR HIS ACCOUNT OF THE CALLING OF THE FIRST DISCIPLES: "... FOLLOW ME AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN ... "

CANTATE DOMINO CANTICUM NOVUM ...
O SING A NEW SONG TO THE LORD ...

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

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

- ✠ SAT, 20TH JAN, AT 5.30 PM: VIGIL: 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
- ✠ SUN, 21ST JAN, AT 8.30 AM AND 10 AM: 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
- ✠ MON, 22ND JAN: **NO MASS AT ST FRANCIS**
- ✠ TUE, 23RD JAN AT 10 AM: 3RD WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME
- ✠ WED, 24TH JAN AT 7.30 PM: ST FRANCIS DE SALES, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH, MEMORIAL
- ✠ THU, 25TH JAN AT 10 AM: THE CONVERSION OF ST PAUL, FEAST
- ✠ FRI, 26TH JAN AT 7.30 PM: ST TIMOTHY, BISHOP, MARTYR & ST TITUS, BISHOP, MEMORIAL
- ✠ SAT, 27TH JAN AT 10AM: OUR LADY ON SATURDAY

*CONFESSIONS AFTER MASS



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, 20TH JAN AT 5.30 PM: PRIVATE INTENTION
- ✦ SUN, 21ST JAN AT 8.30 AM: PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
- ✦ SUN, 21ST JAN AT 10.00 AM: ANGELA MARINO'S INTENTIONS
- ✦ TUE, 23RD JAN AT 10.00 AM: THE ORTHODOX CHURCHES
- ✦ WED, 24TH JAN AT 7.30 PM: OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE
- ✦ THU, 25TH JAN AT 10 AM: FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
- ✦ FRI, 26TH JAN AT 7.30 PM: THERESA NORTON R.I.P
- ✦ SAT, 27TH JAN AT 10 AM: OUR SCHOOL TEACHING STAFF

"When I give food to
the poor, they call me
a saint. When I ask
why the poor have no
food, they call me a
communist."

- Dom Helder Camara
Brazilian Archbishop



LITTLE FRANCISCAN TODDLER GROUP

DURING TERM TIME, EVERY **TUESDAY** FROM **11AM TO 12.45PM**. ALL WELCOME!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

WE ACCEPT CHILDREN FROM 3Y-0 TO YEAR 3. ENROLMENT FORMS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX.

FOR FURTHER QUERIES, EMAIL **SUE ROCHE**
ON: SUE.ROCHE1@BTINTERNET.COM

PRAYER GROUP: WALKING WITH GOD



EVERY **WED AT 6.15PM** AT **ST FRANCIS CHURCH**, FOLLOWED BY **MASS AND ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**.

[NEXT MEETING: 14TH FEB 2024]

ROSARY SAID EVERY SATURDAY AT 9.30 AM, BEFORE MASS, AT THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF FATIMA.



LORD, MAKE ME AN INSTRUMENT OF YOUR PEACE. WHERE THERE IS HATRED, LET ME SOW LOVE; WHERE THERE'S INJURY, PARDON; WHERE THERE'S DOUBT, FAITH; WHERE THERE'S DESPAIR, HOPE; WHERE THERE'S DARKNESS, LIGHT; WHERE THERE'S SADNESS, JOY.



VOLUNTEERS

WE ARE IN NEED FOR VOLUNTEERS IN VARIOUS AREAS OF OUR PARISH WORK. IF YOU CAN SPARE SOME TIME, KINDLY EMAIL THE PARISH OFFICE INFORMING YOU'D LIKE TO VOLUNTEER FOR SOMETHING AND THE PARISH SECRETARY WILL GUIDE YOU ON HOW TO PROCEED.
MANY THANKS! GOD BLESS!

ST FRANCIS PRIMARY SCHOOL LATEST NEWS



WORK BEGINS THIS MONDAY ON THE SECOND PHASE OF OUR SCHOOL'S TEMPORARY BUILDINGS PROJECT.

THIS WILL INCLUDE THE ERECTION OF PORTA CABINS WHICH WILL BE USED BY THE CHILDREN AS AN 'ASSEMBLY AREA' AND WILL INCLUDE A DINING AREA AND KITCHENS.

UPDATES FROM THE WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP, WALKING WITH GOD

THE NEXT PRAYER GROUP MEETING WILL BE ON **ASH WEDNESDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY**. MEETING AT THE BEGINNING OF LENT GIVES US ALL TIME TO SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT THE GROUP AND INVITE OTHERS. DO SPREAD THE WORD IF YOU FEEL CALLED TOO.



CAFOD MEETINGS

YOU ARE WARMLY INVITED TO COME TO A CAFOD MEETING TO FIND ABOUT THE DIFFERENCE THAT YOUR DONATIONS MAKE. ON **SATURDAY 27TH JANUARY** THE MEETING IS AT **CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH HALL 60 STURGES ROAD, WOKINGHAM RG40 2HE** FROM **10:30AM TO 1:30PM** OR ON **SATURDAY 3RD FEBRUARY** AT **ST PHILIP HOWARD CHURCH HALL, BISHOPSFIELD ROAD FAREHAM PO14 1ND**. A SIMPLE LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED AT BOTH MEETINGS SO PLEASE BOOK YOUR PLACE SO THAT WE HAVE AN IDEA OF NUMBERS BY EMAILING JO ON JLEWRY@CAFOD.ORG.UK OR PHONE **07710 094447**

NEXT UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS MEETINGS

THURSDAY, 25TH JANUARY AT 7.30 PM.

THURSDAY, 8TH FEBRUARY AT 7.30 PM.



CARITAS PROJECT - OFFERING A WARM SPACE WITH A HOT MEAL AT THE PARISH

WE ARE ENTERING THE COLDEST AND MOST DIFFICULT TIME OF YEAR FOR PEOPLE WHO ARE STRUGGLING WITH FINANCIAL INSECURITY. THIS YEAR MANY MORE PEOPLE ARE HAVING TO MAKE DIFFICULT DECISIONS ABOUT WHETHER TO PAY BILLS, HEAT THEIR HOMES OR EAT. OUR PARISHES CAN SUPPORT BY PROVIDING WARM SPACES AND HOT FOOD AND IT IS VERY SIMPLE TO DO.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HOW TO ORGANISE OR HAVE EXPERIENCE TO SHARE ON RUNNING A WARM SPACE / COMMUNITY MEAL PROJECT IN YOUR PARISH DO JOIN CARITAS PORTSMOUTH FOR OUR FIRST NETWORKING EVENT ON **TUESDAY 23RD JANUARY FROM 12:30-1PM**. AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN FROM OTHERS EXPERIENCE, SHARE BEST PRACTICE AND SEE HOW CARITAS PORTSMOUTH CAN SUPPORT YOU GET YOUR PROJECT OFF THE GROUND. YOU CAN REGISTER [HERE](#) AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU. **TO OPEN THE LINK PRESS "CTRL" + LEFT CLICK ON THE MOUSE.**

IF ANYONE IN THE PARISH WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO GET THIS PROJECT GOING, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE VIA EMAIL. MANY THANKS!

SATURDAY TEA/COFFEE TEAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

COULD YOU JOIN OUR SATURDAY TEAM SERVING TEA/COFFEE AND SNACKS AFTER THE 5.30 PM MASS? WE'RE IN NEED OF TWO MORE VOLUNTEERS TO REPLACE ONE PAIR THAT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO WORK FOR A FEW MONTHS. WE HAVE A SIMPLE ROTA THAT IS ORGANISED IN A WAY THAT EACH PAIR SERVES COFFEE/TEA ONCE A MONTH, SO IT'S NOT A BURDEN TO ANYONE.



IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, KINDLY CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE VIA EMAIL: stfrancisascot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk AND COME FOR A SMALL TRAINING ON **3RD FEB AT 5 PM**. MANY THANKS!

BRACKNELL FOOD BANK - A CALL FOR ACTION!

INSTEAD OF JUST ASKING YOU TO BRING RANDOM ITEMS TO THE CRATE IN THE CHURCH PORCH, WE'D LIKE TO MAKE A CALL FOR ACTION - COULD YOU MAKE A TOILETRY KIT TO PLACE IN THE CRATE? A KIT IS ON DISPLAY IN THE PORCH AS AN EXAMPLE DURING THE WEEKEND MASSES, AND FOR LESS THEN A COFFEE AND A SANDWICH AT COSTA COFFEE YOU CAN MAKE A KIT FOR SOMEONE TO USE FOR A WHOLE MONTH!



THE KIT HAS 1 SHAMPOO, 1 CONDITIONER, 1 DEODORANT, 1 PACK W/ 2 TOOTH-BRUSHES, 1 TOOTHPASTE, 1 PACK OF SANITARY TOWELS, 1 PACK W/ 2 SOAPS. I SPENT £9.90 FOR ALL THE GOODS! SO, LET'S DO THIS FOR THIS WEEK? THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS! FEEL FREE TO INCLUDE OTHER ITEMS!

SAMIA [PARISH SECRETARY]

NEW OFFICE HOURS

TUE TO THU: 9.30AM TO 1.30PM * FRI: 9.30AM TO 12.30PM * WHATSAPP: 07851 092 431



**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 22nd January - FRI 26th January 2024**

ZOOM ID : 767 0955 7254

PASSWORD : rosary



**Sponsored by the KNIGHTS of ST COLUMBA - THAMES VALLEY
Ascot - Bracknell - Windsor - Maidenhead - Staines - Wokingham
Email : council 984@hotmail.com Website www.council984.co.uk**

