

Nativity of St John the Baptist

IN THE Northern Hemisphere the Summer Solstice occurs about 21st June and the Winter Solstice around 21st December. This gives us the popular phrases 'the longest day' and 'the shortest day'. If we add the Spring Equinox and the Autumn Equinox, we can associate the four quarter days around these dates: Annunciation [Lady Day] (25th March), St John the Baptist (24th June), Michaelmas (29th September) and Christmas Day (25th December). Lady Day was originally thought of as New Year's Day – the beginning of the cycle of salvation – and Christmas Day the feast when the darkness of winter is penetrated by the Light of Christ. The nine months between Annunciation and Christmas represent Our Lady St Mary's pregnancy.

The Annunciation story tells us that Mary's cousin, Elizabeth, was six months' pregnant when the Archangel Gabriel visited Mary in Nazareth. Hence, three months on from the Annunciation, we have the Nativity of St John the Baptist, Elizabeth's child, on 24th June. St John the Baptist's father, in the *Benedictus Dominus*, the canticle used every morning in the Church, speaks of the coming of the Dayspring, the dawn from on high. So St John the Baptist's Day celebrates the dawning of the Light of Christ.

The Nativity of St John the Baptist, one of the oldest feasts of the Christian church, was originally celebrated, like Christmas, with three Masses: a vigil, at dawn, and at midday. Usually it is the day of a saint's death that is celebrated – that day is a kind of heavenly birthday. Exceptions to this rule are the Nativity of Our Lady (8th September) and the Nativity of St John the Baptist (24th June). St Mary, in the first moment of her existence, was free from original sin, whereas St John the Baptist (who died before the Crucifixion) was cleansed of original sin in the womb of his mother.

Fr Andrew



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 18th June	CORPUS CHRISTI Mass (said): 9.30am St Mary's Mass with First Communions: 11am St Mary's Mass 11.15am St Patrick's	Year A: Week 3 [WHITE] Pro populo Pro populo
Monday 19th June	<i>Of Week 11</i> School Mass: 9.15am St Mary's Funeral Mass for Dinah Tuson 11am St Patrick's	[green]
Tuesday 20th June	<i>St Alban, Martyr</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary's	[red]
Wednesday 21st June	St Aloysius Gonzaga Adoration: 11.45am Mass: 12.15pm St Mary's	[white]
Thursday 22nd June	<i>SS John Fisher, Bishop, Thomas More, Martyrs</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary's	[red]
Friday 23rd June	THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS Mass: 8.30am Hendred House Adoration: 3pm Hendred House	[white]
Saturday 24th June	THE NATIVITY OF ST JOHN THE BAPTIST Mass: 9.30am St Mary's	[white]
Sunday 25th June	SUNDAY 12 PER ANNUM Mass: 9.30am St Mary's Mass 11.15am St Patrick's	Year A: Week 4 [WHITE] FM Thomas More Eyston 2012 Pro populo
Confessions: Sundays at 8.45am or by appointment www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk		

DAY FOR LIFE

Today is a Day for Life in the Church's year dedicated to raising awareness about the meaning and value of human life at every stage and in every condition. The Church teaches that life is to be nurtured from conception to natural death.

FUNERAL MASS

The funeral Mass for Dinah Tuson will be on **(Monday) 19th June** 11am, at St Patrick's.

MUMS ON THE RUN

The next meeting is on **(Monday) 19th June at 8.00pm** 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 gilliangroeger@hotmail.com

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING FOR LIFE

On **(Wednesday) 21st June**, the vigil of Sts John Fisher and Thomas More, please Pray and Fast for the end of abortion in this country. Thousands of babies are saved from abortion each year by Catholic, Pro-Life work, backed up with your Prayer and Fasting. Please see poster in church or go to www.goodcounselnetwork.com

SUMMER IN THE FOREST

A remarkable new film about the inspirational Catholic philosopher Jean Varnier and the L'Arche communities he founded. It will be shown at **6.30pm on Monday 26th June** at the Oxford Phoenix picture. The film tells the story of the search for love and friendship by the intellectually disabled members of the L'Arche communities in France and Bethlehem. Booking is advised from www.summerintheforest.com. See poster in church for more details.

GATHERING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

At our next meeting on **Tuesday July 4th**, we continue our study of the story of David in the Old Testament and will be using excerpts from chapters 26, 27 and 28 of the first book of Samuel to help us discuss and pray together. All are welcome. We start with coffee and biscuits in the parish rooms at about 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start; the normal finishing time is about 8.30 - 45.

SUMMER EVENTS IN THE PARISH - KEEP THESE DATES!

13th August St Mary's Festival Lunch and **17th September** St Patrick's BBQ.

PARISH COLLECTION

Last Sunday's collection raised a total of £806.77 of which 80% was Gift Aided.

FUTURE COLLECTIONS

Peter's Pence: 25th June

Apostleship of the Sea: 9th July



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



BAPTISM AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

We remember in our prayers those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

We remember in our prayers *Kathleen Doyle, Sr Catherine, Mary Wallace, Brenda Paddon, Alfie Bartlam, and Jadryga Adasko*. Names remain for four weeks. Please request further inclusion.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

We remember in our prayers those who have died recently especially *Dinah Tuson* and *Jenny Ayres* and those with anniversaries at this time: *Lawrence Castle, Anne Hogan and George John Castle*.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CHILDREN

Today we pray especially for *James Fisher, Luke Hayward, Isabella James, Aidan Jensen, Roseanna McCarthy, Matthew Porter, Ella-Maria Rennie, Aleksandra Stankiewicz, Harriet Swanzy, Andres Upfold, Sebastian von Wenden, Matthew von Wenden and Ethan Wilkins*.

HOLY FATHER'S JUNE INTENTION - NATIONAL LEADERS

That national leaders may firmly commit themselves to ending the arm trade, which victimizes so many innocent people.

GOLF DAY

Join us for a relaxing day of Golf organised by the Catenian Association in aid of CAFOD's work overseas on **7th July** at 12.30pm at Dummer Golf Course, Dummer Village, Basingstoke RG25 2AD. For more information and an application form please contact Dave McKenna on 07931 564064 or e mail dave.rose.mckenna@gmail.com

ST MARY'S LENDING LIBRARY

There are a variety of books for spiritual reading available to borrow at the back of the church. Please feel free to browse them and if you would like to take one with you just put your name next to the title of the book you are taking in the sheet provided. No urgent returns. Enjoy them!

YOUTH POLL

In October 2018 the General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops will cover the theme of "Young People, the Faith and Vocational Discernment". The Pope and all the Bishops want to hear the views of as many young people as possible, so everyone aged 13-29 have been invited to participate in an enormous survey! Many of you have already seen the Mega Youth Poll on social media sites like Facebook and Twitter, but if you haven't, you can go to www.catholicnews.org.uk/synod-youth-poll to complete the survey (it should only take about 15 to 20 minutes). There's also a survey for anyone who cares for or works with young people in England and Wales.

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC PRAYERS

Leaflets are available at the back of the church with helpful prayers to know and use every day. Donations are welcomed.