



## St Francis of Assisi Church

Windsor & Ascot Pastoral area

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Parish Priest: Fr Kevin Bidgood

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Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

Charity number 1199568

[www.stfrancisascot.co.uk](http://www.stfrancisascot.co.uk)

NEWSLETTER  
24TH DEC 2023

Fr Kevin writes...

### FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

On this Saturday evening and Sunday morning, we are still in Advent - just! Our Christmas celebrations begin later this evening! ... but were it not for the woman we think about in the Masses of Advent 4 ... there would be no Christmas to celebrate! Our thoughts turn to the woman named 'Miriam' in Hebrew; 'Maria' in Latin; and to us English speakers - 'Mary'. Our Gospel reading is the account of the Annunciation - that moment when Mary said 'Yes' to God and so made our salvation possible! The late Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI says of the Annunciation: "God knocked at Mary's heart and, having received her 'yes', began to take flesh, in her and from her". The great English poet William Wordsworth (a Protestant) ... began to understand the truth of the Catholic Faith when, at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, he penned these words in his sonnet 'The Virgin':

*'Woman! Above all women glorified,  
Our tainted nature's solitary boast:  
Purer than foam on central ocean tost;  
Brighter than eastern skies at daybreak strewn ...'*

- \* Our Opening Prayer are words from the 'Angelus' which is said three times daily in every religious community throughout the Catholic world: "...Pour forth ... 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 his Resurrection ..."
- \* The first reading is from the second book of Samuel. The prophet Nathan tells King David of Israel that the Lord will preserve his offspring for ever. For Christian, this is a reference to the coming of Christ: "...I will be a father to him and he a son to me... your throne will be established for ever ...".
- \* Our second reading is from the letter of St Paul to the Romans. The Apostle speaks of the wonder of the coming of Christ into the world as a: "...mystery kept secret for endless ages, but now so clear that it must be broadcast to pagans everywhere ..."
- \* The Gospel reading this week proclaims Mary's 'Yes' to God: "... 'I am the handmaid of the Lord,' said Mary, 'let what you have said be done to me' ..."

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



#### 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.

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



#### LITTLE FRANCISCAN TODDLER GROUP

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL, HAVE FUN, REST, AND ENJOY YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS! SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!

#### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

WE WISH ALL OUR FAMILIES A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS. SEE YOU SOON IN JAN-24! WE ACCEPT CHILDREN FROM 3Y-0 TO YEAR 3. ENROLLMENT FORMS AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX. FOR FURTHER QUERIES, EMAIL SUE ROCHE ON: [SUE.ROCHE1@BTINTERNET.COM](mailto:SUE.ROCHE1@BTINTERNET.COM)



TONY AND FAMILY WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ALL FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES OF LATE EILEEN BERKELEY TO A REMEMBRANCE MASS ON SATURDAY, 6TH JANUARY AT 10 AM.



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

TO LEAVE A VOICE OR TEXT MESSAGE FOR THE PARISH OFFICE, KINDLY WHATSAPP US ON 07851 092431. THANKS!



**FR. KEVIN AND THE COMMUNITY OF ST FRANCIS, ASCOT ... WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS  
AND EVERY BLESSING FOR 2024**

**MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK**

SAT, 23RD DEC AT 5.30 PM: ALLAN MACKRORY R.I.P  
SUN, 24TH DEC AT 8.30 AM: LAURENCE BURKE R.I.P  
SUN, 24TH DEC AT 10 AM: OUSEPH VIJU R.I.P



**CHRISTMAS AT  
ST FRANCIS, ASCOT  
SATURDAY 23RD DECEMBER:**

5.30PM: VIGIL MASS FOR THE 4TH  
SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER:**

8.30AM: MASS FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

10AM: MASS FOR THE 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

4.00PM: CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS

10.00PM: FIRST MASS OF CHRISTMAS

**MONDAY 25TH DECEMBER:**

8.30AM: MASS OF THE DAWN

10AM: PARISH CHRISTMAS MASS

12NOON: SAID MASS

TUE, 26TH DEC AT 10 AM: KATHLEEN KILCOYNE R.I.P  
WED, 27TH DEC AT 10 AM: CELIA MURPHY (WELL BEING)  
THU, 28TH DEC AT 10 AM: PAUL DAVIS ANNIVERSARY R.I.P  
FRI, 29TH DEC AT 10.30 AM: MARY WONG R.I.P  
SAT, 30TH DEC AT 10 AM: PEOPLE OF THE PARISH  
SAT, 30TH DEC AT 5.30 PM: SUE POWELL R.I.P

**CHRISTMAS WEEK MASSES**

TUESDAY 26TH DECEMBER: 10AM (ST STEPHEN)

WEDNESDAY 27TH DECEMBER:  
10AM (ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST)

THURSDAY 28TH DECEMBER:  
10AM (HOLY INNOCENTS)

FRIDAY 29TH DECEMBER 10.30AM:  
FUNERAL MASS FOR MARY WONG R.I.P

SATURDAY 30TH DECEMBER 10AM: (MASS  
FOR THE 6TH DAY OF CHRISTMAS)

SATURDAY 30TH DECEMBER 5.30PM:  
VIGIL MASS OF THE HOLY FAMILY

SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER 8.30AM & 10AM: THE HOLY FAMILY



**CHRISTMAS COLLECTION FOR YOUR PARISH PRIEST ENVELOPES**

THE ENVELOPES ARE AVAILABLE THIS WEEKEND AT THE PORCH OF THE CHURCH. GOD BLESS!

**PUN SIU CHEUNG R.I.P**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REST AND PEACE OF THE SOUL OF MRS PUN SIU CHEUNG, MARY WONG R.I.P. MARY WAS BAPTISED RECENTLY BY FR KEVIN, ALONGSIDE HER HUSBAND AND SON, INTO THE CATHOLIC FAITH. SHE SADLY PASSED AWAY LAST WEEK AND IT WOULD BE REALLY KIND OF YOU IF YOU COULD ATTEND HER FUNERAL MASS, THAT WILL BE CELEBRATED AT ST FRANCIS THIS FRIDAY, 29TH DECEMBER AT 10.30 AM. \*(PLEASE NOTE, THIS REPLACES THE 10 AM MASS ON THIS DAY)



**HELPING OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN**



WE ARE IN GREAT NEED OF VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH OUR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME. IF YOU FEEL YOU CAN SPARE TIME ON A SUNDAY MORNING TO HELP WITH THIS IMPORTANT PART OF OUR PARISH MISSION, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE - THE PROGRAMME BEGINS IN MID-JANUARY 2024!

**SVP CHRISTMAS GIFTS**

'LAST MINUTE' CHRISTMAS GIFTS! - HAVE A LOOK IN THE NARTHEX. SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL TABLE TOP SALES WILL RESUME IN JANUARY, WITH THE HELP OF YOUR CONTINUED DONATIONS. YOUR SUPPORT DURING THE YEAR HAS BEEN AMAZING. THANK YOU. HAPPY CHRISTMAS. MARY LOONEY

**CAN YOU HELP?**

A SINGLE MALE, REGULAR MASS-GOING PARISHIONER IS SEEKING RENTED ACCOMMODATION OR LODGINGS IN THE NEW YEAR. CAN YOU HELP? PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE IF YOU CAN.



**A CHRISTMAS REFLECTION ...**

The Great God of Heaven is come down to earth, his Mother a Virgin, and sinless his birth; The Father Eternal his Father alone; He sleeps in a manger; He reigns on the throne. Behold him now wearing the likeness of man; Weak, helpless, and speechless, in measure a span.

O wonder of wonders, which none can unfold; 'The Ancient of Days' is an hour or two old; The maker of all things is made of the earth, Man is worshipped by angels, and God comes to birth ...

ST FRANCIS

FATIMA DEVOTIONS

KSC HOME PRAYER GROUP

Monday - Friday at 1.30pm

30 Minutes of praying the Rosary

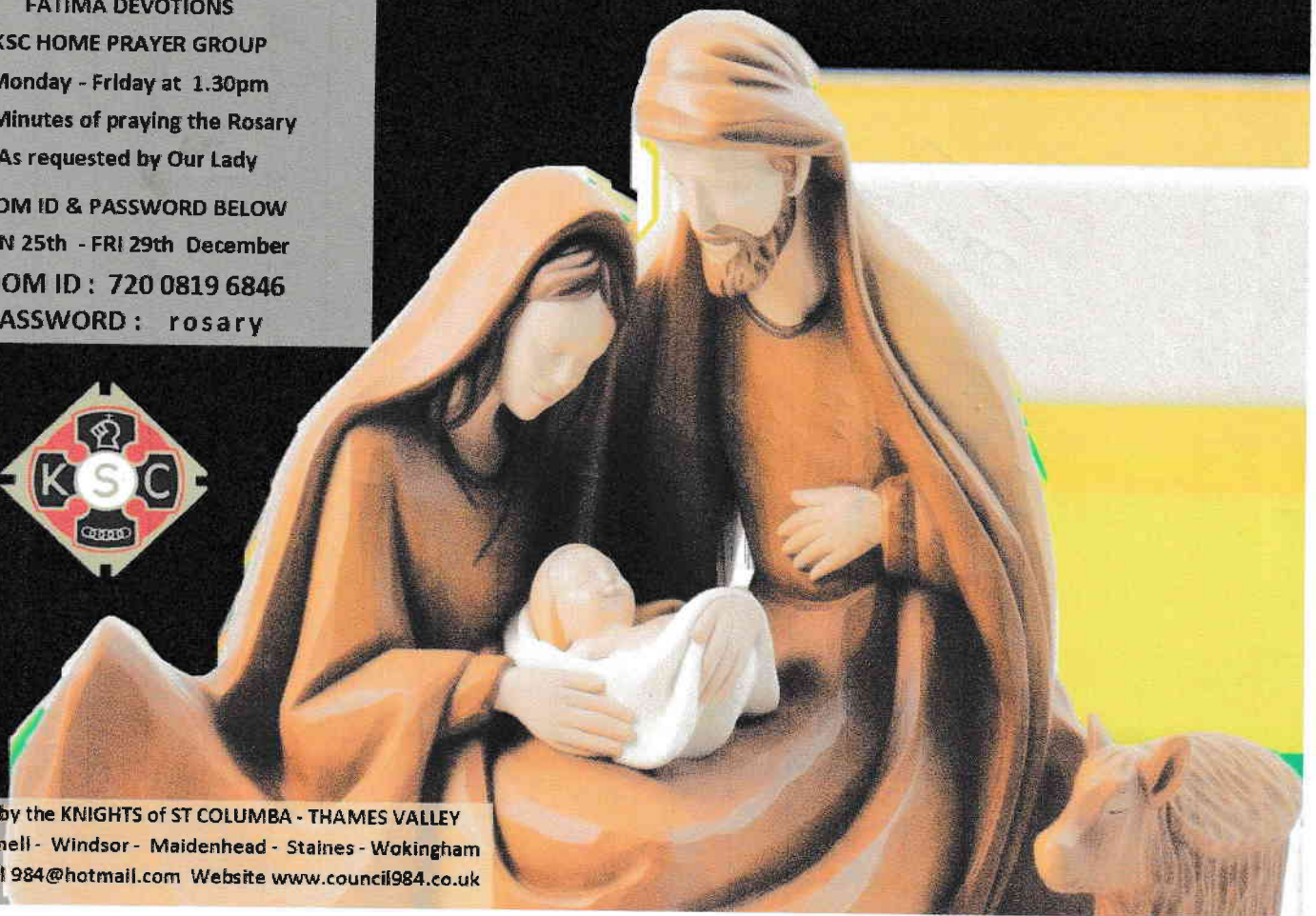
As requested by Our Lady

ZOOM ID & PASSWORD BELOW

MON 25th - FRI 29th December

ZOOM ID : 720 0819 6846

PASSWORD : rosary



Sponsored by the KNIGHTS of ST COLUMBA - THAMES VALLEY

Ascot - Bracknell - Windsor - Maidenhead - Staines - Wokingham

Email : council984@hotmail.com Website [www.council984.co.uk](http://www.council984.co.uk)