

ADVENT IV

With just a few hours between the conclusion of the Fourth Sunday of Advent and the beginning of Christmas, here is an extract from the *Divine Office*, from the Office of Readings for Christmas Day. We can read it in anticipation of what is coming, and we can also turn to it throughout the Christmas season. Do we take the idea of rejoicing at Christmas for granted? Perhaps some of these words will help us to remember why we ought to rejoice!

Christian, remember your dignity

Dearly beloved, today our Saviour is born; let us rejoice. Sadness should have no place on the birthday of life. The fear of death has been swallowed up; life brings us joy with the promise of eternal happiness.

No one is shut out from this joy; all share the same reason for rejoicing. Our Lord, victor over sin and death, finding no man free from sin, came to free us all. Let the saint rejoice as he sees the palm of victory at hand. Let the sinner be glad as he receives the offer of forgiveness. Let the pagan take courage as he is summoned to life.

In the fullness of time, chosen in the unfathomable depths of God's wisdom, the Son of God took for himself our common humanity in order to reconcile it with its creator. He came to overthrow the devil, the origin of death, in that very nature by which he had overthrown mankind.

And so at the birth of our Lord the angels sing in joy: Glory to God in the highest, and they proclaim peace to men of good will as they see the heavenly Jerusalem being built from all the nations of the world. When the angels on high are so exultant at this marvellous work of God's goodness, what joy should it not bring to the lowly hearts of men?

Beloved, let us give thanks to God the Father, through his Son, in the Holy Spirit, because in his great love for us he took pity on us, and when we were dead in our sins he brought us to life with Christ, so that in him we might be a new creation. Let us throw off our old nature and all its ways and, as we have come to birth in Christ, let us renounce the works of the flesh.

Christian, remember your dignity, and now that you share in God's own nature, do not return by sin to your former base condition. Bear in mind who is your head and of whose body you are a member. Do not forget that you have been rescued from the power of darkness and brought into the light of God's kingdom. Through the sacrament of baptism you have become a temple of the Holy Spirit. Do not drive away so great a guest by evil conduct and become again a slave to the devil, for your liberty was bought by the blood of Christ.

—from a Sermon by Pope St Leo the Great

Readings for The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
Samuel 1:20-22,24-28; Psalm 83; John 3:1-2,21-24; Luke 2:41-52

St Edmund Campion Deanery, Old Berkshire Thames Isis Pastoral Area Hinksey Catholic Parish Parish Priest Fr Daniel Lloyd T 07584 323915 E dlloyd@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Parish Office Opening Hours Tuesday-Thursday 8.30am-1.30pm; Friday 1-4.30pm E hinksey@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk T 01865 247986 W hinkseyparish.org	
SUNDAY 23 December	FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Saturday Vigil 5.00pm Mass (<i>Divine Worship</i>) Confessions 6.10pm Our Lady of the Rosary Mass 6.30pm Our Lady of the Rosary <i>Pro populo</i> Mass 7.30pm Holy Rood (<i>in Portuguese</i>) Sunday Sung Mass 9.15am Our Lady of the Rosary <i>Haines Family</i> Sung Mass 11.15am Holy Rood <i>Mary Maleary RIP (Anniv.)</i> 1.30pm Baptism <i>Toby Patrick Haines</i> Our Lady of the Rosary Children's Christmas Workshop & Confessions 3.00-4.30pm
MONDAY 24 DECEMBER ✠	Morning: Mass 9.00am Holy Rood; Confessions until 10.15am. THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD Vigil Mass and Nativity Play 5.30pm Our Lady of the Rosary Night Mass 9.30pm Holy Rood <i>C. Marshall & B. O'Gara's Ints</i>
TUESDAY 25 DECEMBER Holyday of Obligation	Christmas Day Sung Mass 9.15am Our Lady of the Rosary Sung Mass 11.15am Holy Rood <i>J. Fallon RIP</i> Mass 6pm Holy Rood (<i>in Portuguese</i>)
Wednesday 26 December	St Stephen, Protomartyr Mass 10.00am Our Lady of the Rosary <i>Peter Cowley RIP (Anniv)</i>
Thursday 27 December	St John the Evangelist Mass 10.00am Holy Rood <i>M. Joyce Ints</i>
Friday 28 December	The Holy Innocents, Martyrs Mass 10.00am Holy Rood (<i>Latin, 1962</i>) <i>Mary Cassidy RIP</i> Requiem Mass 10.30am Our Lady of the Rosary (<i>in Portuguese</i>)
Saturday 29 December	St Thomas Becket, Bishop, Martyr, Patron of the English Clergy Mass 10.00am Holy Rood <i>Michal Giedroyc RIP (Year's Mind)</i>
SUNDAY 30 December	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH Saturday Vigil 5.00pm Mass (<i>Divine Worship</i>) Confessions 6.10pm Our Lady of the Rosary Mass 6.30pm Our Lady of the Rosary <i>Madeleine Farrell's Ints</i> Mass 7.30pm Holy Rood (<i>in Portuguese</i>) Sunday Sung Mass 9.15am Our Lady of the Rosary 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	

CRIB OFFERINGS | The parish will be donating crib offerings to Friends of the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially around Bethlehem, The West Bank, Gaza and Israel. FHL is non-political and ecumenical, www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk and please keep our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land in your prayers.

COFFEE AFTER WEDNESDAY MORNING MASS | Resumes **16 January**.

PARISH OFFICE | Please note the office will be closed until **11 January** (inclusive).

THE CHRISTMAS OFFERING | The collection taken at Christmas Masses in this country goes to the support of the parish priest. It forms a significant part of the priest's annual income. There are yellow envelopes available for this purpose in church this weekend, if you would like to contribute. It is, as ever, gratefully received.

PARISH COLLECTION TOTALS
Week ending 16 December 2018
Main collection plate: £505.87
Standing orders: £ 652
Parish giving info: Cheques should be made payable to:
PRCDTR North Hinksey Our Lady
Bank transfers to account number **00883337**, sort code **309304**.
For Gift Aid, please complete the gift aid declarations at the back of church and return to the parish office.

COUNTING ROTA
Sunday 23 December
Janet and Gerald

FORTHCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS | **13 January** White Flower appeal; **20 January** Cathedral.

CHILDREN'S DIARY
Our Lady's: Children's liturgy runs on Sundays, during the 9.15am Mass at Our Lady's.
23 December: Xmas workshop 3-4.30pm
24 December: Mass with Nativity Play 5.30pm
30 December No children's liturgy.
Thank you to Catarina for directing this year's Nativity Play
For any queries please contact Blanka mccarthybb22@hotmail.com
Holy Rood: Children's liturgy runs during the 11.15am Mass at Holy Rood.

OUR LADY'S SPARROWS | Our Lady of the Rosary's children's choir for those aged 6+ practises after the 9.15am Sunday Mass. For more information, contact Alex Lloyd at alvlloyd@gmail.com

CHERUBS: HOLY ROOD LITTLE CHOIR | Singing practice for our youngest musicians by the organ after the 11.15am Sunday Mass. Contact Julia Craig-McFeely via the parish office for more information.

YOUTH GROUP | 'Everyone (no age limit) can join us on **Saturday 5 January** at 16:00 at Freedog in Swindon for an afternoon of trampolining fun! Parents will need to bring their children to the venue and stay with them. Tickets for the session can be booked online or bought on the day (booking online is better to ensure they have a place). To book tickets and jump socks go to www.freedog.com/swindon

FUNDRAISING QUIZ in aid of East African Playgrounds a charity that builds playgrounds in refugee settlements and schools in East Africa on **Thursday 27 December at 7pm** in the Rosary Room tory.gorillatrek@hotmail.com

IN OUR PRAYERS
THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED |
Sean Hodgkins, Vanessa Clark, John Finch, Maurice McAvoy, Peggy Duhig, Anne Lansberry, Moira Fryer, Harold Crapper, Maura Dennehy, Chris Travis, Alex Lloyd
THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED |
Clifford Broome, Michelle Roche

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTIONS |
Evangelisation - That young people, especially in Latin America, follow the example of Mary and respond to the call of the Lord to communicate the joy of the Gospel to the world.

PRAYER REQUESTS ✖ If you would like a prayer for your own intention, for your parish or for any need, do go to the home page of the diocese website, scroll down to the "prayer request" button, where you can leave an anonymous request which will go to 40 intercessors throughout the diocese.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AT VIVA seeking a **Supporter Relations Manager** to build and develop relationships with individuals and churches (deadline: **14 January**) . Details at www.viva.org/jobs

YOUTH GROUP | See events advertised.
E tipayouth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
WOMEN'S READING GROUP | A group of women from the Parish meets once a month on a Monday evening, 8.30-9.30pm to read and discuss together *Amoris Laetitia*. **E** maria.rosa.antognazza@kcl.ac.uk.

ROSARY | Saturday morning after 9.00am Mass.
ADORATION | Tuesdays, 8.00-9.00pm, Our Lady's; Thursdays 7.00-8.00pm Holy Rood; Fridays 1.00-4.00pm Holy Rood
CONFESSIONS | Thursdays 7.00-8.00pm Holy Rood; Saturdays 9.30-10.00am Holy Rood; Saturdays 6.10-6.30pm Our Lady's.

ORDINARIATE | **Sung Mass**, Saturdays at 5.00pm (for Sunday); Thursdays 6.30pm, at Holy Rood. Masses using the Ordinate Missal, which all are welcome to attend, are indicated by *Divine Worship* in the newsletter.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING | The collection taken at Christmas Masses is for the material support of your parish priest. Envelopes are available for this purpose.

FUNDRAISING QUIZ in aid of East African Playgrounds: postponed for the time being. More details available from tory.gorillatrek@hotmail.com

DAY BY DAY ✖ January booklets are available at the back of the church (£1)

PILGRIMAGE COORDINATOR | We are looking for a volunteer to act as Parish Pilgrimage Coordinator. Several of the popular pilgrimage sites indicate their preference for dealing with named Pilgrimage Organisers when arranging bookings, accommodation, meals, etc (the Shrine at Walsingham helpfully adds: 'In our experience, it is usually more difficult for the priest to be organiser due to parish commitments'). If you might be interested in this, please speak to Fr Daniel.

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA seeks your kind donations of woolly hats, toblerone chocolates as well as other personal items for seafarers. Donations of rosaries, bibles or small crucifixes as well as financial donations are most welcomed. For more information and how to donate please visit www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk

RESERVE A PLACE AT CRISIS THIS CHRISTMAS | A place at Christmas for a homeless is more than just a hot dinner, a health check and a haircut. For £28.18 one guest will receive housing and job advice plus access to year round services at Crisis. To donate please go to www.crisis.org.uk