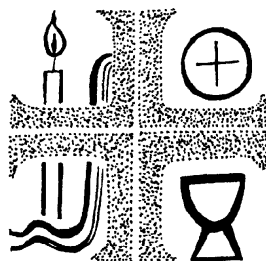


Peterpost

Newsletter for the
Catholic Parish of Hampshire Downs

Alresford • Stockbridge • Winchester



**FOURTH SUNDAY
OF ADVENT (C)
And the Feast of the Holy
Family**

**20th December, 2009
to 2nd January, 2010**

Last Thursday evening I met with a group of our young people to do some scriptural reflection or "Lectio Divina", as it is sometimes known. The Gospel we used was Luke's description of the Annunciation to Mary. St. Luke describes Mary's experience of the angel Gabriel's visit announcing that she would conceive and give birth to the "Son of the Most High".

I chose the passage for two reasons. The first is that we saw the site of the Annunciation when we visited Nazareth in October. The second is that at this point in Advent we are reminded that Mary is given to us as the perfect model of Christian discipleship and membership of the Church.

In faith, hope and love Mary brought the Word and Son of God into the world so that he could be seen and heard. The Word that she heard in her heart, and which she pondered constantly, became her son and the "Word became flesh."

In today's Gospel, also from Luke, Elizabeth greets Mary and says: "Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb." Elizabeth ends by saying that Mary is blessed because she believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled.

Mary believed and the Son of God became her Son. The invisible God became visible so that all human beings could enter a fully human relationship with God and share his divinity. Mary is our model because we are invited to follow her example and make the Good News, which is Jesus himself, visible in our lives for the sake of others.

PJT

TODAY

The Christmas Edition of Crosskeys is available at the back of all churches. It is free. Do take a copy.

Parish Christingle Service 3.00 p.m., 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.

NO Evening Prayer and Benediction at St Peter's today.

Readers and special ministers at St. Gregory's - The rotas for the first half of 2010 are ready for collection today.

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

Readers' Rotas and Scripture Guides for St. Peter's are ready for collection in the sacristy.

A big thank you to everyone for all the greetings and good wishes we are receiving at Peterhouse. PJT

Thanks to those who have shared their time and talents and led scripture reflection groups during Advent.

We acknowledge with thanks: Last week's collection -
Alresford, Stockbridge, Winchester £3,527.73
Retiring collection for Christmas flowers: £ 285.07

TODAY'S MASS - LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading: Micah 5:1-5

Psalm Response: God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I am the handmaid of the Lord; let what you have said be done to me. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 1:39-44

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASS - LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading: First book of Samuel 1:20-22. 24-28

Psalm Response: They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

2nd Reading: First letter of St. John 3:1-2.21-24

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Open our heart, O Lord, to accept the words of your son. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

A warm welcome

to all visitors to our churches during this Christmas period. The parish team wish parishioners, their families, friends and all visitors a very happy and blessed Christmas.



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)

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 21st Dec - Parish Penitential Service, 7.30 p.m. in St. Peter's Church.

Please come along, especially if you have not celebrated reconciliation or confession this Advent. The Sacrament brings peace, forgiveness and strength. Don't miss it. PJT

Tuesday 22nd Dec - Celebration of Carols, 7.00 p.m. 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 at 10.00 a.m.

Refreshments provided.

Wednesday 23rd Dec - 'Blue Christmas' service, 10.30 a.m., St Peter's Church.

For many people there are split emotions as Christmas approaches. Some of us feel keenly the pain of hurt, bereavement, separation or regrets; 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 of 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 6.00 p.m. finishing about 8.30 p.m. when mince pies and mulled wine will be served.

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 December (at Mass or the 3.00 p.m. Christingle Service) or Wednesday 23rd Dec at 10.00 a.m.

NEXT WEEKEND

Next Sunday is the Feast of the Holy Family. No Evening Prayer and Benediction in St. Peter's.

Flowers in St. Peter's next weekend are in memory of Peter Gough.

LOOKING AHEAD - PARISH

Monday 4th January - Winchester Catholic History Group - 'Music and Musicians at the Stuart Catholic Courts 1660-1668 with Dr. Peter Leech, Honorary Research Fellow, School of Arts and Humanities at Swansea University. Milner Hall. AGM at 7.45 p.m., Lecture at 8.00 p.m. Non members £3.

Thursday 18th Feb - Bridge Event - Gather a table for a super bridge tea in the Milner Hall, 2.00-5.00 p.m. 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).

Wednesday 24th February - Parish Open Meeting providing the opportunity to hear about the Parish and our future plans and to ask questions concerning any parish matters.

CHRISTMAS

Christmas Mass times - see back page.

Please note:

'Midnight Mass' at St. Peter's will be celebrated at **10.30 p.m.** (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 on 01962 863317, audrey.atter@homecall.co.uk

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

Christmas Day Masses at St. Gregory's The flowers under Our Lady's Statue will be offered in memory of Luigi Morgante (Laura Brill's brother).

Parking at St. Gregory's - Please remember that our car park is small and can get very crowded. Please park as close as possible to other cars so that no space is wasted. Please be considerate to our neighbours and do not park in Carpenters or Ellingham Close.

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 and 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.

Today we are publishing the accounts for last year. Please take a copy, which can be found at the back of all churches. We've made some changes over reports of past years:

- We've published three years of numbers.
- We've also included some charts to draw out trends in the data.

You'll note that we've put aside a maintenance reserve of £63,000 for the first time. This is in response to the Quinquennial report which identifies a long list of areas which need attention, and noting that in a parish of this complexity, there is always something waiting to catch us out! Hopefully the numbers are clear enough, but if you have any questions, please feel free to call me on 09162 882057, or at mw@tucasi.com Marcus Whiffeld

DIOCESAN EVENTS

Saturday 9th Jan 2010 - CAFOD Day at St. Bede's, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX, 10.30am - 3.30 p.m. (Stations of the Cross at 3.30 p.m.). 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

Congratulations and thanks to the St. Peter's Youth Theatre for the Nativity last Wednesday. I am immensely grateful to Julia Bray, Deb Falconer and the team for the huge amount of work which was necessary to make the production possible. PJT

Help for those in need this Christmas - Thank you to all those who gave so generously to help destitute asylum seekers have a little extra this Christmas. Anne Vinnell

St. Gregory's Flower Arrangers would welcome donations towards the cost of flowers for Christmas. Donations can be put in the 'flowers' slot in the porch or given to Nan McNamara.

Many thanks from Mike Hawthorn and Peter Gregory to those who contributed bottles to the bottle tombola at St. Gregory's Christmas Bazaar. As a result of your generosity, the tombola raised £313, which was the best result for some years.

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.

New Translation of the Missal - The Bishops of England and Wales have given the go-ahead for the publication of the new Missal. The translation will be different from the one we use now. The Bishops have not decided when to implement the change - it could be either during 2010 or 2011. As soon as I know for certain, I will publish plans to help us prepare. PJT

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 which goes under the altar at Christmas. Do pop along 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 computer-designing and printing posters for monthly talks, and the design and printing of invitation cards to the annual November Memorial Lecture. Contact Audrey Atter: audrey.atter@homecall.co.uk or 01962 863317.

Christmas Mass Collections

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.

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

20th December, 2009 to 3rd January, 2010
 (4th Sunday of Advent—Missal pp 713 & Weekday
 Missal pp 54 ; Psalter Week 4)
 (Feast of the Holy Family—Missal pp 717 & for the Weekday
 Missal See each weekday below. Psalter Week 1)

Sunday 20	Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)
Monday 21	Liturgy of the Day (Luke 1:39-45)
Tuesday 22	Liturgy of the Day (Luke 1:46-56)
Wednesday 23	Liturgy of the Day (Luke 1:57-66)
Thursday 24	Liturgy of the Day (Matthew 1:1-25) Christmas Eve Mass (Luke 2:1-14)
Friday 25	Christmas Day (John 1:1-18)
Saturday 26	Feast of St. Stephen (Matthew 10:17-22)
Sunday 27	Feast of the Holy Family (C)
Monday 28	Feast of the Holy Innocents - p 1844 (Matthew 2:13-18)
Tuesday 29	Feast of St. Thomas of Canterbury - p 1847 (Matthew 16:24-27)
Wednesday 30	Liturgy of the Day - p 91 (Luke 2:36-40)
Thursday 31	Liturgy of the Day - p 93 (John 1:1-18)
Friday 1 Jan	Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God - p 148 (Luke 2:16-21)
Saturday 2	Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen - p 103 (John 1:19-28)
Sunday 3	The Epiphany of the Lord (C)

Readings for the Feast of the Holy Family: Samuel 1:20-22.24-28. First Letter of St. John 3:1-2.21-24. Luke 2:41-52
Psalm Response: They are happy who dwell in your house, O Lord.

Readings for The Epiphany: Isaiah 60:1-6. St. Paul to the Ephesians 3:2-3.5-6. Matthew 2:1-12
Psalm Response: All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

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
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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 Alesford 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.

Cycle of Prayer:

This week, please pray especially for:

National: Expectant mothers.

Diocesan: Sisters of Christ in the Diocese. Parishes, communities and schools in the Southampton East Pastoral Area. All who promote collaborative ministry. Chaplains to those with special needs. The Bishop's Council. Catholic Children's Society. Altar servers and Archconfraternity of St. Stephen. Community of St. Stephen, Winchester.

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, Alesford.

Monday 18th to Friday 22nd January, every night from 7.00 to 7.30 p.m. at St. Gregory's - 'time for prayer' using material entitled 'You are Witnesses' prepared by Scottish Christians of all traditions.

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

Sunday 24th Jan at St. Gregory's - Unity Lunch at 12.30 p.m. Details of other events in Alesford 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, 7.30 p.m. in the Music School, Winchester College.



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 for the new Pastoral Centre at St Peters will be exhibited after Masses on the weekends of 13th and 20th December. A 3D model will be available at the 10.30am at St Peters and St Thomas More as they are having their turns this 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, small or large counts, 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: £1,102,986 from 207 pledges and gifts, with about £440,000 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, Alesford and St Thomas More, Stockbridge and further development at St Stephen's.

MASSES AND LITURGIES

19th December, 2009 to 2nd January, 2010

St. Peter's, Winchester

Masses:

Sat 19	6.00 pm	Brian Poulter RIP
Sun 20	8.00 am	Margaret Anderson RIP
	10.30 am	Mary and Margaret Downie RIP
	6.00 pm	No Evening Prayer and Benediction
	7.00 pm	Lionel Brookes RIP
Mon 21	12.15 pm	Mary Lucy King RIP
	7.30 pm	Parish Penitential Liturgy
Tue 22	8.00 am	Karen Holzapfel RIP
Wed 23	12.15 pm	Funeral Mass for Mary Campbell RIP
Thur 24	5.30 pm	First Mass of Christmas - Michael Ede RIP
	10.30 pm	Midnight Mass with carols from 10.15pm
Fri 25	8.00 am	Philip Felton RIP
	10.30 am	Cecila Cobb RIP
		No Evening Mass
Sat 26		No morning Mass in St. Peter's - Mass will be at 10.00 a.m. in St. Stephen's
	6.00 pm	Michael Ede RIP
Sun 27	8.00 am	William Meader RIP
	10.30 am	Intentions of the Hobbs family
	6.00 pm	No Evening Prayer and Benediction
	7.00 pm	Mary White RIP
Mon 28	10.00 am	Members of Cosgrave and Gumbrell families RIP
Tue 29	8.00 am	Karen Holzapfel RIP
Wed 30	12.15 pm	Sister Angelina RIP
Thur 31	7.00 pm	John and Norah Wren RIP
Fri 1	10.00 am	Mike Todman RIP
Sat 2	9.00 am	Philip Felton RIP

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Sat 11.30 am - 12.30 pm and 4.30 pm - 5.00 pm
No Confessions on the 26th December

Eucharistic Adoration:

Tue 9.00 am - 8.00 pm) No Eucharistic
Wed 1.00 pm - 8.00 pm) Adoration until
Thur 9.00 am - 5.00 pm) Tuesday 5th January 2010

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St. Gregory's, Alresford

Sun 20	11.00 am	Mass
Mon 21	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Tue 22	10.30 am	Mass - Neil Intention
Wed 23	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Thur 24	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
	8.30pm	Midnight Mass—readings and carols from 8.00 p.m.
Fri 25	11.00 am	Mass
Sat 26		No service
Sun 27	11.00 am	Mass
Mon 28	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Tues 29	10.30 am	Mass
Wed 30	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Thur 31	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Fri 1	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Sat 2	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

✱

St. Stephen's, Oliver's Battery

Sun 20	9.15 am	Mass - Michael Ede RIP
Thur 24	7.30 pm	First Mass of Christmas with readings and carols from 8.00pm
Fri 25	9.15 am	Mass
Sat 26	10.00 am	Mass - Peter Weston RIP all altar servers welcome
Sun 27	9.15 am	

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St. Thomas More's, Stockbridge

Sun 20	9.00 am	Mass - People of the Parish
Fri 25	9.00 am	Mass
Sun 27	9.00 am	Mass

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

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.

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