

FEAST OF THE WEEK:

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8 September)

From a sermon of John of Ford (1140-1214), abbot of a Cistercian house at Forde, Dorset
 When Jesus was speaking to the crowds, it was not one of the band of the apostles, not one of the council of elders, but simply one of the women there in the crowd who 'lifted up her voice' (see Luke 11:27), and proclaimed that the womb that bore Him was blessed. The example of this woman has given me the courage to dare, in my turn, to say something about the blessedness of this womb. And in sober truth, above all that can be said or thought, that womb is blessed indeed, pregnant with so sacred an offspring, heavy with so light a burden, guardian of a trust so precious. That womb is a marriage chamber of very great tenderness, rich in the most noble seed, and it contains a great and very holy secret. It has knowledge of great mystery and it bears very great dignity.

But clearly, that womb was blessed even before it carried the Lord. Day and night, with a most pure desire and the longing of a hold an consecrated love, it prepared itself to bear its holy burden. In the silence of her heart, Mary said to herself: 'Let him kiss me with the kiss of his mouth' (Song of Songs 1:1). There has never been another soul, or rather, there has never been one of the blessed spirit, not even from that most blissful of the nine choirs that takes its name from the fire of charity and refreshes the heat of its immense love by the continual contemplation of eternity and the ceaseless praise of the holy Trinity: no, not even among the cherubim has any one made progress like hers in desiring and receiving this kiss.

So then, to make her ready for such grace, from her mother's womb she was fashioned by Him who established the heavens, and every single moment, during the successive stages by which God established her, the fullness of grace was built up. One day she would become God's mother, and then an angel would call her 'full of grace' (*Luke 1:28). So her womb is blessed in the very manner of its establishment in blessedness, yet it is far more blessed when it finally, in a divine and indescribable way, receives its most blessed burden. Blessed indeed, though, most blessed, is that womb when it bore Him, when it formed Him, when it was in labour with Him, when it brought Him to birth.

In short, just as all grace and glory flowed from this woman's body, so it can be said that every generation of saints truly arose from her by what we can only call the wonderful mystery of divine fruitfulness. Let me repeat it: the mother of Jesus is not only the mother of our glorious head, Jesus Christ, Mediator between God and man, but she is also the mother of all who love Jesus, of the whole of Jesus' sacred body.

Impart to your servants, we pray, O Lord, the gift of heavenly grace, that the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin may bring deeper peace to those for whom the birth of her Son was the dawning of salvation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Readings for the Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Ezekiel 33:7-9; Psalm 94; Romans 13:8-10; Matthew 18:15-20



St Edmund Campion Deanery, Old Berkshire
 Thames Isis Pastoral Area

Hinksey Catholic Parish

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SUNDAY 3 September	SUNDAY 22 PER ANNUM (YEAR A) DIVINE OFFICE WEEK 2 Saturday Vigil No 5pm Mass Confessions 6.10pm Our Lady of the Rosary Mass 6.30pm Our Lady of the Rosary Mass 7.30pm Holy Rood (in Portuguese) Sunday Sung Mass 9.15am Our Lady of the Rosary <i>Pro populo</i> Sung Mass 11.15am Holy Rood Sarah Stedman RIP (Anniv)
Monday 4 September	St Cuthbert No Mass
Tuesday 5 September	<i>Feria (Tuesday of Week 22 per annum)</i> Adoration 8.00pm Our Lady of the Rosary
Wednesday 6 September	<i>Feria (Wednesday of Week 22 per annum)</i> No Mass
Thursday 7 September	<i>Feria (Thursday of Week 22 per annum)</i> No Mass
Friday 8 September	The Nativity of Our Lady No Mass
Saturday 9 September	St Peter Claver No Mass Wedding 12.30pm Holy Rood Matthew and Emma
SUNDAY 10 September	SUNDAY 23 PER ANNUM (YEAR A) DIVINE OFFICE WEEK 3 Saturday Vigil No 5pm Mass Confessions 6.10pm Our Lady of the Rosary Mass 6.30pm Our Lady of the Rosary Mass 7.30pm Holy Rood (in Portuguese) Sunday Sung Mass 9.15am Our Lady of the Rosary <i>Pro populo</i> Sung Mass 11.15am Holy Rood <i>Pro populo</i>

Our Lady of the Rosary, Botley, OX2 9BD ✕ **Holy Rood**, Abingdon Road, OX1 4LD
St Thomas More, Grace Dieu, Boars Hill, OX1 5DN

TODAY We give a warm welcome to Fr Alistair Jones from Blackfriars who will be offering the holy sacrifice of the Mass in our parish. Fr Martin Flatman will be joining us next weekend.

DAILY MASSES NEARBY | Blackfriars, St Giles, OX1 3LY Mo-Fri 7.30am and 6.15pm, Sa 8.30am and 6.15pm. (as of 4 September 2017)
The Oratory (St Aloysius) OX2 6HA M-F 7.30am, 10.00am, 6.00pm, Sa 10.00am. Confessions 20 mins before Mass.

Please remember that if you or a relative or friend go into hospital, you will need to alert the Catholic Chaplain. *Fr Daniel*

HOLIDAYS | Please note that the parish office will be closed from **Tuesday 5 until Friday 22 September (inclusive)**.

DISCERNMENT WEEKEND 15-17 September ✕ Are you a man over thirty, content, but wondering about the direction of your life? Have you sometimes found yourself wondering whether the priesthood or religious life may be an option? If any of these questions apply, this weekend is for you. For more information and how to register please go to the UKpriest website www.ukpriest.org/discernment-events

FORTHCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS | 17 September Home Mission Sunday; 24/9 The Cathedral

PARISH COLLECTION TOTALS
Week ending 27 August 2017
Main collection plate: £366.22
Standing orders: £583.75
Parish giving info: Cheques should be made to PRC DTR North Hinksey Our Lady. Bank transfers to account number 00883337, sort code 309304.

CHILDREN'S DIARY

Children's activities take place during the 9.15am Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary.
10 September: Children's liturgy resumes. For more information, contact Blanka mccarthybb22@hotmail.com

RIDE & STRIDE 2017 | The annual Ride & Stride event is taking place this coming **Saturday 9th September**. Many thanks to all volunteers welcoming visitors to our churches.

DIOCESAN DAY FOR ALTAR SERVERS | Bishop Philip would like to invite all altar servers from across the diocese to join me for a special Day for Altar Servers on **Saturday 9 September**.

BRING AND SHARE LUNCH | We will be celebrating the Patronal Feast of the Triumph of the Cross at Holy Rood Church on **Sunday 17 September** after the 11.15am Mass. Please keep this date free!

1061 RETREAT | At Dowry House Walsingham on the 15-17 September. As part of our commitment to offer support and formation to those signed up to be Parish Youth Ambassadors, some of us will be attending this retreat. This is an opportunity to network with other Youth Ambassadors from around the UK. The weekend includes Sacraments, Praise and Worship, Eucharistic Adoration and outstanding formation from guest speakers.

ESSENTIAL TRAINING FOR CATECHISTS | Five sessions to cover five essential themes in children and adult catechesis and Children's Liturgy of the Word. Starting **15 September** at St Joseph's Church Hall, Aldershot. For more information please see poster in church.

IN OUR PRAYERS

THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED | *Andres Barranco, Anderson Barranco, Sean Hodgkins, Vanessa Clark, John Finch, Maurice McAvoy, Peggy Duhig, Anne Lansberry, Ted Renshaw, Catherine Harker, Brian and Mary Hodgkins, Moira Fryer*

APF BOXES | (To be a Christian is to be a Missionary). Please return your Missio Red Boxes to the church for counting. Many thanks as always to - Bernie Cowley, Maura Dennehy, Claire Guest, Jessie Walker, Helena Felici and Catherine Harker our parish promoters.
Barbara Pearson (Local Secretary)

PRAYERS PLEASE ✕ For Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor who is seriously ill in hospital. Cardinal Nichols writes, knowing that "these loving prayers are a source of great strength and comfort as he calmly ponders on all that lies ahead, all in God's good time. May the Lord strengthen him in faith and trust and may the prayers of the Church, which he loves so much, comfort and uphold him".

PRAYER WORKS! | Fr Gerard Flynn, Vocations Director, thanks all those kind people who prayed for the cause of priestly vocations. As this new academic year begins we are blessed to have **fourteen seminarians** in formation for the priesthood in the Diocese. Please continue praying for each of our seminarians and for those inquiring and all youngsters who will seek God's unique call in their lives in years to come.

CATECHESIS MEETS EVANGELISATION | A training and resource day for confirmation catechists at St Bede's Basingstoke, on **Saturday 30 September** from 9.30am-4pm. Cost £10. If interested please see poster in church or youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

ORDINARIATE | Mass, Saturdays at 5pm (for the Sunday obligation); Said Mass, 6.30pm on Thursdays, both at Holy Rood. Masses using the Ordinariate Missal, which anyone is welcome to attend, are indicated by *Divine Worship* in the newsletter. NB No 5pm Saturday Mass on 2 and 9 September. Normal services resume Thursday 14/9.

HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTIONS | *Parishes*
That our parishes, animated by a missionary spirit, may be places where faith is communicated and charity is seen.

NOKIA PHONE FOUND AT OLOR
Left there probably last Sunday. Please contact Tess Sheppard at 01865 723803.

HELPING REFUGEES | The Diocesan Refugee Response Working Group is looking for new members. We welcome people with particular skills, administration, refugee issues, familiarity with benefits and into-work programmes and or project management skills. Interested? Please visit www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/rrwg or PCS@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call me on 01730 262 290. Fr Peter Hollins.

PARISH GROUPS |
YOUTH GROUP | as advertised
'LADIES OF THE PARISH' - COFFEE AND DISCUSSION GROUP | No coffee this month.
WOMEN'S READING GROUP | A group of women from the Parish meets once a month on Monday evening, 8.30-9.30pm to read and discuss together AMORIS LAETITIA. If you would like to join, please contact maria.rosa.antognazza@kcl.ac.uk.
MEN'S GROUP | Last Tuesday of the month, location & other details as advertised.