

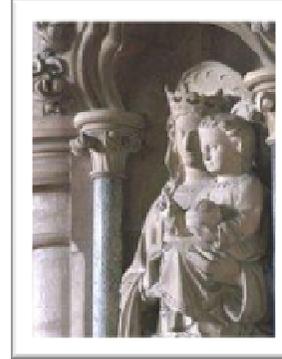
Advent—The Holy Season of Waiting

ADVENT is short—slightly over three weeks—with its fourth and final Sunday very close to Christmas. The world of business and commerce, of schools and colleges—not to mention our own decorations and preparations—are pre-occupied by Christmas and it takes real spiritual energy to engage instead with the holy season of waiting. But Christmas deserves our Advent preparations no less than we need the season of Lent to prepare to celebrate Easter. In both seasons—Advent and Lent—we are invited by the Church to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, to go to Confession.

The themes of Advent are very rich. The Four Last Things (Death, Judgment, Heaven and Hell) are prominent. So are the different comings—the different ‘advents’ - of Christ. The promised Saviour and the Servant Songs in the Book of Isaiah. The birth of an Infant in the Gospels of St Matthew and St Luke. The Logos of God—His Wisdom—taking flesh in the Gospel of St John. The coming again in glory of the Son of Man to judge the living and the dead, which we remember every time we say the Creed. The transformation of the whole of Creation in love and worship of Christ in glory. The role of Our Blessed Lady and her cousin, St John the Baptist. The great Antiphons describing the Messiah which highlight the run-up to Christmas, from 17th December onwards. Such a wealth of devotion and lovely music.

A collect from the Gelasian Sacramentary, the second oldest Western liturgical book, is a very fitting preparation for Holy Communion and for the forthcoming celebration of Christmas:

We beseech thee, Almighty God,
to purify our consciences by thy daily visitation,
that when thy Son our Lord cometh he may find in us
a mansion prepared for himself;
through the same Jesus Christ our Lord,
who liveth and reigneth with thee,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.



St Edmund Campion Deanery, Old Berkshire-
Thames ISIS Pastoral Area
www.thamesisis.org.uk
EAST HENDRED CATHOLIC PARISH
St Mary's Church, East Hendred
St Patrick's Church, East Ilsley

hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Priest: The Revd Mgr Andrew Burnham
01235 835038 or 07976 437979
aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

		YEAR C: Psalter Week 1
Sunday 2 nd December	ADVENT SUNDAY Mass: 9.30am St Mary's Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's	[PURPLE] <i>Pro populo</i>
Monday 3 rd December	St Francis Xavier, Priest Mass: 9.15am St Mary's	[white]
Tuesday 4 th December	<i>St John Damascene, Priest, Doctor of the Church</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary's	[white]
Wednesday 5 th December	<i>St Birinus, Bishop</i> Adoration: 11.45am St Mary's Mass: 12.15pm St Mary's	[white]
Thursday 6 th December	<i>St Nicholas, Bishop</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary's	[white]
Friday 7 th December	St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church Mass: 8.30am Hendred House <i>Adoration: 3pm Hendred House</i>	[white] <i>Holy Souls</i>
Saturday 8 th December	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Solemn Mass: 9.30am St Mary's	[white]
Sunday 9 th December	ADVENT 2 Mass: 9.30am St Mary's Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's	YEAR C: Psalter Week 2 [PURPLE] <i>Pro populo</i>
Confessions: Sundays at 8.45am or by appointment www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk		

THIS WEEK AND LOOKING AHEAD

GATHERING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Our next two meetings will be on Tuesday, (**December 4th**) and January 8th. At our meeting in December we shall finish our study of Paul's letter to the Romans and cover chapters 14-16. We meet in the parish rooms at 7.30pm and finish between 8.30 and 9.00. For more information contact Denis Smith; 01235 765564; djbm.smith@ntlworld.com.

SACKCLOTH AND ASHES DECEMBER 2018

On Friday (**7th December**), the Vigil of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting is urgently needed, and it really does save lives. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

NEWS FROM ST AMAND'S SCHOOL

St Amand's School Christmas Fair Friday (**7th December**) 3.30-6pm, all welcome! St Amand's is your local Catholic primary school, please contact Mrs Ellery Headteacher, via the school office on 01235 833342 or email office.3855@st-amands.oxon.sch.uk if you would like to visit.

SUNDAY EXTRA

The next meeting for First Communion Parents and members of the congregation is on **Sunday 16th December** at 11am. After this date first Communion classes for children will resume on Thursday 17th January at 4.30pm.

MUMS ON THE RUN

The next meeting is on **Monday (17th December)** at 8.15pm in the Holy Family Room. If you are a mum raising children, who would like a bit of time to chat and reflect with other mothers, please come along to these meetings. For more information, please contact Gillian at gilliangroeger@hotmail.com

CHRISTMAS GIVING FOR 'LITTLE PEOPLE'

During Advent we will be collecting small presents for children who will not be receiving much this Christmas. Please note we have changed the meeting date to **Saturday 15th December**. We would like to invite the children and young people to come and help preparing the presents. Everybody is welcome in the parish rooms from 10.30am. Please talk to Maria if you have any questions.

PARISH COLLECTION

Last Sunday's collection raised a total of £ 1082.70 of which 91 % was Gift aided.

FORTHCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

20 January 2019: Cathedral

NEWSLETTER | Please send all notices for next week's Newsletter to hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk by **Wednesday 10 am**

Find us on  

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS

BAPTISM AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.



THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

Sr Catherine, Mary Wallace, Brenda Paddon, Alfie Bartlam, Jadvyga Adasko and Angus Clark. Names remain for four weeks.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Those who have died recently and those with anniversaries at this time: *Mary Wiley, Christine Buck, Denis Buckley, Rebecca Smith, Thomas Champ, Winnifred Elphick, Kathleen Ellaway, Francis Leo Stibbs, Hilda Balcombe and Catherine Couling.*

HOLY FATHER'S NOVEMBER PRAYER INTENTION - Evangelization – *In the Service of the Transmission of Faith.*

That people, who are involved in the service of the transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.

MORE THAN A CHRISTMAS DINNER!

Don't plan your own Christmas hospitality until you have planned a gift to those less fortunate. For £28.18 you can give a homeless person a warm welcome and good company, three nutritious hot meals including a delicious Christmas dinner, a bed for the night if needed, a chance to shower, freshen up and get clean clothes, a health check plus expert help with mental health and addiction problems as well as advice on housing/employment. To donate online please go to www.crisis.org.uk

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA – STELLA MARIS

Each year the **Apostleship of the Sea** seeks your kind donations of woolly hats, toberone chocolates as well as other personal items in support of the many seafarers who work upon the high seas. As well as those much needed items, **AoS** also invites the Faithful to donate any extra rosaries, bibles or small crucifixes. Financial donations are most welcomed as well. For more information on how you may be able to help, please go to www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk.

HOW WILL YOU USE THIS ADVENT TO PREPARE FOR CHRISTMAS?

Here are a few ideas to help you make the most of this Advent: Sign up for Advent reflections from Bishop Robert Barron directly to your inbox at DailyCatholicGospel.com or Pray more Advent Retreat at praymoreretreat.com

ARE YOU NEW TO OUR PARISH?

If you have recently joined our parish, please complete the registration form (yellow or green sheets at the back of the church). The information you provide is strictly confidential and of great help for Fr Andrew's ministry.