

NEWSLETTER

3RD DEC 2023

St Francis of Assisi Church

Windsor & Ascot Pastoral area

Coronation Road, Ascot, SL5 9HG

Parish Priest: Fr Kevin Bidgood

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Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
Charity number 1199568

www.stfrancisascot.co.uk

Fr

Kevin writes...

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

THE CHURCH'S SEASON OF ADVENT IS VERY MUCH MORE THAN SIMPLY 'A RUN UP TO CHRISTMAS DAY!' FOR THOSE WITH FAITH, ADVENT HAS A TWO-FOLD SIGNIFICANCE. ON THE ONE HAND, IT IS A TIME TO REFLECT ON THESE WORDS OF THE CREED: 'HE [CHRIST] WILL COME AGAIN IN GLORY TO JUDGE THE LIVING AND THE DEAD AND HIS KINGDOM WILL HAVE NO END'. ADVENT, THEREFORE, IS INTENDED TO HELP US REMEMBER THIS TRUTH - THAT OUR SAVIOUR WILL COME AGAIN TO DESTROY DEATH AND EVIL FOREVER. ON THE OTHER HAND, ADVENT IS INTENDED TO HELP US PREPARE SPIRITUALLY FOR THE BIRTH OF OUR SAVIOUR - SO THAT, WITH SINS FORGIVEN, WE MAY MARVEL WITH JOY AND THANKSGIVING THAT EACH OF US IS LOVED SO MUCH BY GOD, THAT HE ENTERS THIS WORLD AS THE CHILD OF BETHLEHEM, TO DIE ON THE CROSS AND RISE AGAIN FOR OUR SALVATION.

- * OUR OPENING PRAYER ASKS GOD OUR FATHER TO GIVE US: "... THE RESOLVE TO RUN FORTH TO MEET YOUR CHRIST WITH RIGHTEOUS DEEDS AT HIS COMING ..."
- * THE FIRST READING IS FROM THE PROPHET ISAIAH. THE PROPHET GRIEVES FOR THE EVILS OF THE WORLD AND LONGS FOR GOD TO COME AND REDEEM US: "... OH, THAT YOU WOULD TEAR THE HEAVENS OPEN AND COME DOWN ..."
- * OUR SECOND READING IS FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST LETTER TO THE CORINTHIANS. THE APOSTLE GIVES THANKS THAT HIS READERS ARE: "... WAITING FOR OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST TO BE REVEALED ..."
- * OUR GOSPEL READINGS FOR THIS NEW LITURGICAL YEAR WILL BE FROM ST MARK. THIS WEEK HE GIVES US THESE WORDS OF JESUS TO HIS DISCIPLES: "... BE ON YOUR GUARD, STAY AWAKE, BECAUSE YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN THE TIME WILL COME ... AND WHAT I SAY TO YOU, I SAY TO ALL: STAY AWAKE! ..."

AD TE LEVAVI ANIMAM MEAM, DEUS MEUS ...
TO YOU, I LIFT UP MY SOUL, O MY GOD ...

- ### MASS TIMES THIS WEEK
- ♦ SAT, 2ND DEC: 5.30 PM: VIGIL: 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
INTENTION: RITA MUNNS (WELL BEING)
 - ♦ SUN, 3RD DEC: 1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
INTENTION: 8.30 AM: THERESE NORTON R.I.P
INTENTION: 10 AM: DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE BERKELEY FAMILY
 - ♦ MON, 4TH DEC: **NO MASS AT ST FRANCIS**
 - ♦ TUE, 5TH DEC: 10AM: 1ST WEEK OF ADVENT
INTENTION: DECEASED MEMBERS OF GLENNON & LASCELLES FAMILIES
 - ♦ WED, 6TH DEC: 7.30PM: 1ST WEEK OF ADVENT
INTENTION: PEOPLE OF THE PARISH
 - ♦ THU, 7TH DEC: 10 AM: ST AMBROSE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH, MEMORIAL
INTENTION: FOR ALL CHURCH MUSICIANS
 - ♦ FRI, 8TH DEC: THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, SOLEMNITY
10 AM: (WITH PRIMARY SCHOOL) INTENTION: PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS
7.30 PM: INTENTION: FOR THE HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY
 - ♦ SAT 9TH DEC: 10 AM: 1ST WEEK OF ADVENT
INTENTION: BERNADETTE KELLY ANNIV R.I.P
CONFESSION AFTER SATURDAY MORNING 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.

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

EVERY TUESDAY (TERM-TIME) FROM 11AM TO 12.45PM. ALL WELCOME!

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

EVERY SUNDAY DURING THE 10AM MASS. 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



PRAYER GROUP: WALKING WITH GOD - EVERY WEDNESDAY 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.



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

DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL FOR ADVENT 2023

AVAILABLE THIS WEEK, IN PREPARATION FOR ADVENT:

- CHILDREN'S ADVENT & CHRISTMAS CALENDARS - 50P
- ADVENT 'WALK WITH ME' FOR ADULTS - £1.00
- ADVENT 'WALK WITH ME' ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN - £1.00



ALSO AVAILABLE:

- DECEMBER 'BIBLE ALIVE' - £3.50
- 'MY DAY BY DAY' - £1.50

Pic from Alive Publishing



CHRISTMAS FLOWERS COLLECTION - WE ARE HAVING THE ANNUAL COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS. PLEASE USE THE DONA TERMINAL AT THE BACK OF THE CHURCH OR PLACE A DONATION IN THE BASKET IN THE PORCH.

SUE POWELL R.I.P

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REST AND PEACE OF THE SOUL OF SUE POWELL, WHO DIED LAST WEEK. HER FUNERAL MASS WILL BE CELEBRATED AT ST FRANCIS ON **FRIDAY, 15TH DECEMBER AT 11.00 AM.**



CHRISTMAS CANAPES & DRINKS - DEC, 16TH AT 6.30 PM

COME AND JOIN US FOR OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY. BRING CANAPES (SAVOURY OR SWEET - **KINDLY AVOID NUTS**) AND A DRINK (OR TWO) TO SHARE AND LET'S ONCE AGAIN GET TOGETHER AS A COMMUNITY AND CELEBRATE THE MONTH OF THE COMING OF CHRIST!

FILL YOUR POCKETS WITH **£2** COINS TO PURCHASE RAFFLE TICKETS; ALSO BRING A LITTLE GIFT, WRAPPED AND READY, IF YOU'D LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 'SECRET SANTA GAME' [GOOGLE FOR DETAILS]. CHILDREN ARE VERY WELCOME! YOU CAN SIGN A LIST AT THE CHURCH PORCH TO SHOW YOUR INTEREST IN COMING AND WHAT YOU'LL BRING SO EVERYONE CAN HAVE AN IDEA!

WE'RE KINDLY ACCEPTING GOODS FOR THE RAFFLES: PANETTONES, CHOCOLATES, WINE, PROSECCO, BISCUIT TINS, 'LITTLE GIFTS' ARE WELCOME! **LEAVE THEM AT THE PARISH OFFICE, PLEASE! THANKS!**

SVP CHRISTMAS GIFTS

SVP (SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL) TABLE AVAILABLE WITH LOTS OF NICE ITEMS TO BE PURCHASED. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



ASCOT MUSIC SCHOOL CONCERT

SAT, 9TH DEC, 12PM TO 1PM. ALL THE PROFITS RAISED ON THE DAY WILL BE DONATED TO ST FRANCIS CHURCH FOR THE LOCAL WORK OF SVP. TEA, COFFEE, SOFT DRINKS AND MINCE PIES AFTER THE CONCERT. **TO PURCHASE YOUR TICKETS, ACCESS:** [HTTPS://WWW.ASCOTMUSICSCHOOL.CO.UK/CHRISTMAS-CONCERT-2023](https://www.ascotmusicschool.co.uk/christmas-concert-2023)

MISSIO RED BOXES

IF YOU STILL HAVE A RED BOX TO RETURN, PLEASE DO SO BY SUNDAY 10TH DECEMBER. MANY THANKS

UCM CHRISTMAS RAFFLES

TICKETS FOR THE TRADITIONAL UCM CHRISTMAS RAFFLE WILL BE ON SALE FROM **1ST TO 10TH DECEMBER, £1 A TICKET, 6 FOR £5.** PRIZES WILL SOON BE ON DISPLAY IN THE NARTHEX, TO INCLUDE THE USUAL HAMPERS, AN ALEXA AND VOUCHERS FOR ASCOT MUSIC SCHOOL AND ASCOT BUTCHERS! WE WILL ALSO HAVE A JAR AND TIN TOMBOLA AT THE WEEKENDS! THIS YEAR WE WILL BE SUPPORTING THE GUIDE DOGS ASSOCIATION.

PEACE LIGHT SERVICE - ST EDWARD'S WINDSOR - FRI, 22ND DECEMBER AT 18:00

ON THIS DAY, ST EDWARD, OUR SISTER PARISH, WILL BE HAVING THE *PEACE LIGHT SERVICE* IN PREPARATION FOR CHRISTMAS. THEY ARE CALLING ON OUR VOLUNTEERS **READERS** AND **MUSICIANS** TO PARTICIPATE OF IT. IF YOU'D LIKE TO, KINDLY CONTACT **STEPHEN PATTERSON** ON 07814 127335.



OFFICE HOURS IN DECEMBER

OFFICE HOURS WILL BE CHANGING SLIGHTLY THIS MONTH DUE TO NURSERY/PRE-SCHOOL HOLIDAYS AND CHRISTMAS. FROM NEXT WEEK WE'LL BE OPEN ON **TUE, THU AND FRI FROM 9 AM TO 2 PM.** WE'LL KEEP YOU POSTED ON ANY CHANGES. FROM JAN 2024, WE'LL HAVE STABLE DAYS AND TIMES. THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING!



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.

OPERATION ELF FOR THE PRISON ADVICE CARE TRUST

SUE DOUET WRITES: *ST FRANCIS PARISHIONERS ARE SO THOUGHTFUL AND GENEROUS IN HELPING TO MAKE 'OPERATION ELF' THE BEST EVER! ALL THE CHILDREN'S GIFTS THAT YOU HAVE DONATED WILL GIVE SO MUCH JOY TO PRISONERS, WHEN THEY CAN GIVE A PRESENT TO THEIR CHILDREN, DURING A 'CHRISTMAS PRISON FAMILY DAY'. MANY THANKS TO YOU ALL*



THE BAG WILL BE COLLECTED ON 4TH DECEMBER, IN TIME FOR THE FAMILY VISIT IN PRISON! SO, LET'S DO THIS, AND BRING A SMILE THIS CHRISTMAS TO THESE FAMILIES!



***PLEASE NOTE: A STAGE WILL BE ERECTED IN CHURCH FOR OUR PRIMARY SCHOOL'S CHRISTMAS PRESENTATION BETWEEN 4TH - 8TH DECEMBER.**

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 4th - FRI 8th December

ZOOM ID : 782 7152 6233

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



ASCOT MUSIC SCHOOL
CHRISTMAS CONCERT

SATURDAY 9.12.2023
12.00PM-1.00PM
ST. FRANCIS CHURCH
CORONATION ROAD
SOUTH ASCOT
SL5 9HG

Details and Tickets



www.ascotmusicschool.co.uk