

# Hampshire Downs Catholic Parish

Alresford ♦ Stockbridge ♦ Winchester



## PARISH OFFICE:

The Old Georgian, 29 Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RY  
Tel: 01962 852804 - e-mail: office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) 4th December, 2011

Sunday Missal p497 - Weekday Missal p20 - Psalter week 2

St. Mark tells us that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea. A group of us went to that same wilderness during our pilgrimage to Israel/Palestine a few weeks ago. As we were pestered by the desert flies, who found us irresistible, it was easy to understand why St. Mark has two meanings of wilderness in his Gospel. As he speaks of the wilderness of Judea, where Jesus discovered John the Baptist, he is also speaking of the wilderness that is always part of our own human experience.

For each of us the 'wilderness' takes different forms. It could be a fear, a constant anxiety, a difficult or demanding relationship, an illness or just the routine of a busy and exacting lifestyle. Any of these might include an area of our life which is need of healing and the power of the Holy Spirit to bring peace and reconciliation.

All this is why John the Baptist in the 'wilderness' puts repentance at the heart of his message as does Jesus a little later in the chapter "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news." The Kingdom is near, the healing and forgiving power of God is near, so why not avail ourselves of it? Why not turn to God in our need and seek his healing and forgiveness?

The Advent promise that Jesus is always coming into our lives and is always close to us brings the invitation to put into words those parts of our lives that need forgiveness and healing.

Repentance or turning back to God must be a constant part of our spiritual experience. On regular occasions we must celebrate that turning back to God; that conversion, in the Sacrament of Penance or Confession. **Advent is one of those occasions which is why I have arranged two 'Penitential Liturgies' with opportunities for sacramental confession. The first will be on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December at 10.30am and the second on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm. Please celebrate this sacrament during Advent, either at one of these liturgies or at one of the usual times for the Sacrament of Penance.** PT

## PASTORAL CENTRE

Landscaping outside and decoration inside has started. The link door work will take place this Wednesday and involve some noise and dust. There will be some dust and safety protection inside the church in that area for the day.

## TODAY'S MASS - LITURGY OF THE WORD

**1st Reading:** Isaiah 40:1-5. 9-11

**Psalm Response:** Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.

**2nd Reading:** Second letter of St. Peter 3:8-14

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

**Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8

## TODAY

**Retiring Collection** at all Masses today for the SVP. If you are a taxpayer, please remember to use one of the Gift Aid envelopes provided.

**Family Mass** in St. Peter's today is at 10.30am.

**There will be an Appeal for Street Pastors** after all Masses in St. Peter's today and after 9.15am Mass at St. Stephen's.

**There will be tea, coffee and fruit teas** served in the Milner Hall after the 10.30am Mass today. This is free of charge, please come and meet your fellow parishioners.

## THIS WEEK

**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.

**Saturday 10th December - Mass is in Winchester Cathedral** at 10.00am this Saturday. **No 9.00am Mass in St. Peter's.**

## NEXT WEEKEND

**Sunday 11th December - Retiring collection** at all Masses for Christmas flowers.

**Sunday 11th December - Mass in the Extraordinary Form** is at 12.15pm in St. Peter's.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Friday 16th December - Hyde/Abbots Barton Area.** 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.

**Saturday 17th December - Churches Together in Alresford** will be carol singing in Broad Street, Alresford. All welcome.

**Sunday 18th December - united Carol Service** at St. Peter's Church, Stockbridge at 6.00pm. All are welcome.

**Thursday 22nd December - Carol Concert** in St. Peter's at 7.30pm. Do please come and join us. **Mass that day is at 12.15pm, not 7.00pm.**

**Saturday 24th December - St. Thomas More Prayer Group** meet from 3.00 to 5.00pm at St. Barnabas, Weeke.

**Saturday 24th December - Christmas Eve Carols in the hospital:** Carols will be sung around the wards of our hospital in Winchester. Everyone is welcome to come and sing. We meet at 6.00pm in the chapel of the hospital and will expect to finish carolling about 7.30pm. Mince pies and coffee will be served in the chapel area after we have finished singing. You are assured that the patients and staff thoroughly enjoy the occasion and it is good fun for the singers too.

**Christmas Day - Churches Together in Alresford Family Style Christmas Lunch.** Are you eating alone on Christmas Day? Why not join us at Makin's Court. Only £5 a head. Please contact Judith Fricker tel: 01962 734391 by Friday 16th December. Also, if you would like to volunteer your services - cooking, serving & washing up, please let us know. Donations of food, small Secret Santa presents, even money are also welcome.

**On Thursday this week, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** Mass will be celebrated at 7.00pm in St. Peter's. This is an important feast of Our Lady. It teaches many things: 'that the beginning of life is important and laid down by God; that God surrounds the life of each person with redemptive love and loving fidelity; that Mary was given the great gift of freedom and trust so that she could enter fully into that act of faith and assent that opened her to the gift of becoming the Mother of God.' Please come along to celebrate this beautiful feast in honour of Mary. PJT

## We acknowledge with thanks: Last week's collection:

(Alresford, Stockbridge and Winchester): £3,753.87

Retiring Collection: Covenant wit the Poor: £2,469.65

## 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](mailto:winchester@streetpastors.org.uk). Alternatively, call Steve Taylor on 01962 867117 to chat about it. There is an appeal after all Masses in Winchester today.

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

**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](mailto:portsmouth@cafod.org.uk) or 01252 329385.

**Cabrini Children's Society Carol Service** on 14th December 2011 in the presence of Bishop John Hine at 6.00pm at St. George's Cathedral, Westminster Bridge Road, Southwark. contact Ann Hoggan: email [ann.hoggan@cabrini.org.uk](mailto:ann.hoggan@cabrini.org.uk) or 020 8668 2181 We look forward to seeing you there.

## GENERAL

**Poinsettias at St. Stephen's in memoriam** - If you would like to bring a poinsettia in memory of a loved one, please bring the plant with a waterproof pot (not just a saucer) and label it with the loved one's name(s) to St. Stephen's for the 9.15am Mass on 18th December 2011 or on the following Friday 23rd at 9.30am. Contact: Liz Tipple - 01962 861918.

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

**Confirmation Programme 2012** - The Hampshire Downs 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.** Do come along, no commitment is required yet. Call Don West on 07730487774 or [don.west@ntlworld.com](mailto:don.west@ntlworld.com) for queries.

**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.

**Do you like singing? Come and join the Christmas morning choir at St. Peter's.** At 10:30am Mass at St Peter's, we hope as usual to provide a choir to support the singing, and to relieve the parish choir who will have sung at Midnight Mass. This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone who likes to sing, but is unable to attend choir rehearsals all year round. We particularly want to welcome anyone who has not sung with us before, but would like to experience singing in a choir, and maybe even be inspired to sing more regularly in the parish. For this Christmas Day choir, you do not have to read music, nor be an expert singer. The sole qualification is a desire to sing and praise God on this most joyful feast. After all, where better to enjoy singing Christmas carols this year? If you are interested, please contact Martin McElroy on 865159 or [martin.f.mcelroy@gmail.com](mailto:martin.f.mcelroy@gmail.com).

**Decorating St Gregory's for Christmas** - the Christmas flower arrangers' list is on the porch notice board. Donations of cash can be put in the 'Flowers' slot. Please be generous. Offers of foliage also most welcome.

**Readers and Special Ministers at St Gregory's** - the rota for the first half of 2012 is about to be prepared. If you wish to join the readers' rota or change your arrangements, please contact Paul Kennedy - 01962 735287.

**Welcome** to Charlotte Cobbold, Michele Riccitelli and Zane Ward who were baptised in St. Peter's last weekend.

**Please pray** for Kathleen Coell who died this week. May she rest in peace.

## MASSES AND LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

3rd to 10th December 2011

### St. Peter's, Winchester

#### Masses:

Sat 3	6.00 pm	Mass - Henry and Maureen Szymanski RIP
Sun 4	8.00 am	Mass - Deceased relatives of the Cosgrove and Gumbrell families
	10.30 am	Mass - Brigitte Vitoria RIP
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Evening Prayer and Benediction</b>
	7.00 pm	Mass - Special Intention
Mon 5	12.15 pm	Mass - Benjamin James Summerfield RIP
Tue 6	8.00 am	Mass - Deceased members of the Clinton family
Wed 7	12.15 pm	Mass - Mary Harvey RIP
Thur 8	7.00 pm	Mass - Richard Wheble RIP
Fri 9	12.15 pm	Mass - Mary Julia Wheble RIP
Sat 10	10.00 am	Mass in Winchester Cathedral Anthony Letchworth RIP

**No 9.00am Mass in St. Peter's**

#### 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 - Terry Redvers Dorey RIP
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 - Madge Heather RIP

### St. Thomas More's, Stockbridge

Sun 9.00 am Mass - People of the Parish

## 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.

## THANK YOU:-

**Advent Day of Prayer:** I would like to thank all those who came and all the members of the organizing team for an excellent day last Saturday. So many spoke appreciatively about quality of the workshops and the opportunity to share faith with other Christians. The day was a great gift to the people of this parish and, following my request, the team has agreed to arrange another Day of Prayer later on. PJT

**Thanks to Dr. Mary Grey** for running the evening last Monday on the plight of the Palestinians who live in Bethlehem. Dr. Mary showed a film and arranged a collection at the end which was given to me to send to my preferred charity in Israel which is the Franciscan Family Centre in Bethlehem. Thanks for that generosity. So far I have been able to send just over £300 to Sr. Maria Grech who runs that centre. PJT

**I would like to thank Amy Finlay and Peter Redding** who finish their terms as Foundation Governors at St Peter's school this month. They have put in a tremendous amount of work with admissions, welcoming new parents and various other projects. The school is a very important part of our parish and governors have a crucial role in supporting the life of a Catholic school and its links with the parish. PJT