

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

CHRISTMAS DAY (B) 25th December, 2011

Just after the birth of John the Baptist, his father Zechariah prays a beautiful prayer called the Benedictus. At the end of his prayer he says "By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace." The peace of which he speaks is the restoration and communion that comes with the birth of Mary's Son. The word "communion" points to a gift that is divine and which changes humanity and creation for all time. In the birth of Jesus we are invited on to a path of ongoing conversion open to divine intimacy that brings total restoration and restored communion.

All of us are on that journey towards restoration and communion and all of us are committed to work for it through lives of respect, love and compassion. This is the journey of peace which brings an end to strife to warring people, an overcoming of social divisions that segregate and an orchestration of cosmic and universal peace. My prayer for everyone this Christmas is that the Lord will bless us with that peace of which Zechariah speaks and that our community will point to the "way of peace" in everything we do and say.

I would like to wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas.

A big thank you to everyone for all the good wishes, greetings and gifts that we have received in the run up to Christmas. (PJT)

TODAY'S MASS - LITURGY OF THE WORD

Vigil Mass

1st Reading: Isaiah 62:1-5

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

2nd Reading: Acts of the Apostles 13:16-17. 22-25

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! Tomorrow there will be an end to the sin of the world and the saviour of the world will be our king. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 1:1-25

Midnight Mass

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-7

Psalm Response: Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord.

2nd Reading: St. Paul to Titus 2:11-14

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! I bring you news of great joy: today a saviour has been born to us, Christ the Lord. Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 2:1-14

Christmas Day Mass

1st Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10

Psalm Response: All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

2nd Reading: Hebrews 1:1-6

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia! A hallowed day has dawned upon us. Come, you nations, worship the Lord, for today a great light has shone down upon the earth. Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1:1-18

TODAY

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.

THIS WEEK

Monday 26th December - St. Stephen's Day or "Boxing Day" is the day when we celebrate the Patronal Feast of St. Stephen's Church. The parish Mass will be celebrated there at 10.00am and all the Altar Servers will be present as St. Stephen is their patron as well. Please come along to this liturgy. There will not be a celebration of Mass at St. Peter's Church on this day.

Tuesday 27th is a Bank holiday. Mass in St. Peter's is at 10.00am

Friday 30th December - The Solemnity of the Holy Family will be celebrated and Mass will be at 12.15pm

NEXT WEEKEND

There will be no St. Gregory's Cake sale in January.

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.

Friday 13th January - Youth Band meet from 6.00 to 7.30pm at St. Stephen's

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

Monday 16th January - The Justice and Peace Group meet at 7.30pm in the Milner Hall.

Wednesday 18th January - The St. Stephen's Pastoral Group meets at 7.30pm in St. Stephen's Community Room.

Friday 20th January - Churches Together in North Winchester Ecumenical Service is at 7.30pm at St. Barnabas, Weeke.

Monday 30th January - The Covenant with the Poor Group meets at 7.30pm in the Parish Office, The Old Georgian. The meeting will be looking at suggestions for future projects and everyone is welcome.

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

We acknowledge with thanks: Last week's collection:
(Alresford, Stockbridge and Winchester): £3,447.91
Retiring Collection £

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.

Welcome to Charles Vera who was baptised in St. Peter's last weekend

GENERAL

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. The first meeting for candidates is Thursday 5th January from 7.00 to 9.00pm in St. Stephen's. For information, contact Don West on 01962 865153 or don.west@ntlworld.com or you can go on the parish website for the programme and registration form.

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.

TOYS, TOYS, TOYS, new and old are needed by the **Catholic Women's League** as gifts for the **Winchester Domestic Abuse Service**. Boxes are in every church or donations can be sent to the school. Toiletries and duvets/pillows/towels are still acceptable. **Also, gifts for mothers will be appreciated.**

Big Fishes Football: Fancy a little outdoor exercise at River Park Leisure Centre, Winchester on Sunday nights (8.30pm kick off). Join a group of parish soccer enthusiasts aged from 14 to 58. Just turn up on the night with £3 match fee, £2 students (any excess is donated to charity) or speak to one of the regulars who include: Brian Mustoe (01962 854241), Mark Pellegrini, Pascal Baker, John Tutton, Eugene Wills and Rudi Krook.

OUTREACH AND MISSION

Saturday 28th January to 5th February - Poverty & Homelessness Action Week 2012. Open information evening on 2nd February at the Discovery Centre.

Saturday 11th February ~ Cafod Supporters Meeting, 10.00am to 1.15pm at St Bede's Catholic Primary School, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX. An opportunity for all CAFOD supporters to get together. Refreshments provided. Booking essential by 31st January - contact the CAFOD Portsmouth Office 01252 329385 or Portsmouth@cafod.org.uk

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 a peaceful Christmas and a joyful New Year.

Friday 3rd February to 5th February 'Stop-Get Ready-Go' Weekend of Prayer organised by the Department of Pastoral Formation. Contact Eileen Stephenson, on 01329 835583 or email: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

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:** 8th-10th June 2012. **Price:** £125 single; £95 sharing. **To Book:** contact the Parish Office on 01962 852804 or email 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. **All Parishioners are welcome.**

MASSES AND LITURGIES FOR THE WEEK

24th to 31st December 2011

St. Peter's, Winchester

Masses:

Sat 24	5.30 pm	First Mass of Christmas - Ellen Wigger and Joseph Wigger RIP
	10.30 pm	Carols at 10.15pm followed by Mass Robert Wallis RIP
Sun 25	8.00 am	Mass - Philip Felton RIP
	10.30 am	Mass - Peggy Jones - Private Intention
		NO Evening Prayer and Benediction
		NO Evening Mass
		NO Mass
Mon 26		
Tue 27	10.00 am	Mass - The Hobbs family RIP
Wed 28	12.15 pm	Mass - Emma Luck RIP
Thu 29	7.00 pm	Mass - Karen Holzapfel RIP
Fri 30	12.15 pm	Mass - Kath Summerfield RIP
Sat 31	9.00 am	Mass - Alba Braganza RIP

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

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

Eucharistic Adoration:

Tue Eucharistic Adoration has ceased
Wed for the Christmas period
Thur and resumes on Tuesday, 10th January 2012

St. Gregory's, Alresford

Sat	8.30 pm	Carols at 8.00pm followed by Mass
Sun	11.00 am	Mass - People of the Parish
Mon	9.00 am	Mass
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

Sat	7.30 pm	First Mass of Christmas
Sun	9.15 am	Mass - Molly's Intention
Mon	10.00 am	Peter Weston RIP

St. Thomas More's, Stockbridge

Sun	9.00 am	Mass - Adele Kilroy RIP
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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 23rd	12.30-1.00pm	Lunchtime Prayers United Church, Jewry Street
Tuesday 24th	12.30-1.00pm	Lunchtime Prayers City Church, Jewry Street
Wednesday 25th	6.00-9.00pm	Prayer Vigil St. Swithun upon Kingsgate
Thursday 26th	12.30-1.00pm	Lunchtime Prayers St. Peter's
Friday 27th	12.30-1.00pm	Lunchtime Prayers St. Swithun upon Kingsgate

Sunday 22nd January

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