

# Hampshire Downs Catholic Parish



Alresford ♦ Stockbridge ♦ Winchester

## PARISH OFFICE:

The Old Georgian, 29 Jewry Street, Winchester, SO23 8RY  
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## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) 18th December, 2011

Sunday Missal p504 - Weekday Missal p54 - Psalter week4

I was privileged to be part of the Advent Liturgy at St. Peter's School this week. All the children were involved in a liturgy that gave us adults an opportunity to pause and to reflect with them on the beauty and power of the Advent promise.

Today we listen to the Gospel of the Annunciation to Mary. In the promise made to Mary we hear the essence of the promise made to us all. Like her we are chosen to be the recipients of God's many gifts and his Word which brings the power to bring our lives to fullness both in terms of our personhood and our mission to our brothers and sisters.

As she heard the angel Gabriel's message, Mary was deeply disturbed and asked herself what the greeting could mean. In so many ways, God's Word is speaking to us: through others; through life; through prayer; through love and through pain and emptiness. All we need do is ask the Lord in prayer about the meaning of his message to us and he will make it clear. More and more we will come to understand the meaning of the Advent promise and experience the truth that 'nothing is impossible to God.' PJT

**PLEASE SEE THE CHRISTMAS LITURGY SHEET FOR TIMES OF MASSES OVER CHRISTMAS**

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED BETWEEN CHRISTMAS AND THE NEW YEAR. IT WILL RE-OPEN ON TUESDAY, 3RD JANUARY 2012**

### TODAY'S MASS - LITURGY OF THE WORD

**1st Reading:** Second Book of Samuel 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16

**Psalm Response:** I will sing for ever of your love, O Lord.

**2nd Reading:** Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 16:25-27

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

**Gospel:** Luke 1:26-38

*(10.30am and 7.00pm only)*

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

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

(Alresford, Stockbridge and Winchester): £3,891.41  
Retiring Collection for Christmas flowers - St. Peter's: £ 379.95  
- St. Stephen's £ 101.63

### Message from the Finance and Property Committee:

The collection at all Masses on Christmas Day will form a contribution to Fr. John and to Canon Paul and forms part of their annual income.

## TODAY

The Christmas edition of CrossKeys is available at the back of all churches. Do please take a copy.

**United Carol Service** at St. Peter's Church, Stockbridge at 6.00pm today. All are welcome.

## THIS WEEK

**Monday 19th December - Advent Penitential Liturgy** at 7.30pm in St. Peter's.

**Thursday 22nd December - Carol Service** in St. Peter's at 7.30pm with a brass quintet playing, followed by mulled wine and mince pies in Milner hall. We would like lots of people to come and sing. Do please come and join us. **Mass that day is at 12.15pm.**

**Friday 23rd December - Blue Christmas** - 10.30am in St. Peter's. For many people there are split emotions as Christmas approaches. Some of us feel even more keenly the pain of hurt, bereavement, separation or regrets; others feel alienated by the manifest 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 please come and make use of this space of gentleness and peace, and pray with us for healing and wholeness.

**Saturday 24th December - No 9.00am Mass in St. Peter's.**

**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.

## NEXT WEEKEND

**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.

## LOOKING AHEAD

**Saturday 7th January - Feast of the Epiphany.** There will be drinks and nibbles in the Milner Hall after 6.00pm Mass. All are welcome.

**Monday 9th January - Winchester Catholic History Group - 'The Turbulent Lifetime of Thomas Vachell'** by Tony Hadland, Author and Editor of Oxfordshire Family Historian at 8.00pm in the Milner Hall. Non-members £3

**Thursday 12th January - Inspire Youth Group** meet from 7.00 to 8.30pm in St. Stephen's.

**Sunday 15 January - Churches Together in Alresford Week of Prayer for Christian Unity** Lunch in the John Pearson Hall. More details after Christmas.

## THANK YOU

- To Brian Mustoe, who is the Editor of CrossKeys, and to Dinah McLaughlin for this week's 'Advent 2011' edition.
- To all those who support the SVP. Their members were able this month to distribute 40 Christmas food parcels (12 more than last year) to individuals and families in need, because of the generous donations to the Society by members of the parish.

## GENERAL

**Minibus Service to Christmas Masses:** A minibus will run to and from St Peter's for the 5.30pm First Mass of Christmas on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> and to the 10.30am Mass on Christmas Day. Please ring the parish office to book a place by Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December as we will have to organise the route and collection times. The service is intended to help those not able to make their own way to Mass and also those whose usual scheduled bus is not running.

**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 this Sunday or on the following Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 26<sup>th</sup> June. The first meeting for candidates is Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January from 7.00 to 9.00pm in St. Stephen's.

**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 now ready, please collect a copy if you have not received one by e-mail.

**St. Peter's Readers** - The next Readers' Rotas are ready for collection in the Sacristy.

**St Gregory's subscribers to 'Living Faith'** - your January booklets are on the St Gregory's porch trolley.

## OUTREACH AND MISSION

**Thank you from CAFOD** - Lynda and Laura from the CAFOD Portsmouth office would like to thank all parishioners for their support and generosity throughout the year and wish everyone a blessed peaceful Christmas and a joyful New Year

**Corpus Christ Retreat: This is My Body.** Within the Monastic rhythm of Douai Abbey (near Reading), Mary Dunn will lead a residential weekend retreat exploring what it means for each one of us to be part of the Body of Christ in our world. She will outline the context of Contemporary Spirituality so that individuals can find their own personal spiritual approach. There will be opportunities for silence, for participating in the Office of the Abbey, for sharing, and for familiar and new prayer experiences. These things will all be optional. Mary Dunn is a retired Clinical Psychologist, Therapist, and Spiritual Director. She has organised a series of Spirituality Workshops in The New Forest, and taken part in Diocesan prayer events.

**Date:** 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> June 2012. **Price:** £125 single; £95 sharing. **To Book:** contact the Parish Office on 01962 852804 or email [office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk](mailto:office@stpeterswinchester.org.uk). A non-refundable deposit of £40 is required. Places are limited so will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis.

## MASSES AND LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK 17th to 24th December 2011

### St. Peter's, Winchester

#### Masses:

Sat 17	6.00 pm	Mass - John Winn RIP
Sun 18	8.00 am	Mass - Alfred Wild RIP
	10.30 am	Mass - Manning family RIP
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Evening Prayer and Benediction</b>
	7.00 pm	Mass - Margaret Bird RIP
Mon 19	12.15 pm	Mass - Birthday Intention
	7.30 pm	Advent Penitential Liturgy
Tue 20	8.00 am	Mass - Benefactors
Wed 21	12.15 pm	Mass - Catherine and Patrick Doyle RIP
Thu 22	10.30 am	Blue Christmas
	12.15 pm	Mass - Alan Loveys RIP
	7.00 pm	Carol Concert
Fri 23	12.15 pm	Mass - Mary Lucy King RIP
Sat 24	9.00 am	<b>No 9.00am Mass</b>

#### Sacrament of Reconciliation:

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

#### Eucharistic Adoration:

Tue Eucharistic Adoration  
Wed has ceased for the  
Thur Christmas period

### St. Gregory's, Alresford

Sun	11.00 am	Mass - Laurence Bradley 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

### St. Stephen's, Oliver's Battery

Sun 9.15 am Mass - People of the Parish

### St. Thomas More's, Stockbridge

Sun 9.00 am Mass

## 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.

## WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 22ND TO 27TH JANUARY

Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	12.30-1.00pm	Lunchtime Prayers United Church, Jewry Street
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	12.30-1.00pm	Lunchtime Prayers City Church, Jewry Street
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	6.00-9.00pm	Prayer Vigil St. Swithun upon Kingsgate
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>	12.30-1.00pm	Lunchtime Prayers St. Peter's
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>	12.30-1.00pm	Lunchtime Prayers St. Swithun upon Kingsgate

### Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

Shared ministry at various times and venues during the morning 6.30pm Christian Unity Service at the Cathedral  
Speaker: Fr. Timothy Radcliffe.

**Welcome to Johan Gregory** who was baptised in St. Peter's last weekend.