

Hampshire Downs Catholic Parish



Alresford ♦ Stockbridge ♦ Winchester

PARISH OFFICE:

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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) 27th November, 2011

Sunday Missal p493 - Weekday Missal p3 - Psalter week 1

I would like to thank Mike Slinn, the Coordinator of our Justice and Peace Group, for giving me the opportunity to speak about my sabbatical experience in Israel/Palestine. Thanks as well to all those who came along to listen.

As I said at the talk on Wednesday, the scriptural core of my month in Israel/Palestine was the study of Mark's Gospel. This is the Gospel which we hear at Mass today, because, as we begin the Church's year this weekend, it is St. Mark and his Gospel which provides the scriptural and theological focus for our reflection and catechesis this year.

In today's passage, St. Mark urges us to stay awake and remain alert. Living lives that are so full of activity and opportunity and surrounded, as we are, with so much that could be seen as threatening or the cause of anxiety, there is often a temptation to escape into flights of fantasy that have no grounding in the real world. St. Mark's message is that we must remain forever vigilant to what is taking place in the present historical reality. St. Mark's Jesus urges his followers to be rooted in the present because it is here that we meet Christ and it is here that salvation will ultimately come about. It is this world which is the raw material for the next, that is why it is so sacred. PJT

Today sees the beginning of Advent. Please come along to the Advent Liturgy at St. Gregory's, Alresford today at 4.00pm. This is a marvellous opportunity for all the different worshipping communities to come together for a single liturgy with an opportunity to meet each other afterwards.

The Advent Penitential liturgies will be celebrated on Saturday, 17th December at 10.30am and on Monday, 19th December at 7.30pm, both in St. Peter's. Please come along to one of these celebrations so as to receive the Sacrament of Penance before the celebration of the Lord's birth. PJT

Holy Land 2012: Following the success of recent pilgrimages I have been asked to run another one to the Holy Land next October. Before I begin detailed planning I need a rough idea of numbers. So, please complete the tear-off slip which can be found on the monthly diary at the back of all churches and return it to the Parish Office. PJT

TODAY'S MASS - LITURGY OF THE WORD

1st Reading: Isaiah 63:16-17. 64:1. 3-8

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

2nd Reading: First letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia! Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life. Alleluia! Open our hearts to your word.

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

TODAY

Parish Advent Service at St. Gregory's, Alresford today at 4.00pm. Refreshments to follow. Minibus transport available from St. Peter's. Please contact the Parish Office.

No Evening Prayer and Benediction in St. Peter's.

Retiring collection at all Masses today for the Covenant with the Poor.

THIS WEEK

Monday 28th November - Following Canon Paul's talk, 'A Month in Jerusalem' you are invited to watch a new film 'Little Town of Bethlehem'. Here three young men, from the 3 biblical faiths, (Christian, Jewish and Muslim) tell their stories, and their involvement in a non-violent struggle for peace in Israel/Palestine. Milner Hall, 7.30pm. (Refreshments from 7.00pm).

Tuesday 29th November - Christmas Edition of the Chaplain's Contact Lunch from 12.30 to 1.30pm (come and go as you need) in the Milner Hall. Do come along. e-mail chaplain@winccc.org.uk for catering purposes if possible or just turn up. Please consider what you would choose as a 'Hope for the World' this Christmas.

Thursday 1st December - Mass at St. Mary's, Twyford at 7.00pm. **Please note there will be no 7.00pm Mass in St. Peter's that day.** The celebration will be hosted by the community of St. Mary's led by the new Rector, the Rev. Johan Watts. Refreshments will be provided by the Catholics of Twyford. Please come along.

Friday 2nd December - The Youth Band meets from 6.00 to 7.30pm at St. Stephen's. **(Meet again on the 16th December.)** Mince pies and ice cream and Christmas tunes are planned. All young people welcome. Bring your musical instrument.

Saturday 3rd December - St. Gregory's Bazaar will take place in the Community Centre, West Street, Alresford from 9.30am to 12.30pm. Santa's little helpers would be most welcome from 5.00pm on Friday 2nd December to help set up the stalls at the community hall. If anybody has any spare Xmas decorations, could they lend or donate them to help make the hall a bit more festive. Volunteers to help clear up after the event would also be most welcome. Please phone Jim King: 01962 732180.....and DON'T FORGET TO COME ALONG & ENJOY THE MORNING!

NEXT WEEKEND

Sunday 4th December - Retiring Collection at all Masses for the SVP. If you are a taxpayer, please remember to use one of the Gift Aid envelopes provided.

Sunday 4th December - Family Mass in St. Peter's at 10.30am.

LOOKING AHEAD

Monday 5th December - Catholic History Group meets at 8.00pm in the Milner Hall. 'Bishop Gardiner of Winchester' by Dr. Glyn Redworth, Reader in History at Manchester University. Non-members £3.

Friday 16th December - Hyde/Abbots Barton Area Mass. We shall be joining five elderly parishioners living in Matilda House, (opposite the swimming pool, Gordon Road) for our annual Advent Mass at 7.00pm.

Please pray for Cyril Eaton and Ruby Arnold who died this week. May they rest in peace.

THANK YOU:-

- from the Youth Band to parishioners at the 6.00pm and 9.15am Masses last weekend for your welcome of our young musicians.

We acknowledge with thanks: Last week's collection: (Alresford, Stockbridge and Winchester): £3,967.27

OUTREACH AND MISSION

Street Pastors - Are you interested in becoming a street pastor in 2012? We are now recruiting for a training programme starting in January. If interested apply to Mark Hibbert-Hingston, our administrator on 01962 854454 or e-mail winchester@streetpastors.org.uk. Alternatively, call Steve Taylor on 01962 867117 to chat about it.

Basingstoke Life is pleased to announce the successful opening of their Life Shop on the 19th November. Many thanks to all in Winchester to have supported this venture. Any donations for the shop, please contact Tricia Hobbs on 01962 882244.

Christ at the Christmas Market: This year there will be a Christian Stall at the Cathedral Christmas Market. It will operate from 24th November to 21st December between 10.30am and either 6.00 or 7.30pm. Christians from all churches are needed to cover sessions on the stall for 2 or 3 hours at a time. Contact Hannah at Christchurch - 857986 to have a slot allocated to you or talk to Steve Taylor - 867117 or Peter McManus - 854080.

The CAFOD Portsmouth office is urgently looking to expand its campaign volunteers in the diocese to help raise awareness of global issues and help change the structures that keep people poor by lobbying governments and international bodies. Can you help promote CAFOD campaigns in your parish once or twice a year, distributing action cards and/or speaking about the campaigns at Mass? Full support and training provided. Contact: CAFOD Portsmouth office: portsmouth@cafod.org.uk or 01252 329385.

GENERAL

First Communion 2012: Please see the monthly diary for information and a tear off slip.

Confirmation Programme 2012 - The Hampshire Downs Confirmation Programme starts in January with Confirmation on the 26th June and we would like to invite you and your young person to come to an information session on Thursday 15th December in St. Stephen's Church at 7.30pm. **Please note change of venue and time.** This is an opportunity to find out a bit more about what confirmation is about and some important dates. For young people it is a great opportunity to meet other young people who are thinking about joining the programme and find out about how the programme will run. Do come along, no commitment is required yet. Call Don West on 07730487774 or don.west@ntlworld.com for queries.

Christingle Service: There will be no 'Christingle' this year unless co-ordinators step forward to help organise the event. If you would like to coordinate a Christingle service this year contact Sanna Dean (sannadean@lineone.net) and Louise Cutts have some useful notes.

St. Peter's volunteers who clean the Church Brass candlesticks etc. would welcome more volunteers to join their rota. **This work will only take an hour of your time once every eight to ten weeks.** If interested please contact Margaret Guppy on 01962 841322 for more details.

St. Paul Sunday Missal for 2012 - would St Gregory's subscribers please purchase direct from Redemptorist Publications, Wolf Lane, Chawton, 01420 88222 - Cost: £6.00 plus postage & packing.

St Peter's Catholic Primary School – Vacancy for Foundation Governor - Bishop Crispian, who has absolute discretion in the appointment of Foundation Governors, is seeking applications from committed baptised Catholics who wish to be considered. The governors of a Catholic school work as a team, in close co-operation with the headteacher and all staff. In addition to the legal responsibilities of the Governing Body, the Foundation Governors have a responsibility for preserving the religious character of the school, sustaining and developing the school as a Catholic educating community. Appropriate training is available during the period of service. CRB and other safeguarding checks are undertaken. The main criteria will be skills offered and availability to attend governors meetings in evenings and early mornings and regular visits to the school. Application packs are available from the Parish Priest and the School Office. Closing date for receipt of applications: 9th December 2011

MASSES AND LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

26th November to 3rd December 2011

St. Peter's, Winchester

Masses:

Sat 26	6.00 pm	Mass - Robert Keen RIP
Sun 27	8.00 am	Mass - Martin Boyle RIP
	10.30 am	Mass - Mrs. Rose Harvey of Guernsey RIP
	6.00 pm	NO Evening Prayer and Benediction
	7.00 pm	Mass - For deceased members of the Zulu and Mlotshwa families
Mon 28	12.15 pm	Mass - Anne Reynolds
Tue 29	8.00 am	Mass - Anne Reynolds
Wed 30	12.15 pm	Mass - For the Riera family - in thanksgiving
Thur 1	7.00 pm	No 7.00pm Mass - Mass is at St. Mary's, Twyford at 7.00pm
Fri 2	10.00 am	Mass at St. Barnabas, Weeke
	12.15 pm	Mass - John Hill RIP
Sat 3	9.00 am	Mass - Bridget Woodman RIP and Margaret Scott RIP

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 - 4.00 pm

St. Gregory's, Alresford

Sun	11.00 am	Mass - People of the Parish
	4.00 pm	Parish Advent Service
Mon	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
Tue	9.00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion
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 - Special Intention

St. Thomas More's, Stockbridge

Sun 9.00 am Mass - Bronck Gawlik RIP

NOTICES

Please send newsletter items to the Parish Office by 5.00 pm Wednesday. Please keep items as concise as possible and note that they may be edited.

Communion for Sick and Housebound - If you are housebound, even for a short time, and would like to receive Communion at home, please contact the Parish Office.

A Minibus service is available for people living in the Winchester area to bring you to 10.30am Sunday Mass at St. Peter's and take you home. Please contact the Parish Office.

Advent Groups. Hampshire Downs parish is again offering all members of the community the opportunity to join 'house groups' this Advent. Groups will be reflecting on the Sunday readings for Advent with the theme Stay Awake: Alert to God's Presence - Listening, Dreaming, Doing. Sign up sheets are available at all Churches this weekend. **Too busy to join a group?** The packs are available for sale from the bookshop or to download from the parish website. Please contact Augusta Wolff or 07825757287, augustawolff@googlemail.com for more information.

These groups are currently available:

Mondays 2.15pm Convent: Tuesdays 8.00pm Cranworth Road: Wednesdays 7.30pm Kingsworthy: Wednesdays 7.30pm St. Cross: Wednesdays 10.00am Oliver's Battery: Thursdays 11.00am Fulfood: Thursdays 7.30pm Woodfield Drive.