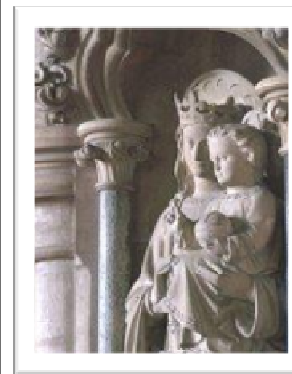


Catholics and the General Public

Contemporary Catholicism in England and Wales is a report produced by Dr Stephen Bullivant, director of the Benedict XVI Centre for Religion and Society at St Mary's University, Twickenham. Analysing data from the British Social Attitudes Survey he discovers that only just over half of those brought up Catholic still see themselves as Catholic. Most of the remaining 40% describe themselves as having 'no religion'. Comparative figures for the population as a whole suggest that 44% of the general public still describe themselves as 'Christian', in one sense or another, as against 56% of those who were brought up as Catholics. Of the general public, 8.3% describe themselves as 'Catholic', and 19.8% as Anglicans. Though Catholics apparently have the best record for maintaining their faith (56%), Catholic figures, as ever, are inflated by immigration. Only 7.7% of Catholics are converts and ten times as many people as that are amongst those who, though brought up as Catholic, no longer regard themselves as such. 40% of those who describe themselves as 'Catholic' rarely, if ever, go to Mass. Almost a quarter of those who go to Mass every week, or more often, are women over 65.

These figures are challenging – not least because they suggest a decline, even from the 2011 census, where over 59% described themselves as Christian. A decline from 59% (a Christian majority) to 44% (a Christian minority) in the space of five years would be serious but, of course, the British Social Attitudes Survey (based on a sample of 1,160) is inevitably different from the census (which surveys the whole population). The particular challenges for Catholics are: (1) how to we sustain 'cradle Catholics' in their Faith so that they do not lapse, or renounce the Faith?; and (2) how do we present the Faith so that more people are drawn to join the Catholic Church? There is evidence here of serious decline, but the falling away of conventional churchgoing is about social change, not least the changing weekend, where the Victorian Sabbath has been replaced by a Sunday of Family and Fun, Shopping and Sports.

What the Catholic Church has spent too much energy on is trying to reach out to the lapsed. The indications are that this is the hardest seam to mine. Our energy, it seems, should be expended on proper catechism – of adults as well as children. Those who know and understand their Faith are much less likely to drift away from it or undervalue it. We must also cease to run a chaplaincy to the Catholic culture and increasingly run a mission to the general public. The Gospel is a life and death issue, an issue of eternal life and eternal death, and, to put slightly differently what Pope Emeritus Benedict has recently said, if we lose the urgency of the message of judgment and salvation, religion becomes an optional extra for nice people instead of an anchor and lifeline in a turbulent world.



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

Sunday 12th November	SUNDAY 32A PER ANNUM Year A: Psalter Week 4 Requiem Mass and Parade: 9.30am St Mary's, East Hendred Remembrance Sunday Service: 11am War Memorial Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's, East Ilsley <i>Pro populo</i>
Monday 13th November	<i>Of Week 32</i> [green] Mass: 9.15am St Mary's <i>FM Cecilia Anne Dearlove 1942</i>
Tuesday 14th November	<i>Of Week 32</i> [green] Mass: 9.15am St Mary's <i>F M Agnes Gardner 1945</i>
Wednesday 15th November	St Albert the Great, Bishop and Doctor [white] Adoration: 11.15am St Mary's Mass: 12.15pm St Mary's <i>FM Annie Maud Eyston 1943</i>
Thursday 16^h November	St Edmund of Abingdon [white] Mass: 9.15am St Mary's <i>FM Canon Luck 1919</i>
Friday 17th November	St Hugh of Lincoln, Bishop [white] Mass: 8.30am Hendred House <i>Adoration: 3pm Hendred House</i> <i>Holy Souls</i>
Saturday 18th November	Our Lady St Mary on Saturday [white] <i>No Mass at St Mary's. Mass at 9.30am at English Martyrs, Didcot</i>
Sunday 19th November	SUNDAY 33A PER ANNUM Year A: Psalter Week 1 [GREEN] Mass: 9.30am St Mary's, East Hendred <i>Pro populo</i> Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's, East Ilsley <i>Pro populo</i>
	Confessions: Sundays at 8.45am or by appointment www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

THIS WEEK AND LOOKING AHEAD

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

TODAY, remembrance Sunday the Scouts & c will be on parade at St Mary's this year. (Nowadays St Augustine's and St Mary's alternate the privilege of hosting the parade). After Mass we shall be going to the War Memorial (outside Champs Chapel) for the short ecumenical act of worship that takes place there each year.

CHRIST AT THE HEART OF THE CURRICULUM

Our Diocesan Catholic Academies and Schools Office invite you to a four part course, beginning on **15th November** and led by Fr Andrew Pinsent from the University of Oxford, to explore how diverse subject areas can deepen the Christian identity of schools. Attend in person or via live stream. More details in poster at church.

YOUTH GROUP - LASER KOMBAT

The next youth group event will be a Laser Kombat game in Oxford on **Saturday 18th November**.

CAFOD MEMORIAL MASS

A mass of remembrance for all those CAFOD supporters, family and friends who have passed away will be held on **Sunday 19th November** at 10am at St Michael & All Angels Church Leigh Park. Everyone is welcome.

MUMS ON THE RUN

Join us on **Monday 20th November 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. Contact Gillian Groeger for more information gilli-angroeger@hotmail.com

GIVING SUNDAY: ANNUAL REVIEW

On **Sunday 26th November**, the Hendred Buildings and Finance Council is presenting a 'Giving Sunday', and opportunity for people to review their planned giving, or to join our scheme. It will also be an opportunity to think about moving from envelopes to making a Standing Order or claiming Gift Aid. The Treasurer, Anne Dalton, has prepared a copy of the accounts for everyone to see and the Chairman, Chris Harrison, is preparing a leaflet, setting out what we hope to achieve in the coming year.

PARISH COLLECTION

Last Sunday's collection raised a total of £923.37 of which 89% was Gift Aided. We collected £217.24 for Bamenda.

NEWSLETTER | Please send all notices for next week's Newsletter to Maria at 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

Kathleen Doyle, Sr Catherine, Mary Wallace, Brenda Paddon, Alfie Bartlam, Jadhya Adasko, Angus Clark and Ann McCarthy. Names remain for four weeks.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Those who have died recently *Lucy Kelly* and those with anniversaries at this time: *Ann Maud Eyston, Elizabeth Rivers, Mary Eyston, Adelaide Battley, Canon Thomas Luck, Edith Lily O'Driscoll, Gerrard Felle, Rose Anne Rooke, Gertrude Corby and Marjorie Mockler.*

HOLY FATHER'S NOVEMBER INTENTION - *Christians in Asia*

That Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions.

PARISH GROUPS

GATHERING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Meets on the first **Tuesday** of the month at St Mary's Parish rooms. Starting at 7.15pm (coffee)

MUMS ON THE RUN

Meets at 8.15pm on the third **Monday** of the month at St Mary's Holy Family room.

ST MARY'S YOUTH GROUP

As advertised.

YOUTH ADVENT RETREAT DATES

Saturday 2nd December at St Edmund's from 3-6pm - 'Waiting for the coming of the Lord' - with Monsignor Andrew Burnham

Sunday 3rd December at Holy Rood Catholic Church - 9-11am - 'Waiting for the coming of the Lord' - with Brother Isaac Maria Wharton OP.'

DIDCOT FOODBANK NEWS

Firstly, a big thank you to the children at all the schools and congregations of local churches who donated items so generously from their Harvest Festivals last month. Thanks to your generosity there is enough food to keep us going through the winter. However these items are still needed: tinned meat, fish and vegetables and pasta, UHT milk and fruit juice. Please read the whole letter from the Foodbank which is in the porch.

A MAGNIFICAT PRESENT FOR CHRISTMAS

"Magnificat is a pocket size worship aid. It can be used to follow the daily Mass and can also be read at home for personal or family prayer". A yearly subscription costs £42. If interested please go to www.catholicherald.co.uk/magnificat/