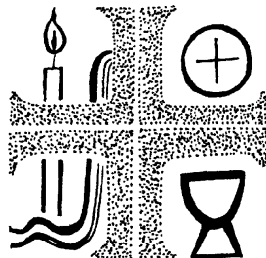


Peterpost

Newsletter for the
Catholic Parish of Hampshire Downs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester



THIRD SUNDAY
OF ADVENT (C)

13th December, 2009

John the Baptist is at the heart of our Advent celebration. The content of John's preaching could be summarised by the word 'integrity'. The Gospel Reading this weekend shows us what John means by integrity.

On the one hand, John is preparing the people for a spiritual event, the coming of the Messiah and baptism with the Holy Spirit. On the other hand, John announces the practical work that must be done to prepare for the coming of the Messiah, and baptism with the Holy Spirit. 'If anyone has two tunics he must share with the man who has none, and the one with something to eat must do the same.'

The integrity of John's message is in the integration of the spiritual with the practical demands of justice.

On the right hand side of the church porch there are notices advertising spiritual events. On the left hand side there are notices about our Covenant with the Poor. Does this mean that we are a congregation divided in our enthusiasm for one or the other? Or is this a sign that we have begun to live the integrity preached by John the Baptist? JC

TODAY

Retiring Collection at all Masses today for Christmas Flowers in all our churches.

Mass in the Extraordinary Form is at 12.15pm today in St. Peter's Church.

† **Please pray** for the repose of the soul of Pauline Cleary who has died. Her funeral Mass will be celebrated on Monday 14th Dec at 12.15pm in St Peter's.

Advent Penitential Liturgies

Saturday 19th Dec, 10.30am, St. Peter's (for families)
Monday 21st Dec, 7.30pm, St. Peter's (for the whole parish)

St Gregory's Christmas Bazaar last Saturday made a profit of £2,243.05. Full details of stall takings, etc. are available at St Gregory's. Many thanks to those who helped to organise this event and to everyone who came to support it and help raise such a splendid total.

Michael Ede RIP - Joan Ede and family would like to thank family and friends who attended Michael's funeral. Thanks also to Fr Paul for his support throughout Michael's illness.

Ursula and Joan wish to thank everyone who supported the coffee morning for the Romanian orphanage. £300 was raised.

Thanks to St Peter's School for a wonderful Advent Liturgy on Thursday evening.

CLERGY & PARISH TEAM

Canon Paul Townsend (Co-ordinating Pastor and Parish Priest)
Fr. John Catlin (Associate Pastor)
Canon Alan Griffiths
Fr. Vincent Convery (Prison & Hospital Chaplain)
Fr. Brian Croughan (Retired Priest)
Deacon Gerard Dailly (01962 736389)
Deacon Nick Reynolds (01962 772393)
Catherine Christmas (Director of Music & Liturgy, Communications and Adult Formation)
Sisters of St Lucy, St. Peter's Convent (01962 854040)

TODAY'S MASS - LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Psalm Response: Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel

2nd Reading: Letter of St. Paul to the Philippians 4:4-7

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! The spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring good news to the poor. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 3:10-18

Questions of the Week



Children: Why is it so important to keep promises which you have made?

Youth: What do you remember from stories about your Baptism? What does your Baptism mean to you now?

Adults: How can you live the promise of your Baptism each day?

We acknowledge with thanks:

Last week's collection
(Alresford, Stockbridge, Winchester)
£ 3606.93

Details to follow of last week's retiring collection for the work of the SVP.

PARISH OFFICE

Peterhouse, St. Peter Street, Winchester, SO23 8BW

☎ 01962 852804 • Fax: 01962 843691

E-mail: office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

Website: www.hampshiredowns.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Brian Roberts • **Secretary:** Eileen Good

Portsmouth Diocesan Trust - Registered Charity 246871

St. Peter's Catholic Primary School:
Oliver's Battery Road North, Winchester, SO22 4JB
Headteacher: Mrs. Cath Howells (01962 852820)

THIS WEEK

Monday 14th Dec - Ascent Group meeting in St Peter's Parish Centre, 2.15pm. Spirituality for over-50s. All welcome.

Wednesday 16th Dec - St Peter's Youth Theatre Group warmly invite you to join them for a light-hearted take on the Christmas story, performed at St. Stephen's Church at 6.00pm, followed by mince pies. An event for all ages, so bring the whole family and get into the Christmas spirit.

Wednesday 16th Dec - Churches Together in Alresford Carol Singing at local sheltered housing schemes. Please assemble at 6.00pm at St. Gregory's.

Thursday 17th Dec - Adoration will stop and will resume again on 5th Jan 2010.

Thursday 17th Dec - Catholic Women's League meet in the Parish Centre after the 7.00pm Mass for a pre-Christmas Social Evening. All warmly welcome.

Thursday 17th Dec - Youth Group Advent Scripture Reflection, 8.00pm, Winchester. Call Sue Broadbent for details: 0777 4075861. Pizza provided.

Friday 18th Dec - Bring and Share Christmas Tea at Lake House, Alresford, 3.30 - 5.00pm. All children from St. Gregory's are welcome, and older citizens too! Please contact Rosemary Chambers on 01962 733148.

Help for those in need this Christmas - There are many asylum seekers in Southampton who are destitute through no fault of their own. We try to support them through the year and would like to give them a little extra this Christmas. If you would like to contribute dried goods such as sugar, rice, tea, baked beans... please contact Anne Vinnell by **Thursday 17th Dec** on 01962 864099 or dvinnell@cix.co.uk. Thank you.

NEXT WEEKEND

Saturday 19th Dec - Family Penitential Liturgy, 10.30am in St. Peter's Church.

Saturday 19th Dec - Churches Together in Alresford Carol Singing in Broad Street, 11.00am - 12.00 noon. Proceeds to Save the Children Fund.

Sunday 20th Dec - Parish Christingle Service 3.00pm, St. Stephen's. Children are invited to come dressed as angels or shepherds. Information on the meaning of the Christingle and instructions on how to make one can be found at www.request.org.uk/infants/festivals/christmas/christingle/christingle01.htm Tea/coffee and mince pies will be served afterwards. All welcome.

(NB: there will be **NO Evening Prayer and Benediction at St Peter's** on this day.)

NEXT WEEK

Monday 21st Dec - Parish Penitential Liturgy, 7.30pm in St. Peter's Church.

Tuesday 22nd Dec - Celebration of Carols, 7.00pm in St. Peter's, with a brass quintet and organ. Followed by mulled wine and mince pies in the Milner Hall. All welcome. Any young people who would like to help decorate the church and Milner Hall, come along to St Peter's Church at 10.00am. Refreshments provided.

Wednesday 23rd Dec - "Blue Christmas" Liturgy, 10.30am, St Peter's Church.

For many people there are split emotions as Christmas approaches. Some of us feel the pain of bereavement, separation, regrets or hurt; others feel alienated by the materialism and secularisation of the season, in a world where so many lack the basics of food, shelter, peace and justice. As a result, many of us find Christmas a difficult time to celebrate, and worry that we have to bury our feelings to make everyone else happy. Blue Christmas is a service to enable us to recognise these more painful parts of our lives and our world; not to cheer each other up or wallow in pity, but to offer God the whole of who we are. Do come and make use of this space, and pray with us for healing and wholeness.

Thursday 24th Dec - Carol singing on the wards of The Royal Hampshire County Hospital. Volunteer singers are invited to meet in the hospital Chapel at 6.00pm. Finishing about 8.30pm when mince pies and mulled wine will be served.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas Mass times - see opposite page. Please note: "**Midnight Mass**" at St Peter's will be celebrated at **10.30pm** (This is a change from the time given in the local churches' Christmas card.)

Winchester SVP Conference distributes Christmas food parcels in December to people in need. If any parishioner knows of an individual or a family who would benefit from receiving a parcel, please contact Audrey Atter: audrey.atter@homecall.co.uk or 01962 863317.

St Stephen's Poinsettias in Memoriam at Christmas. If you would like to give a red poinsettia in memory of a loved one, please bring the plant (in a waterproof pot, not just a saucer, labelled with the name/s of the loved one/s) to St. Stephen's on Sunday 20th Dec (at Mass or to the Christingle Service) or Wednesday 23rd Dec at 10.00am.

Minibus to St Peter's is running on Christmas Eve, 24th Dec, for the 5.30pm Mass and again on Christmas Day, 25th Dec, for the 10.30am Mass. If you require a lift to either of these Masses, contact Chris Hansford on 01962 862972 or 07973326702.

Christmas Day Mass at St. Gregory's will include a Nativity Play. If any children would like to be involved, please contact Jo Wright on 01962 735192 or 07837410757. All parts are non-speaking; costumes will be provided.

Christmas Day Senior Citizens' Lunch - If you are a senior citizen resident in Alresford, on your own or a couple, please consider joining the residents of Makins Court for Christmas Day Lunch. You are assured of a warm welcome and a delicious meal for only £4. Transport to and from Makins Court can also be arranged. Please contact Joan Wimbleton on 01962 733658 if you would like to attend.

Christmas Mass Collections

A message from the Parish Finance and Property Committee: Please note that the collections taken at the Christmas Masses (on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day) are your personal gifts to the priests of the parish in gratitude for all that they do for us throughout the year.

LOOKING AHEAD - PARISH

Friday 22nd Jan 2010 - Area Mass at St. Mary's, Easton, 7.30pm. All welcome.

Thursday 18th Feb - Bridge Event - Gather a table for a super bridge tea in the Milner Hall, 2.00-5.00pm. Proceeds to the building fund for our parish pastoral centre. Tickets are £10.00 per person, available from Giselle Letchworth (01962 712158) or Wini Meikle (01962 714509).

DIOCESAN EVENTS

Saturday 9th Jan 2010 - CAFOD Day at St. Bede's, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX, 10.30am - 3.30 pm. (Stations of the Cross at 3.30pm.). An opportunity for CAFOD supporters across the Diocese to get together and hear about plans to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Lent Fast Day, and be led by our Spirituality Team, reflecting and praying in solidarity. Drinks provided; please bring your own lunch. To book, contact CAFOD's Diocesan Office: portsmouth@cafod.org.uk or 01252 329385.

GENERAL NOTICES

St Gregory's Readers - Paul Kennedy will soon be drawing up the Readers' rota for the first half of 2010. If you would like to join the Readers' ministry team, please contact him on 01962 735287 or e-mail: pbk25@btopenworld.com

Liturgy Of The Word With Children - We are continuing to collect names and contact details for children attending LOWC in order to comply with guidelines for safeguarding children. Adults bringing children to LOWC will need to fill in an initial registration form and from this information we will compile a register for use in future weeks. Anyone with questions regarding this can speak to members of the Children's Liturgy team or Wini Meikle.

St. Peter's Bookshop has a wide range of Christmas items in stock. There are also packs of Christmas cards with a selection of four pictures showing our crib. Do come and browse. Opening times can be found at the back of church.

Winchester Catholic History Group is looking for a replacement for its publicity officer, Jim Heward, who will be retiring at the end of the year. Responsibilities include designing posters for monthly talks and invitations to the annual Memorial Lecture. Contact Audrey Atter: 01962 863317 or audrey.atter@homecall.co.uk.

Stamps for Naomi House Hospice - As Christmas cards arrive, please save the stamps for Naomi House and put them in the collection box on the table in the porch at St Gregory's.

Living Faith booklets for January are now in St Gregory's porch on the trolley for collection by subscribers.

Vacancy for a Foundation Governor at St Peter's School - Please watch this space for an advert which will appear shortly.

Confirmation Formation Programme - If you are between the ages of 13 and 17 and have not already been confirmed, watch out for details of the programme which will be published shortly.

Advent 2009



Opportunities for prayer and Scripture reflection

during the Advent season, to help us prepare spiritually for Christmas. All these are open to the whole parish. All are welcome!

Scripture Reflection

Monday 14th Dec. for parents and toddlers, 10.00am - 12.00 noon, Committee Room in St Peter's Parish Centre (upstairs). (Contact Louisa Maschio for details: 01962 886768)

Monday 14th Dec. 7.00 for 7.15pm, St Thomas More, Stockbridge. (Contact Angela Muxworthy for details: 01264 860693)

Tuesday 15th Dec. 3.00 - 4.15 pm, Alresford (Contact Nick Reynolds for details: 01962 772393)

Tuesday 15th Dec. 7.30 - 9.00pm, Winchester (Contact Dawn Egerton Kemp for details: 01962 868729)

Thursday 17th Dec. 8.00pm in Winchester - Youth Group + Pizza (Call Sue Broadbent for details: 0777 4075861)

Family Penitential Liturgy - Saturday 19th Dec, 10.30 am, St. Peter's

Christingle Liturgy - Sunday 20th Dec, 3.00pm, St. Stephen's

Parish Penitential Liturgy - Monday 21st Dec, 7.30pm, St. Peter's

Christmas Masses



Thursday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

5.30pm First Mass of Christmas (St Peter's),
7.30pm First Mass of Christmas (St Stephen's)
8.30pm "Midnight Mass" (St Gregory's),
with readings and carols from 8.00pm
NB: 10.30pm "Midnight Mass" (St Peter's),
with carols from 10.15pm

Friday 25th December (CHRISTMAS DAY)

8.00am Mass (St Peter's, Winchester)
9.00am Mass (St Thomas More's, Stockbridge)
9.15am Mass (St Stephen's, Oliver's Battery)
10.30am Mass (St Peter's, Winchester)
11.00am Mass (St Gregory's, Alresford)
NO EVENING MASS

Saturday 26th December (Feast of St Stephen)

10.00am Mass (St Stephen's, Oliver's Battery)
All altar servers welcome.
NO MORNING MASS IN ST PETER'S
NO CONFESSIONS
6.00pm First Mass of Sunday (St Peter's, Winchester)

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2010 - for children who are eight or older between 1st Sept 2009 and 31st Aug 2010 (school Year 3) and would like to enrol in the programme. Introductory session for parents 8.00 - 9.00 pm, Thursday 14th Jan 2010 in St Peter's School. The first session for children is 10.30am-12.00 noon on Saturday 16th Jan in St Peter's School. Please complete the slip below and return to Peterhouse

✂.....

First Holy Communion Programme 2010

Name

Date of birth

School

Address

Post Code Tel No

Parish Pilgrimage to Greece - 'In the steps of St. Paul'

Monday 25th Oct to Tuesday 2nd Nov 2010

Fr Paul has arranged a pilgrimage, following in the steps of St. Paul in Greece. If you are interested and would like to receive the brochure, please complete the slip below and return it to Peterhouse.

✂.....

Parish Pilgrimage to Greece

Name

Address

E-mail

Tel. No.

No. of people wishing to join the pilgrimage

The deadline for anything to be inserted into Peterpost is midday Thursday. Please keep items as concise as possible and note that they may be edited.

Please send Alresford news to

Hermione O'Donovan (01962 732980) or Paul Kennedy (01962 735287); pbk25@btopenworld.com

To hire St Gregory's Pastoral Centre, please call Catriona Mills (01962 736160) to check availability.

Stewardship Reflection

'Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer, petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God.' (Philippians 4:6-7)



St. Paul reminds us that our God is an abundant God, the ultimate giver of gifts. He promises to give us all that we need. When we trust that God will take care of us, it is easier for us to share what we have been given.

Cycle of Prayer:

This week, please pray especially for:

National: Openness to the Word of God. Expectant mothers. Migrants & Refugees.

Diocesan: Parish of Christ the King, Reading. Discalced Carmelites and the work of Boars Hill Retreat Centre. 'Life'. Association of Blind Catholics. Bishop's Secretarial Staff. Co-workers of Mother Teresa. Parishes, communities and schools in the Avon Stour Pastoral Area.

Churches Together in Winchester: St. Lawrence with St. Swithun



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 17th - 24th January 2010

Sunday 17th Jan - Unity Service at St John's, Alresford.

Sunday 24th Jan - Unity Service, Winchester Cathedral, 6.30pm, with Dr George Carey, former Archbishop of Canterbury.

Details of other events in Alresford and Winchester to follow, but are available now on our parish website.

The Headmaster of Winchester College invites parishioners to the **Cardinal Beaufort Lecture** - "Whatever happened to Cardinal Newman's bones?" by Dr John Cornwell (Cambridge University), author of "Hitler's Pope." Tuesday 19 January 2010, 7.30pm in the Music School, Winchester College.

Living Our Faith

The people of the Diocese of Portsmouth



The Living Our Faith project is raising capital funds for both the diocese and the parish. The parish needs include some specific work on all our churches, which cannot be funded from the regular offertory giving. The final drawings of the new Pastoral Centre will be exhibited after Masses on the weekends of 13th and 20th December. A 3-D model will be available at the 6pm, 8am and 7pm Masses at St Peter's, St Stephen's and St Gregory's this week, with the 10.30am at St Peter's and St Thomas More having their turns next week.

We still need support and contributions from as many parishioners as possible to get to our goal of raising £1.8m over 5 years. Everyone's contribution counts, small or large, and we hope to get up to about 300 gifts or pledges by the time this phase of the campaign ends in January.

The Living Our Faith Campaign team can be contacted at Peterhouse on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, and for urgent matters please call 0777 407 5861. For details, please look at the Living Our Faith and parish centre section of the parish website: www.hampshiredowns.org.uk

Total raised so far: £1,092,045 from 199 pledges and gifts, with about £435,000 already in the bank. Our goal is to raise £1.8m to pay for a new pastoral centre at St Peter's, repairs to St Gregory, Alresford and St Thomas More, Stockbridge and further development at St Stephen's.

MASSES AND LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

12th to 19th December, 2009

St. Peter's, Winchester

Masses:

Sat	6.00 pm	Martin King RIP
Sun	8.00 am	Alfred Wild RIP
	10.30 am	Ted Hogan RIP
	6.00 pm	Evening Prayer and Benediction
	7.00 pm	Mary Shaughnessy RIP
Mon	12.15 pm	Funeral Mass for Pauline Cleary RIP
Tue	8.00 am	Jeremy de Souza RIP
Wed	12.15 pm	Sean Kelly RIP
Thur	7.00 pm	CWL - Mary White RIP
Fri	12.15 pm	John William Winn RIP
Sat	9.00 am	Mass for the Intentions of the Filike children for final exams

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Sat 11.30 am - 12.30 pm and 4.30 pm - 5.00 pm

Eucharistic Adoration:

Tue 9.00 am - 8.00 pm
 Wed 1.00 pm - 8.00 pm
 Thur 9.00 am - 5.00 pm



St. Gregory's, Alresford

Sun	11.00 am	Mass - Laurie Bradley RIP
Mon	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Tue	10.30 am	Mass - Laurie Bradley RIP
Wed	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Thur	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Fri	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Sat	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion



St. Stephen's, Oliver's Battery

Sun 9.15 am Mass - Tom and Tess White RIP



St. Thomas More's, Stockbridge

Sun. 9.00 am Mass - For the Intentions of the Kelly family

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

13th to 20th December, 2009

(Sunday Missal pp 710 & Weekday Missal pp 36 ;
 Psalter Week 3)

Sunday	Third Sunday of Advent (C)
Monday	St. John of the Cross (Matthew 21:23-27)
Tuesday	Tuesday of the 3rd week of Advent (Matthew 21:28-32)
Wednesday	Wednesday of the 3rd week of Advent (Luke 7:19-23)
Thursday	Liturgy of the Day (Matthew 1:1-17)
Friday	Liturgy of the Day (Matthew 1:18-24)
Saturday	Liturgy of the Day (Luke 1:5-25)
Sunday	Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)

Next Sunday's Readings: Micah 5:1-4. Letter to the Hebrews 10:5-10. Luke 1:39-44



NEW TO THE PARISH?



Please fill in a yellow welcome leaflet and hand it to one of the Welcomers, or drop it into the parish office (Peterhouse).

Welcome Team

Co-ordinators:

Clare & Paul Robinson

☎ 01962 885858

welcoming.team@yahoo.co.uk

NOT SO NEW?

However long you've been in the parish, **please fill in a parish census form** to help us update our records.

Thank you!

SAFEGUARDING Children & Vulnerable Adults

Contact Wini Meikle

☎ 01962 714509

for information and CRB forms

TELEPHONE PRAYER LINK

If you need extra support through prayer for yourself or someone you know, contact:

Eleanor Porter (01962 620833)

or Augusta Wolff

(07825 757287)

HOUSEBOUND

If you are housebound, even for a short period, and would like to receive Communion at home please Contact Peterhouse

☎ 01962 852804

MINIBUS

service for people living in the Winchester area to bring you to St. Peter's 10.30am Sunday Mass and take you home.

Contact Peterhouse

☎ 01962 852804

PARISH BAPTISM PROGRAMME

Jon and Dawn Egerton-Kemp

☎ 01962 868729

dawnek@btconnect.com

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

The following are serving members of the council:

Angela Muxworthy (Chair)
 Canon Paul Townsend
 Deacon Nick Reynolds
 Deacon Gerard Dailly
 Sr Antonietta
 Peter Bolger
 Sue Broadbent
 Catherine Christmas
 Wini Meikle
 Jane Reidy
 Brian Roberts
 Clare Robinson
 Liz Slinn
 Steve Taylor
 Sue Trowbridge
 Louise Warren
 Marcus Whitfield

PARISH FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE

Marcus Whitfield (Chair)
 Canon Paul Townsend
 Sue Broadbent
 Deacon Gerard Dailly
 Mike Elks
 Peter Gregory
 Trish Mitchell
 Angela Muxworthy
 Barry Poffley
 Brian Roberts

ST. PETER'S BOOKSHOP

Books, cards and religious items.

Situated in the link between the church and the parish centre, and open after Saturday 6.00pm Mass and all Sunday Masses. Other opening times can be found at the back of church. Look out for the bookshop when it travels to St. Gregory's, St. Thomas More's and St. Stephen's. Lots of Christmas items now in stock.

Peterpost - Copies of the newsletter are available each week in larger print and sometimes in Polish.

If you would like one, just ask one of the welcomers.



CHURCH FLOWERS: If you like flowers in church and would like to have some dedicated to someone special for a week, you are now able to do this. There will then be a notice in Peterpost saying that the flowers that week are specially for or in memory of

We ask that you give a donation for the flowers and leave the money and details at Peterhouse when you book the date.