

# 2024



NEWSLETTER

7TH JAN 2024

## St Francis of Assisi Church

Windsor & Ascot Pastoral area

Coronation Road, Ascot, SL5 9HG

Parish Priest: Fr Kevin Bidgood

stfrancisascot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

@stfrancisascot

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

St Francis School Head Teacher:

Mrs Rhona Miccoli

safeguarding: Jaycie Warren 07961 800804

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth  
Charity number 1199568

www.stfrancisascot.co.uk

Fr

Kevin writes...

### THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS MOST CERTAINLY CONTINUES THIS WEEK WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S EPIPHANY ... THE WORD 'EPIPHANY' IS A GREEK WORD THAT MEANS 'THE SHOWING FORTH OR THE REVEALING OF A GOD'. FOR MANY PEOPLE THE CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS COMES TO A JUDDERING HALT WITH 'TWELFTH-NIGHT' - IT'S DOWN WITH THE DECORATIONS - IT'S ALL BACK TO WORK; BACK TO SCHOOL; BACK TO THE USUAL ROUTINE ... HOWEVER ... FOR US AS CATHOLIC CHRISTIANS THE WONDER OF CHRISTMAS ENDURES THROUGHOUT THE YEAR! FOR EXAMPLE, EVERY MASS IS A CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS - AS CHRIST COMES TO OUR ALTARS WITH THAT SAME BODY AND BLOOD, WHICH HE WORE INCARNATE FROM THE WOMB OF OUR LADY. THROUGHOUT THIS NEW YEAR, ALL THE SACRAMENTS WE CELEBRATE, WILL BE SIGNS THAT THE RISEN CHRIST IS SHOWERING US WITH HIS GRACE. IN SO MANY WAYS THE LORD SHOWS FORTH HIS DIVINE NATURE - AND MOST OF ALL - IN EVERY ONE OF US, AS WE STRIVE TO BECOME MORE CHRISTLIKE AND THEREBY, ATTRACT OTHER TO THE LORD.

\* OUR OPENING PRAYER ASKS GOD OUR FATHER TO BRING US: "... WHO KNOW YOU ALREADY BY FAITH ... TO BEHOLD THE BEAUTY OF YOUR SUBLIME GLORY ..."

\* THE FIRST READING IS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT PROPHET ISAIAH. THE PROPHET LOOKS TO THAT FUTURE TIME WHEN THE MESSIAH WILL APPEAR IN GLORY. FOR US TODAY, THIS IS A PROPHECY CONCERNING THE COMING OF JESUS CHRIST: "... ARISE, SHINE OUT JERUSALEM, FOR YOU LIGHT HAS COME ... LIFT UP YOUR EYES AND LOOK AROUND ALL ARE ASSEMBLING AND COMING TOWARDS YOU ..."

\* OUR SECOND READING IS FROM THE LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE PHILIPPIANS. THE APOSTLE CELEBRATES THAT CHRIST'S MESSAGE IS NOT JUST FOR A CHOSEN FEW BUT FOR ALL HUMANITY: "... IT MEANS THAT PAGANS NOW SHARE THE SAME INHERITANCE, THAT THEY ARE PART OF THE SAME BODY, AND THAT THE SAME PROMISE HAS BEEN TO THEM, IN CHRIST JESUS, THROUGH THE GOSPEL ..."

\* THE GOSPEL READING IS ST MATTHEW'S ACCOUNT OF THE COMING OF THE WISE MEN TO WORSHIP THE INFANT CHRIST: "... OPENING THEIR TREASURES, THEY OFFERED HIM GIFTS OF GOLD AND FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH ..."

ECCE ADVENT DOMINATOR DOMINUS ...  
BEHOLD, THE LORD, THE MIGHTY ONE, HAS COME ...

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

### MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

- ✦ SAT, 6TH JAN, AT 5.30 PM: VIGIL: EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
- ✦ SUN, 7TH JAN, AT 8 AM AND 10 AM: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, SOLEMNITY
- ✦ MON, 8TH JAN: NO MASS AT ST FRANCIS
- ✦ TUE, 9TH JAN AT 10 AM: 1ST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME
- ✦ WED, 10TH JAN AT 10 AM: SCHOOL SPRING TERM MASS
- ✦ WED, 10TH JAN AT 7.30 PM: 1ST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME
- ✦ THU, 11TH JAN AT 10 AM: 1ST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME
- ✦ FRI, 12TH JAN AT 7.30 PM: 1ST WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME
- ✦ SATURDAY, 13TH JAN AT 10AM: OUR LADY ON SATURDAY

\*CONFESSIONS AFTER MASS

\*NEXT WEEKEND: COLLECTION FOR THE CATHEDRAL

\*FRI, 12TH JAN IS A DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING FOR LIFE



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



### MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

- ✦ SAT, 6TH JAN AT 5.30 PM: MARIA AND WILLIAM VONKOMER R.I.P
- ✦ SUN, 7TH JAN AT 8.30 AM: MARIA R.I.P
- ✦ SUN, 7TH JAN AT 10.00 AM: DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE BERKELEY FAMILY
- ✦ TUE, 9TH JAN AT 10.00 AM: RON MEIK R.I.P
- ✦ WED, 10TH JAN AT 7.30 PM: PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
- ✦ THU, 11TH JAN AT 10 AM: IMELDA MALCOM ANNIV R.I.P
- ✦ FRI, 12TH JAN AT 7.30 PM: FOR THE PEACE IN THE WORLD
- ✦ SAT, 13TH JAN AT 10 AM: FOR THE CHILDREN STARTING FHC PROGRAMME

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN'S FAMILY MASS 12.30PM, SUN 14TH JANUARY

THE PARENTS AND CHILDREN PREPARING FOR FHC THIS YEAR WILL BE ATTENDING A SPECIAL INFORMAL FAMILY MASS LED BY FR KEVIN. THE INTENTION OF THIS CELEBRATION IS TO INTRODUCE THE CHILDREN TO THE SIGNIFICANCE AND IMPORTANCE OF THE MASS AS THEY START THEIR INSTRUCTION IN THE SACRAMENT.



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



### LITTLE FRANCISCAN TODDLER GROUP

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR TODDLERS AND FAMILIES! OUR GROUP MEETINGS WILL START BACK ON TUE, 9TH JAN, FROM 11AM TO 12.45PM. ALL WELCOME!

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

HAPPY NEW YEAR! WE'LL RESUME OUR ACTIVITIES ON SUN, 14TH JAN, DURING THE 10AM MASS.

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](mailto: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.

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.



### NEW OFFICE HOURS

- TUE TO THU: 9.30AM TO 1.30PM
- FRI: 9.30AM TO 12.30PM
- WHATSAPP: DROP A TEXT OR VOICE MESSAGE TO 07851 092 431

THANKS!

### CHRISTMAS PARTY RAFFLE

HAPPY NEW YEAR, EVERYONE! WELCOME BACK TO NORMAL LIFE! WE START RESUMING OUR ACTIVITIES AGAIN AFTER A LITTLE BREAK, AND I'D LIKE TO START THE YEAR THANKING YOU ALL FOR ALL THE GOOD MOMENTS AND SUPPORT IN 2023. LET'S MAKE THINGS EVEN BETTER FOR 2024?

WE'VE RAISED £35.55 WITH THE RAFFLE AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY AND I WANTED TO LET YOU KNOW THAT THIS MONEY HELPED ME TO BUY A FEW THINGS TO IMPROVE OUR SATURDAY COFFEE/TEA TEAM. I BOUGHT DOLCE GUSTO COFFEE PODS, 100 BIODEGRADABLE COFFEE CUPS, 200 SUGAR SACHETS, 90 INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED TEA BAGS (VARIOUS FLAVOURS) AND A LITTLE WORKTOP SHELF RACK FOR A SNACK BAR.

THE SNACK BAR WILL HELP OUR TEAM TO RAISE MORE MONEY TO KEEP TOPPING UP THE GOODS WE USE AND IF WE HAVE MONEY SURPLUS I'D LIKE TO SAVE MONEY TO GET A LITTLE CHEST FREEZER FOR OUR CHURCH KITCHEN AND MAYBE A MINI ELECTRIC OVEN. IT'D BE NICE TO HAVE ICE-CREAM AFTER MASS FOR THE CHILDREN IN THE SUMMER, WOULDN'T IT?



WE'RE HAPPY TO RECEIVE DONATIONS AND IF YOU CAN HELP BY PURCHASING IN OUR SNACK BAR TOO, WE'D BE GRATEFUL! AND IF THERE'S SOMEONE (OR MORE) INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER FOR THE ENTERTAINMENT TEAM, ALONGSIDE THE SAT COFFEE/TEA TEAM (IT'S KINDA ALL-IN-ONE), PLEASE CONTACT ME AT THE PARISH OFFICE. THANK YOU AGAIN!

SAMIA PASSOS, PARISH SECRETARY

### CAFOD SEEKS A DIOCESAN SCHOOL VOLUNTEER

DO YOU ENJOY WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE? COULD YOU HELP TO INSPIRE AND EMPOWER CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN YOUR LOCAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS BY DELIVERING AN ASSEMBLY OR A WORKSHOP? SUPPORTED BY CAFOD WITH TRAINING AND ALL RESOURCES PROVIDED PLEASE CONSIDER THE ROLE OF CAFOD SCHOOL VOLUNTEER. FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JO LEWRY [JLEWRY@CAFOD.ORG.UK](mailto:JLEWRY@CAFOD.ORG.UK) OR PHONE 07710 094447

### Principal Celebrations for ANNO DOMINI 2024

- Ash Wednesday: 14th February
- Palm Sunday and The beginning of Holy Week: 24th March
- Holy Thursday: 28th March
- Good Friday: 29th March

- Easter Sunday: 31st March
- The Annunciation of the Lord: 8th April
- The Ascension of the Lord: 9th May
- Pentecost Sunday: 19th May
- Holy Trinity: 26th May
- Corpus Christi: 2nd June
- Sacred Heart of Jesus: 7th June

### MESSAGE FROM HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 57TH WORLD DAY OF PEACE 1 JANUARY 2024 ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND PEACE

AT THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW YEAR, A TIME OF GRACE WHICH THE LORD GIVES TO EACH ONE OF US, I WOULD LIKE TO ADDRESS GOD'S PEOPLE, THE VARIOUS NATIONS, HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT, THE LEADERS OF THE DIFFERENT RELIGIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY, AND ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR TIME, IN ORDER TO OFFER MY FERVENT GOOD WISHES FOR PEACE.

SACRED SCRIPTURE ATTESTS THAT GOD BESTOWED HIS SPIRIT UPON HUMAN BEINGS SO THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE "SKILL AND UNDERSTANDING AND KNOWLEDGE IN EVERY CRAFT" (Ex 35:31). HUMAN INTELLIGENCE IS AN EXPRESSION OF THE DIGNITY WITH WHICH WE HAVE BEEN ENDOWED BY THE CREATOR, WHO MADE US IN HIS OWN IMAGE AND LIKENESS (CF. GEN 1:26), AND ENABLED US TO RESPOND CONSCIOUSLY AND FREELY TO HIS LOVE. IN A PARTICULAR WAY, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MANIFEST THIS FUNDAMENTALLY RELATIONAL QUALITY OF HUMAN INTELLIGENCE; THEY ARE BRILLIANT PRODUCTS OF ITS CREATIVE POTENTIAL. (...)

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, THEN, OUGHT TO BE UNDERSTOOD AS A GALAXY OF DIFFERENT REALITIES. WE CANNOT PRESUME A PRIORI THAT ITS DEVELOPMENT WILL MAKE A BENEFICIAL CONTRIBUTION TO THE FUTURE OF HUMANITY AND TO PEACE AMONG PEOPLES. THAT POSITIVE OUTCOME WILL ONLY BE ACHIEVED IF WE SHOW OURSELVES CAPABLE OF ACTING RESPONSIBLY AND RESPECT SUCH FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN VALUES AS "INCLUSION, TRANSPARENCY, SECURITY, EQUITY, PRIVACY AND RELIABILITY".

[... READ THE WHOLE ARTICLE ON THE LINK BELOW...]

### SOURCE:

[HTTPS://WWW.VATICAN.VA/CONTENT/FRANCESCO/EN/MESSAGES/PEACE/DOCUMENTS/20231208-MESSAGGIO-57GIORNATAMONDIALE-PACE2024.HTML](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/peace/documents/20231208-messaggio-57GIORNATAMONDIALE-PACE2024.HTML)



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 8th January - FRI 12th January 2024

**ZOOM ID : 747 3136 9385**

**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](http://www.council984.co.uk)

