

## ALMSGIVING & THE EUCHARIST

Our English word 'alms' derives ultimately from the word *eleeo*, 'I have mercy/I have pity on' - compare *Kyrie, eleison*, 'Lord, have mercy'. We're used to thinking of alms as money: Oxfam urges us to 'give just two pounds a month', and even the clergy are compelled to rattle the donations tin from time to time. Our charitable gifts are not to be downplayed, but the measure of one's 'success' (for want of a better word) can never be determined solely by numbers—remember the Widow's Mite. Our giving shouldn't send us to the workhouse, but it *should* be sacrificial. This is true for money, but it's also true for time and talent as well. We had our grand fundraising push last year, of course, so we are somewhat let off that sort of talk for the time being, but I do urge those who weren't with us then to consider taking and completing one of our parish giving forms, which you'll find at the back of church. And, for those already in the process, it's never a bad idea to spend ten minutes reviewing what you give and how. Consider, too, what you might do in terms of talent and time given to the Church, and to all those in any kind of need. You (and God) know what you're capable of, so use Lent to see how closely matched the potential and the actual really are. We are greatly blessed by many people who do an awful lot behind the scenes, and I thank them for that. Might you join them?

As I say, giving isn't just about money. In his *First Apology*, written about 155AD, St Justin Martyr explains, with reference to early Christian worship, that they give what each thinks fit; and what is collected is deposited with the bishop, who succours the orphans and widows and those who, through sickness or any other cause, are in want, and those who are in bonds and the strangers sojourning among us, and in a word takes care of all who are in need.

Compare this with the Book of Tobit (12:7-10)

Prayer is good when accompanied by fasting, almsgiving, and righteousness. A little with righteousness is better than much with wrongdoing. It is better to give alms than to treasure up gold. For almsgiving delivers from death, and it will purge away every sin. Those who perform deeds of charity and of righteousness will have fullness of life; but those who commit sin are the enemies of their own lives.

Giving money will not get us to heaven: but it is the 'giving habit' of mercy, sacrificial, self-giving mercy and righteousness which we need to learn; almsgiving, whether in terms of money, time, or talent, trains us therein.

Almsgiving's intimate connection with the Eucharist is, then, not merely in the Sunday Mass collection. Rather, it's our response to God's gift to us, to our being able to have, in our midst, and in our very selves, the Body and Blood of Our Lord. Nothing we could ever give could ever get close to being a worthy and fitting thanks, but we can at least show that we're trying. 'Feeling thankful' atrophies if it is not matched with 'being thankful' and 'doing thankful'.

Almsgiving trains us in mercy and love, in true Christian charity: to borrow a phrase from the Ordinariate's *Divine Worship* missal, specifically from the Collect for Quinquagesima, the Sunday before Lent, God has taught us that 'all our doings without charity are nothing worth'. Charity isn't what you avoid talking about with those enthusiastic people who stop you on Cornmarket—Charity is a virtue, poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit. We learn to love by loving, and to give by giving. *Fr Daniel*

### Readings for the First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Psalm 50; Romans 5:12-19; Matthew 4:1-11



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  
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SUNDAY 26 February	<b>SUNDAY 8 PER ANNUM</b> YEAR A <span style="float: right;"><i>Divine Office Week 4</i></span> <b>Saturday Vigil</b> Mass 5pm Holy Rood ( <i>Divine Worship</i> ) <i>QUINQUAGESIMA</i> Confessions 6.10pm Our Lady of the Rosary Mass 6.30pm Our Lady of the Rosary <i>Eileen Smith RIP</i> Mass 7.30pm Holy Rood <i>Portuguese</i> <b>Sunday</b> Mass 9.15am Our Lady of the Rosary <i>Sr Nilda Pettenuzzo RIP</i> Mass 11.15am Holy Rood <i>Pro populo</i> <b>First Holy Communion Parents' Meeting 5pm Rosary Room</b>
Monday 27 February	<i>St Gregory of Narek, Religious, Doctor of the Church</i> <b>First Holy Communion Class 3.45-4.45pm Rosary Room</b> Mass 6.30pm Good Shepherd
Tuesday 28 February	Shrove Tuesday ( <i>Tuesday of Week 8 per annum</i> ) Mass 9.30am Our Lady of the Rosary Confessions 10-10.30am Adoration 8.00pm Our Lady of the Rosary Men's Group 8.30pm Rosary Room
Wednesday 1 March	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> <span style="float: right;"><i>Fasting &amp; Abstinence</i></span> <b>✠Confessions half an hour before and after each Mass✠</b> Mass & Imposition of Ashes <b>7.30am</b> <u>Our Lady of the Rosary</u> Mass & Imposition of Ashes 9am Holy Rood <i>Imposition of Ashes 2.30pm Cumnor Hill House Nursing Home</i> Mass & Imposition of Ashes 6.30pm Holy Rood ( <i>Divine Worship</i> )
Thursday 2 March	Thursday after Ash Wednesday Mass 6.30pm Holy Rood ( <i>Divine Worship</i> ) Adoration & Confessions 7-8pm
Friday 3 March	Friday after Ash Wednesday Mass 8.30am St Thomas More Mass 12.30pm Holy Rood ( <i>Latin 1962</i> )
Saturday 4 March	<i>Saturday after Ash Wednesday (Commemoration of St Casimir)</i> 9am Mass Holy Rood 9.30-10am Confessions
SUNDAY 5 March	<b>LENT I</b> YEAR A <span style="float: right;"><i>Divine Office Week 1</i></span> <b>Saturday Vigil</b> Mass 5pm Holy Rood ( <i>Divine Worship</i> ) Confessions 6.10pm Our Lady of the Rosary Mass 6.30pm Our Lady of the Rosary Mass 7.30pm Holy Rood <i>Portuguese</i> <b>Sunday</b> Mass 9.15am Our Lady of the Rosary Mass 11.15am Holy Rood <i>Pro populo</i>

**Our Lady of the Rosary**, Botley, OX2 9BD **Holy Rood**, Abingdon Road, OX1 4LD  
**Good Shepherd** Kennington, OX1 5LY **St Thomas More**, Boars Hill, OX1 5HD

**THE WHY? COURSE** | Is God calling you to: become a Catholic? To Marriage? To Ordination? To have your child baptised, or to take the plunge yourself? Is your child getting ready for First Holy Communion? Do you want to learn more about your faith? Or discuss something you've always wondered about? The award-winning *Why?* Course begins this Lent, held in the **Holy Rood Meeting Room**. All very welcome.

**Session I** Saturday 4 March 10-11am  
or Sunday 5 March 3.00-4.00pm

**Session II** Saturday 11 March 10-11am  
or Sunday 12 March 3.00-4.00pm

**Session III** Saturday 18 March 10-11am  
or Sunday 19 March 3.00-4.00pm

**MEN'S GROUP I** The second meeting of the Men's Group will be on **Tuesday 28 February at 8:30pm** at the Rosary Room next to OLOR Church. There will be short prayer time followed by an open discussion on current affairs. All men welcome and refreshments provided. Contact Chris on 07747 467729.

**APF RED MISSION BOXES** (To be a Christian is to be a Missionary) ✕ Please return your Red Mission 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)

**ROTAS THIS WEEK**  
**Counting Tuesday 28 February**  
Stella O'Gara and Isabel Howes

**PARISH COLLECTION TOTALS**  
**Week ending 19 February 2017**  
Main collection plate: £447.09  
Standing orders: £533.75

**NEWSLETTER** | Please send all notices for next week's Newsletter to the **Parish Office** by **Thursday 10 am** email [hinksey@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:hinksey@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**CHILDREN'S DIARY**  
*Children's activities take place during the 9.15am Mass at Our Lady of the Rosary.*

**19 March** - Children's Mass. No children liturgy.

**26 March** - Mothering Sunday Brunch after Mass.

**2 April** - Teaching Mass for FHC children. If your child would like to take part in Readings, Bidding prayers or music, please let Blanka know. Children's liturgy runs every Sunday unless stated otherwise. Please contact Blanka at [mccarthybb22@hotmail.com](mailto:mccarthybb22@hotmail.com)

**HINKSEY YOUTH GROUP MEETS ON SUNDAY 5 MARCH**  
**11-14 yr olds - 2:30pm - 4pm** at the Rosary Room followed by **Mass at 4:15pm** at Our Lady of the Rosary, Yarnells Hill, Oxford, OX2 9BD. Please contact Melanie at [tipayouth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tipayouth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**CAFOD LENT FAST DAY FRIDAY 10 MARCH I** Florence is a hard-working mother who is devoted to her family. A few years ago she was only just making enough to feed her family. CAFOD's partner, the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary gave her 500 tiny fish, tools and training to build a pond and farm fish. Now she is able to send her children to school. Please support this Lent Fast Day, to ensure more people like Florence can turn tiny fish into something amazing.

**NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH** ✕ It will take place from **10-18 March** at **St Joseph's Church, Maidenhead** and at **Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool**. Each year the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the feast of St Joseph with this Novena. You are invited to send your petitions or to request a Novena booklet to join in from home. For more details see poster at the back of the church as well as leaflets for petitions to be placed at the Masses during the Novena.

**IN OUR PRAYERS**  
**THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED** | *Andres Barranco, Anderson Barranco, Jim & Joan Chatting, Sean Hodgkins, Vanessa Clark, John Finch, Michelle Roche, Maurice McAvoy, Peggy Duhig, Anne Lansberry, Ted Renshaw, Catherine Harker, Brian Hodgkins, Clifford Broome, Moira Fryer*

**FAITHFUL DEPARTED** | *Simon Young, Roy Foster, June Gammon*

**PPC MINUTES** | points from the meeting held Wednesday 1 February...

- \*progress reported on youth work
- \*attendance at Blackfriars' Night Fever was good; we hope to encourage attendance as a Parish in May/June, and to look at holding our own event later on.
- \*World Youth Day, Panama 2019. We await further information from the diocese before considering candidates and fundraising.
- \*The Safeguarding system is working well
- \*The purchase of the Hearing Loop for Holy Rood has been approved.
- \*Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be held after the Sunday Masses, as was done successfully in Advent.
- \*Stations of the Cross are to be held at Our Lady's on Wednesday 5 April
- \*Easter Triduum locations will be the same as in previous years.

The next meeting is on Wednesday 22 March. *Anyone interested in joining the PPC should speak to Fr Daniel or Ian Callaghan.*

**WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**  
✕ This year's Women's World Day of Prayer Service is taking place on **Friday 3 March at 10.30am in Botley Baptist Church**. The service has been compiled by the women of the Philippines and the theme for reflection is 'Am I being unfair to you?' It is always an uplifting service with many of the local churches taking part. All are most welcome to share the fellowship with our local Christian friends. For more information please contact Monica White on 01865 452205

**ORDINARIATE** | Sung Mass, Saturdays at 5pm (for the Sunday obligation); Said Mass, 6.30pm on Thursdays, both at Holy Rood. Masses using the Ordinate Missal, which anyone is welcome to attend, are indicated by *Divine Worship* in the newsletter. Next week's music: for Lent I, Lassus, *Missa Octavi Toni, Emendemus in melius*.

**BOOK AND CAKE SALE I** On Sunday **19<sup>th</sup> March** after the 9.15am Mass at OLOR there will be a book and cake sale with the proceeds going to CAFOD. There are boxes at the back of the church for people to put their donations or you can bring them on the 19<sup>th</sup> and any cakes would also be gratefully received on the day!

**MARYFIELD CONVENT - CATHOLIC RESIDENTIAL CARE HOME London Rd., Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9LA** I Maryfield is a residential care home that provides care and comfort to members of all religious denominations. Mass is celebrated daily in the convent chapel and the sisters and staff provide continuous, quality care, twenty four hours a day, seven days a week. We presently have vacancies. If you would like to arrange a visit, or require further information, please call: 01256 762394 and speak to Trish Davies

**BLACKFRIARS LENT TALKS I** The Aquinas Institute at Blackfriars are holding a series of talks about Aquinas and Newman. For more information, please see leaflets and posters at the back of the church.

**DAY BY DAY** ✕ Lent copies are available at the back of the church (£1).

**PILGRIMAGES** | ✕ **LOURDES** ✕ Diocesan Pilgrimage with Bishop Philip **Friday 18-25 August 2017**. Please email [parkgate@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:parkgate@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)