



SOLENT PASTORAL AREA - UNITED IN CHRIST

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

IN FAREHAM AND PORTCHESTER



1st & 2nd Sundays of Advent Year A 30th November and 7th December 2025

ADVENT - WHAT ARE WE PREPARING FOR?

John M. Grondelski

Advent means “coming” or “arrival.” When most Catholics talk about Advent, they speak of it as “preparation for Christmas.” That’s not necessarily wrong, in as much as celebration of the commemoration of the Nativity of the Lord requires preparation. But let’s recognize that, in commemorating Christ’s Nativity, we are in fact remembering a past event. Jesus was born over two thousand years ago.

When we look at how Advent is structured, the truth is that the focus on Jesus’ birth becomes predominant only in the season’s last nine days i.e., December 16-24. That’s when the Gospels specifically centre on the *historical birth* of Jesus in Bethlehem. That’s when the Preface used for Mass speaks most directly to the historical nativity of Christ.

The greater part of Advent - the 13-18 days (depending on when Advent starts) preceding December 16 - is not focused on Jesus’ first coming in Bethlehem. It is focused on His *Second Coming* at the end of time.

Advent opens with an eschatological focus. In that sense, it continues the eschatological focus of the last weeks of Ordinary Time. The Thirty-Third Sunday of Ordinary Time and the First Sunday of Advent always have a judgment motif, either the Lord’s return at the end of time (Ordinary Time) or the need for watchfulness and sober readiness for that coming (Advent). The Solemnity of Christ the King hinges them together: Jesus is King of the Universe.

We need to be preparing not for a past event, but a future one. That’s why, at every Mass, after the Our Father, the priest prays that we be delivered from evil to await Jesus’ return in “joyful hope.”

I’ve been asked whether Advent is still a “penitential season.” At one time, it clearly was, though some people today are confused. Yes, the priest’s vestments are purple, a penitential colour. And it is, in the sense that all times are penitential times. The Catholic is called to constant conversion. Conversion is an ongoing aspect of the Christian life. There are times in our life when conversion may have a greater focus and others when it has a lesser focus, but there is no time when attention to conversion can be absent. Jesus calls us to “be perfect as

your heavenly Father is perfect” (Matt. 5:48), a constant task. So, yes, to the degree that we are all affected by sin (and we all are to a greater or lesser degree), in that measure, we also are all called to conversion.

But the conversion we are called to in Advent has a distinctive character: one of “joyful hope.” A Catholic living Advent today is in a better position than Messianic prophets like Isaiah and Micah: he knows how the story turned out in Jesus of Nazareth. At the same time, today’s Catholic also knows how the story will turn out: the triumph of God and goodness, “when everything is subjected to him . . . so that God may be all in all” (1 Cor. 15:28). We know that God, who will come to judge the living and the dead, will prevail. The only thing we do not know is on which side we will be in that judgment: among the sheep or the goats.

That is why Advent is a time of preparation and conversion: it is a time to make myself ready “for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ,” judge of the living and the dead, King of the Universe. The way I prepare myself is through conversion of heart, from turning from creatures to the Creator, from sin to grace. So this is a good time to think about coming to the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

What is our response, for which we prepare during Advent and our entire lives? The very last words of the Bible: “Come Lord Jesus!” (Rev. 22:20). Maranatha!

John M. Grondelski

IN PERSON SAFEGUARDING TRAINING Sat. 17 January

At St Margaret Mary, Park Gate from 10am - 1pm.

This covers both Adult & Child Safeguarding Training. Safeguarding Training is mandatory for anyone who DBS holds volunteers. Training must be refreshed every 3 years. The training can be done online or face to face.

For enquires/to book a place please email Stephanie. Parish Safeguarding: safeguarding.fare@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

DIACONATE ORDINATION - JACK RYAN

Saturday 20th December 3pm

St John’s Cathedral, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth.

All are invited to the ordination of Jack, one of our parishioners from St Margaret Mary’s Parish, Park Gate.

Through the solemn Laying on of Hands he will be ordained a Deacon for us and, God willing, a Priest next year. Do come and support, and pray for Jack. All are very welcome!

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Arathy Babu and Kenny Charles - married on Sun 30th Nov. at St Philip Howard Church 2.30pm. Nuptial Mass. May the Lord bless them in their new way of life together.

REV. BENEDIKT TIMPE

'My dear parishioners, since May of this year I have been serving the Parish of Fareham which has been a beautiful and enriching experience for me. I have met many lovely people and I am deeply grateful for having been welcomed with open arms. But now the time has come to move on. A situation of urgency has arisen in St. Theresa's parish Totton, which currently does not have a resident priest. The Bishop has therefore asked me to move to Holy Family Parish, Millbrook, which is close to Totton. Being based there I will be working in both parishes. I hope to see you again soon and greet you with my best wishes.' *Fr Benedikt*

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for **Julie Nally RIP**

Requiem Mass: Tues 16th Dec. 10am. Sacred Heart Church. Please remember Aidan and Angela in your prayers.

Also **Susan Griffiths RIP** and **Jojjina Elyak RIP**.

PLEASE PRAY FOR The sick, and those who care for them...

Richard Bursell, Libby, Joan & Michael Green, Ann Harper and **Jasmine Ward**.

LITTLE TREASURES - MOTHER & TODDLER GROUP

Christmas Party, 9th December, 9.30am at SPHH

To book your space please see us when you attend on 2nd December or send an email to cfairman85@gmail.com.

We finish for Christmas on 9th Dec. and return on 6th Jan.

UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS 'UCM' MEETING

Monday 8th December, 7pm at Sacred Heart Hall

From 7pm for coffee/tea with the meeting starting at 7.30pm and closing at 9pm. All are very welcome!

For more info contact: lornefry1954@hotmail.com

MEN'S GROUP *First Weds. 7.30pm. St P. Howard Hall*

A confidential, prayer and fellowship group helping us to be the best husbands, fathers, brothers and sons we can be.

Contact Tom at: tom_fairman@yahoo.com

LADIES' GROUP *Second Weds 7.30pm. St P. Howard Hall*

Join our Ladies' Group, getting to know each other, sharing our faith, and growing deeper in our relationship with the Lord. Every woman is so welcome - no age limit applies.

Contact Eloise at: eloise@olimcomms.com

CONVERSATION GROUP

Every other Thurs 2- 3.30pm, S.H.Hall. Next mtg 4th Dec

Do you have APHASIA or communication difficulties after a stroke? Come and join our friendly group. Donation of £2. For info. contact Angela at: amnally65@gmail.com

ADVENT APPEAL "MARY'S MEALS"

Mary's Meals provides school meals for children in 16 of the world's poorest countries, providing much needed nourishment and opening the door to education.

With help from generous supporters and volunteers we are now feeding more than 3 million children every school day, and the global average cost to feed a child for a year is £19.15. We believe that these children can be the ones to break the chains of poverty in their communities.

Thank you in advance for your generous support.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, STUBBINGTON, *Bells Lane, Stubbington, PO14 2PL*

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 6PM SOLEMN VESPERS AND SOCIAL
30th November – All are very welcome.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BL. VIRGIN MARY
Mon 8th December. 7pm Solemn Mass followed by Filipino supper and entertainment. All are very welcome.

ADVENT REFLECTION - TEAMS OF OUR LADY

Saturday 6th Dec, 7:30pm, St Margaret Mary, Park Gate

You are warmly invited to a short service of reflection, followed by light refreshments. All are very welcome.

BLESSING OF YOUR CRIB'S BAMBINO

Third Sunday of Advent - 13th / 14th December

We invite you to bring the Christ Child (Bambino) from your own crib to be blessed at any Mass on the 3rd Sunday of Advent. This wonderful tradition originates in the papacy of Pope St. John Paul II.

STELLA MARIS - CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATE APPEAL

Support seafarers visiting our Southern Region ports in the days before Christmas through the offering of the gift of chocolate. Please bring in any donations of chocolate tubs/boxes to the Parish Office by Fri 12th Dec. Thank you.

ADULT JOURNEY IN FAITH GROUP

Wednesdays 7pm Church, for 7.15pm-9pm. S.Heart Hall

Wanting to know about the Catholic faith. Come & see!

Topics; 3rd Dec. True Freedom.

10th Dec. Meaning of Love

Contact Dcn Larry: lmurawski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

"CHOSEN" CONFIRMATION PATHWAY

Session 5. Fri 12th December 7- 8.30pm. At St P. Howard.

Topic 'For this is how God loved the World - Birth of Jesus

7pm - 7.20pm. The Chosen group commence their evening with Exposition, Adoration and Prayer. All are welcome to come and pray for and with our young people.

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS

The anonymous donation to the Parish Advent Appeal (Mary's Meals) CMA Debt Advisory Service and Parish SVP.

ADVENT BOOKLET 'Praying with the Psalms'

Redemptorist Publication three-minute reflections and prayers inviting you to ponder the wonder of God becoming human in Christ Jesus. £2.50 a copy. In the Church Foyer...

SVP MASS & CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wed 3rd December, 1:30pm Mass at St Philip Howard

followed by a Christmas Tea in the Hall. All are welcome and please pass this invitation on to anyone who might not otherwise receive it. If you need help with transport, no problem, please phone 07435 880 190 or the Parish Office.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24th December

5pm at St Philip Howard Church - *Vigil Mass*

9pm at Sacred Heart Church - *Night Mass*

Christmas Day - Thursday 25th December

9am at Sacred Heart Church - *Dawn Mass*

11am at St Philip Howard Church - *Day Mass*

ADVENT DAWN MASSES

Thursday 4th/11th/19th December

During Advent there will be a Dawn Mass on Thursdays at 7am followed by breakfast in the hall hosted by the UCM. If anyone has any allergies but would like to join in the Advent breakfast, please let Pauline Williams know in advance: PJWFareham1@gmail.com

All donations will go to our Advent Appeal Mary's Meals.

CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 14th December, 3pm, St Philip Howard Church

Led by singers from the Solent Pastoral Area. Organist - Sarah Gallop. Refreshments & Raffle afterwards in the hall. Come and join us. All welcome! Hamper donations gratefully received. Please drop off at parish office.

HELP NEEDED! CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Saturday 20th Dec, 10am, St Philip Howard Church

Please do join us to help put up the crib and decorations.

Mass Times, Intentions and Locations, including Adoration & Confessions

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A <i>Psalter Week 1</i>	Sat Vigil 29th	6:30pm	Sacred Heart	Joseph Mathew Pickard RIP
	Sun 30th Nov	9am	Sacred Heart	Christine McNulty RIP
		11am	St Philip Howard	Mgr. Jim Joyce RIP (PACT)
	Nuptial Mass	2.30pm	St Philip Howard	Ints. of Arathy Babu and Kenny Charles
		6pm	St Philip Howard	For the People of the Parish
Advent	Mon 1st Dec	-	-	<i>Sorry, no service</i>
Advent	Tues 2nd Dec	10am	Sacred Heart	Ints. of J&R Pettett
	<i>Adoration</i>	-	Sacred Heart	Adoration - Silent Prayer
SVP Mass	Wed 3rd Dec	1.30pm	St Philip Howard	Ints. of Fr Vincent from the Parish
Advent	Thurs 4th Dec	7am	Sacred Heart	In thanksgiving
		-	Sacred Heart	<i>Sorry, no confessions (St Jude's Rec. Service)</i>
Advent	<i>Adoration</i>	7-8pm	Sacred Heart	Holy Hour for Vocations
	Fri 5th Dec	10am	Sacred Heart	Peter Anebring RIP
Reconciliation	Sat 6th Dec	5-6pm	Sacred Heart	Confessions
2nd Sunday of Advent. Yr A <i>Psalter Week 2</i>	Sat Vigil 6th	6:30pm	Sacred Heart	Josie Casey RIP
	Sun 7th Dec	9am	Sacred Heart	For the People of the Parish
		11am	St Philip Howard	Roger Thompson RIP
		6pm	St Philip Howard	Kenneth Wallace RIP
Immaculate Conception	Mon 8th Dec	10am	Sacred Heart	Shirley-Ann Pinto RIP
Advent	Tues 9th Dec	-	Sacred Heart	<i>Sorry, no service</i>
	<i>Adoration</i>	-	Sacred Heart	<i>Sorry, no adoration</i>
St Jude's Advent Mass	Wed 10th Dec	1.30pm	St Philip Howard	Mary Payne RIP
Advent	Thurs 11th Dec	7am	Sacred Heart	Cn. Henry Murphy RIP
Reconciliation	<i>Confessions</i>	10.30am	Sacred Heart	Confessions (with Fr David Conroy RN)
	<i>Adoration</i>	7-8pm	Sacred Heart	Holy Hour for Vocations
	Fri 12th Dec	10am	Sacred Heart	Julie Nally RIP
Reconciliation	Sat 13th Dec	5-6pm	Sacred Heart	Confessions
3rd Sunday of Advent. Yr A <i>Psalter Week 3</i>	Sat Vigil 13th	6:30pm	Sacred Heart	Hoen & Bulbeck Family RIP
	Sun 14th Dec	9am	Sacred Heart	For the People of the Parish
		11am	St Philip Howard	Private Intention
		3pm	St Philip Howard	Carol Service
		6pm	St Philip Howard	Thomas Perumbel RIP

PARISH PRAYER WALKS

Sunday 30th November 1:30pm. From Sacred Heart Church
Tuesday 2nd December 2pm. From St Philip Howard Ch.

Two monthly walk routes of one hour or less. Please join us as a walker praying for our parish and for others in need. Prayer like this is known to bear fruit! Join us when you can.

Please get in touch with Deacon Larry and David Cockshoot.
lmurawski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or 01329-318 869
David on davidcockshoot@gmail.com or 07881-956 644

We do need to know contact information for those aiming to walk, in case of cancellation.

ADVENT RECONCILIATION - CONFESSIONS

Sacred Heart Parish, Fareham

Thurs. 11th Dec. 10.30 - 11.30am. with Fr D. Conroy RN.

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th Saturdays: 5 - 6pm

St Mary's Parish, Gosport

Wednesday 6:15pm - 6:45pm. Saturdays 12 noon - 1pm

Our Lady and St John's, Stubbington

Saturday at Our Lady: 5:15 - 5:45pm.

Weekdays: after Mass

St Margaret Mary's Parish Park Gate

See newsletter ...

DCN ANDREW'S 'DRILL DOWN' BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Immaculate Conception Church, Bells Lane, Stubbington.

Every Monday 10am – Meeting Room. A 'second look' at the readings of the previous Sunday. Get your fill of Scripture. Something to get your teeth into.

CHOCOLATE TOMBOLA

Please can you help by donating any Christmas treats such as chocolate and biscuits? All donations can be given to the Parish Office. Funds for our 150th Anniversary celebrations.

LICENCES: COPYRIGHT & PERFORMANCE

Church Copyright - 2184693 / 2184249

Music Reproduction - 2185719 / 2185362

Church Video - 2187023 / 2186976 Live streaming - 21206138

PPL - 2186873 / 2186718. PRS - 2186426 / 2186237

Lumo Bible Images - www.freebibleimages.org/contributors/lumo

Parish Office: 41 Portland Street, Fareham. PO16 ONF Tel: 01329 318 869

Email: farehamportchester@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

www.catholicchurchfareham.org.uk

Parish Clergy: Cn. John Cooke, Fr. Benedikt Timpe and Dcn Larry Murawski

Parish Administrator: Mrs Pauline McNamara *Parish Office Opening Times:* Monday to Friday 09.30-12.30pm

Parish Finance: farehamgiftaid@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding: Stephanie Campbell 07414 685 955. Email: safeguarding.fare@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding: Ruth Attfield Email: rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish SVP Group: 07435 880 190 - Call in confidence, any day between 8am - 6pm

Fareham: Sacred Heart Church, Portland Street, Fareham, PO16 ONQ

St. Philip Howard Church, Bishopsfield Road, Fareham, PO14 1ND

Wickham: The Chapel of St. Thomas More, Park Place Pastoral Centre, Wickham, PO17 5HA

St Jude's Primary School Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Wall. Email: admin@st-judes.info Tel: 01329 235 131

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth - Registered Charity Number 1199568

PARISH REPOSITORY *Sacred Heart / St Philip Howard Ch*

Christmas cards and gifts available.

Opening Times: SHH after Mass.

SPH Sunday before and after the 11am Mass.

BASICS BANK - APPEAL ...

Any food donations would be most welcome. You can leave your offerings in the box in the foyer at St Philip Howard church. Collection day is Sunday 30th November.

SUGGESTION BOX

Have a great idea? Or noticed something we could improve?

Drop a note in our suggestion box at Sacred Heart Church or St Philip Howard Church. We value your input.

CHURCH WC FACILITIES - CLEANING

In light of our "rock" of a Church Toilets' Cleaner sustaining a nasty injury, we will need volunteers to clean the toilets at Sacred Heart and St Philip Howard. So Cn John will be looking to 'press gang' some volunteers, please!

GREGORIAN CHANT COURSE

3 parts for Beginners and Advanced

2nd Saturdays of January, February and March 2026

St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth PO1 3HG

All welcome. For more information and to register visit

<https://portsmouthgregorianchant.blogspot.com>

Tel. Neville McNally on 07424 371 938

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY Please make certain that you or your family advise the Ward Clerk and Chaplaincy that you are Catholic, as the staff are not allowed to ask.

PARISH FINANCE

Dona Plates Contactless giving made easy Gift Aid optional

Standing Orders Please contact the Parish Office for details.

BACS Transfer Our bank details if you need them are:

CDP Fareham Sacred Heart (Lloyds Bank)

Sort Code 30-93-04 Account 00877744

Cheques Payable to 'CDP Fareham Sacred Heart'

Gift Aid Tax payers are encouraged to contact in confidence at:
farehamgiftaid@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk