



HOLY FAMILY PARISH NEWSLETTER



www.holyfamilyparish.org.uk

Advent has a twofold character, for it is a time of preparation for the Solemnities of Christmas, in which the First Coming of the Son of God to humanity is remembered, and likewise a time when, by remembrance of this, minds and hearts are led to look forward to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For these two reasons, Advent is a period of devout and expectant delight.

Today's readings point the "stump of Jesse", which brings to mind the forlorn sight of the stump of the tree cut down in the Sycamore Gap by Hadrian's Wall. But there are signs of hope; saplings are growing! Surely, hope is the keynote of the reading from Isaiah which ends with a vision of paradise restored. John the Baptist emerging from the wilderness calls us to repent of the wilderness in our lives, to prepare a way for the Lord by seeking forgiveness for our sins. Then, at a time of year when we can feel pressured, we can live with hope and expectation. We can live in harmony with one another and welcome one another because Jesus is near to us.

In St Joseph's: The Children's Liturgy Advent Theme is 'Jesus's family tree' (aka Jesse tree). At every Advent Sunday, we will read a Bible story about someone on Jesus's family tree and hang an ornament symbolising the story on our Jesse Tree. We invite you to take part with your family: decorate a leaf & take a copy of our colour-in Advent Calendar for use at home!

Dec 2025: Mass Times & Mass Intentions

Sat	6 th	18:30	
Sun	7 th	08:00	Joycelin Sequeira, SI
		09:15	Jane Parkinson, RIP
		11:00	James Coady, FM
		17:00	Mass of the Parish of Holy Family
Mon	8 th	10:00	Solemnity Mass: Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
Tue	9 th	10:00	
Wed	10 th	10:00*	Coleman Family, FM
Thu	11 th	10:00	Frank & Megan Riley, A
		11:00	Funeral: Diego Gangi
Fri	12 th	10:00	
Sat	13 th	10:00*	
		18:30	Felix Rodrigues, A
Sun	14 th	08:00	
		09:15	Chris Pestrige, A
		11:00	Christingle Fr Liam Cummins, SI
		16:00	Mass of the Parish of Holy Family
		18:30	♪♪♪ Carols Service ♪♪♪

Adoration before Mass: *9-10am

Confessions on Saturday after 10am Mass / before 6.30pm Mass

A: Death Anniversary; FM: Foundation Mass; RIP: Rest in Peace, SI: Special Intentions

St Joseph's & St Elizabeth's edition

Issue #22

2nd Sunday of Advent Year A

6th /7th Dec 2025

1st: 2 Isa 11:1-10 With righteousness he shall judge the poor.

Ps 72 R/ In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.

2nd: Rom 15:4-9 Christ saves humanity.

Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight; all flesh shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!

Gospel: Matt 3:1-12 Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Please note that the children's snug will be shut until further notice while we repair the damage made by unsupervised children.

Colours of Advent

Purple symbolises repentance and fasting and also the colour of royalty.

Rose represents joy and reveals a shift in the season away from repentance and toward celebration.

White represents purity and light. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Saviour. He is the light come into a dark and dying world.

Season of Advent Prayer Journey: Daily Scripture & Reflection for the season:
www.onlineprayer.net/adv-cal25/

**Our Christmas Fayre raised
£1,797.89!**

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK *

Gift Aid: £290.00 ↓ Non-GA: £1,019.75



Thank you for Gift-Aid! HMRC added
£72.50!

* Loose plate + Dona/Sumup

Works of Mercy: Give Alms to The Poor

When we light the Candle of Love this Sunday, let us pray that, together, we can make a real change and reach out in love to others. Keep the Poor and Homeless at the forefront of our minds this Advent as we prepare for the coming of Our Saviour. Please bring your donations of Food, Clothing and Toiletries to Church from where they will be distributed to Food Share, The Salvation Army, SVP and Sue Brett for the benefit of those in need.

**Come, Lord, bearer of Love and
bringer of Hope**

HFP: Holy Family Parish; **SE:** St Elizabeth's; **SJ:** St Joseph;
SEC: St Edmund Campion; **STM:** St Thomas More

PARISH NEWS/ EVENTS – All are welcome!

- **30 Jan NOSTALGIA NIGHT** The West End is coming to St Edmund Campion! Cormac Diamond & 3 other professional singers will sing songs from Cole Porter to Elton John, accompanied by piano & violin. All proceeds to SEC Church refurbishment. Tickets @ £20 available from SEC office or see posters for online booking.

OTHER COURSES / EVENTS

- **13 Dec Douai Abbey Days of Reflection.** Lifts available on – contact Vision Group (see their notice board).
- **12-14 Dec A Christmas Residential Retreat with the Carmelites** Boar's Hill Oxford. £295. More info: <https://tinyurl.com/5fzjmcwk>
- **8 Mar 26 Escorted Tour: Westport, Knock & Co Mayo** £899.00 pps. Incl: flight from Heathrow, 10kg hold luggage, 5N in 4* hotel, dinner, B&B + leisure facilities, entertainment, excursions & transport. Irish music nightly. Single supplement. 01268 762 278 / 07740 175557 / knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Over the next few weekends look out for the "Lego Christmas Story Trail" posters. Scan the QR code, click, point, and watch! There will be five story posters for you to find between now and Christmas! Can you scan and watch them all?



Christmas Tree Festival @ St Luke's Church 5-6 Dec: 10am-7pm;

7 Dec: 12-6pm. Please come and vote for our tree! Proceeds to Thames Valley.

7 Dec 1:00 - 4pm St Mary's School Fayre Please come and support our school!

13 Dec 7.30pm Organ recital by candlelight @ St. Elizabeth's Tickets @ £10 includes a glass of mulled wine and seasonal nibbles. On sale from office or contact Andy andy.strowbridge@gmail.com /07711 147321.

14 Dec 6.30pm Advent Carol Service @ St Joseph's Followed by Mulled wine and Mince pies. Volunteers needed for refreshments! Contact Office

Christmas Prayer Cards If you would like a prayer card for your Christmas intentions, please write (not email) your dedication and put in an envelope addressed "Christmas Flowers" and leave it with the office by **14 Dec**. Donations will go to Christmas Flowers. Please note – no flowers at altars during Advent

17 Dec 6pm Junior Carol Service by St Mary's in Church. St Mary's School junior children will be singing carols at St Joseph's Church. Come along and sing some songs with the children, and support our lovely school. Buy a ticket to support the school! <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stmarys-maidenheadorguk/t-aaqxra>



RECONCILIATION SERVICE

St Francis of Assisi Ascot **6 Dec** 10:30 - 11:00
St Thomas More Twyford **10 Dec** 18:30 - 19:00
St Edward's Windsor **13 Dec** 11:00 - 11:30
St Edmund Campion **17 Dec** 18:30 - 19:00
St Joseph **20 Dec** 10:30 - 11:00

! There is a man impersonating a priest and attempting to gain access to families and children. He appears to be of Italian descent, goes by the name Luigi Ramazzotti and claims to be an exorcist. If you have any contact from him, please contact the Police and notify safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk **!**

SACRAMENTALS All **forms** can be found here: <https://stjosephsparish.co.uk/newsletter/>

♦ **Baptism Course 6 Jan** For expecting parents and parents whose child(ren) is being baptised in M'head

♥ **MARRIAGE:** Thinking of getting married? Enquire via our online form!

Contacts: Fr Vuni/ Fr Elvis **07465 675985** Tvuni@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk / Eberka@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

☎ Fr Liam 07776 580596

☎ Fr Kevin 07476 367316

Office: 01628 783988

Carolyn office@stjosephsparish.co.uk Maria youth@stjosephsparish.co.uk safeguarding@stjosephsparish.co.uk

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE PARISH

- ❖ **Loss & Bereavement Group last session** 14 Dec 2.30 in SEC hall. Befriending support available in the Parish via SVP (Society of St Vincent de Paul) - contact the office for their number. Alternatively, contact Cruse Bereavement Support on 01344 411919
- ❖ **21 Dec 3.00pm Filipino Mass Simbang Gabi** in SJ
- ❖ **Thursdays Zoom Room: 2pm Rosary 6pm Journey together through Holy scriptures** www.tinyurl.com/2hz5axvp
- ❖ **Fridays 8.45-10:45am Baby & Toddler Group** SEC (term time)

CLASSES/ EVENTS IN SJ CENTRE

See notice board/ website for classes (some are privately run)

- **Tuesdays: Practical Art** Join U3A untutored Art Group. Bring your art materials and join in the fun every 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 2-4pm in SJ Hall. Contact Peter 01628 674097
- **Wednesdays: 5-6pm Taichi** in Hall.
- **Thursdays 7pm Yoga** with Una in Hall. All proceeds to SJ!

CAFOD World Gifts: Give a Life-Changing Gift this Christmas

This year, share the joy of Christmas with a **CAFOD World Gift** - from bees to safe water to school supplies! A meaningful way to bless loved ones and help families overseas.

[CAFOD World Gifts](https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/)

(<https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>)

Christmas Dinner and Dance

Join us for a festive evening filled with laughter, music and celebration!

Saturday, 27th December 2025
7:30 pm onwards

St. Joseph's Parish Hall,
Maidenhead

To book your place please
contact Edgar Fernandes on
07864977536