

CATHOLIC PARISHES OF LYMINGTON, BROCKENHURST & MILFORD-ON-SEA

Our Lady of Mercy & St Joseph
132 High St, Lymington, SO41 9AQ

St Anne
Rhinefield Rd, Brockenhurst, SO42 7SR

St Francis of Assisi
Park Lane, Milford-on-Sea, SO41 0PT

Parish Contacts:

Parish Office: Maryhouse, 132 High Street, Lymington SO41 9AQ. **Telephone:** 01590 676696.

Parish Priest: Rev David Adams; **Parish Administrator:** Lisa Thurston. **Email & Newsletter Items:** lymbrock@sky.com.

Website: www.nfwp.org.uk; **Parish Blog:** www.lymrcchurch.blogspot.com. **Registered Charity No:** 246871/2

School: Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary School, Ramley Rd, Pennington, 01590 672711. **Head of School:** Nanette Allies

Chairs of Parish Pastoral Councils: Mike Reynolds, Lymington; Henry Mellor, Brockenhurst; Anthony Kirke, Milford on Sea

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Cathy Pickles (Lym); Susan McCabe (Brock); Liz White (Mil).

PA to Pastoral Co Ordinator & Health & Safety Co ordinator : Linda Guilding; **Health & Safety Reps St Francis:** Colin Stack & John

Parry . **For the Sacrament of the Sick or Holy Communion to the Sick or housebound:** Contact the parish office.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

From 10 - 10.30am after
Mass on Saturday
morning
or by request anytime

Masses & Services for the Week: 23rd December - 31st December

DAY	DATE	TIME	SERVICE	CHURCH	LITURGY	INTENTION	P
SAT	23 rd	6.00pm	Mass	Our Lady	4th Sunday of Advent, Yr B (V)	Normina Marshall RIP F/M	DMA
SUN	24 th	9.00am	Mass	St Francis	4th Sunday of Advent, Yr B (V)	as per celebrant	PWR
SUN	24 th	10.00am	Mass	St Anne	4th Sunday of Advent, Yr B (V)	as per celebrant	DQ
SUN	24 th	10.30am	Mass	Our Lady	4th Sunday of Advent, Yr B (V)	People of the Parish	DMA
SUN	24 th	5.00pm	Mass	Our Lady	Christmas Night Mass (Children)	People of the Parish	DMA
SUN	24 th	7.30pm	Carols	Our Lady	Christmas Carols	N/A	
SUN	24 th	8.00pm	Mass	Our Lady	Christmas Night Mass	People of the Parish	DMA
MON	25 th	9.00am	Mass	St Francis	Christmas Day Mass	as per celebrant	PWR
MON	25 th	10.00am	Mass	St Anne	Christmas Day Mass	People of the Parish	DMA
MON	25 th	10.30am	Mass	Our Lady	Christmas Day Mass	as per celebrant	DQ
TUE	26 th	10.00am	Mass	Our Lady	St Stephen, Feast, (R)	as per celebrant	PWR
WED	27 th	10.00am	Mass	St Francis	St John, Feast, (W)	Deceased Family & Relatives of Joan & Ray	PWR
WED	27 th	10.00am	Mass	St Anne	St John, Feast, (W)	as per celebrant	DQ
WED	27 th	9.30am	Word & H C	Our Lady	St John, Feast, (W)	N/A	
THU	28 th	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	Holy Innocents, Feast, (R)	Intentions of our Retired Clergy	DMA
FRI	29 th	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	St Thomas of Canterbury, Feast, (R)	Deceased Clergy of the Province	DMA
SAT	30 th	9.30am	Mass	Our Lady	Liturgy of the Day (W)	Those who are unwell	DMA
SAT	30 th	6.00pm	Mass	Our Lady	The Holy Family	People of the Parish	DMA
SUN	31 st	9.00am	Mass	St Francis	The Holy Family	Fr Barry Farmer - Intentions	DMA
SUN	31 st	10.30am	Mass	Our Lady	The Holy Family	People of the Parish	PWR
SUN	31 st	6.00pm	Mass	St Anne	The Holy Family	People of the Parish	DMA

THE CHRISTMAS CRIB COLLECTION: This year the crib offerings will go to "Friends of the Holy Land" who support over 2,000 needy Christians in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel & Jordan.

LET IT BE DONE ACCORDING TO YOUR WORD

At the beginning of his gospel Luke presents the stories of the birth of John the Baptist and the birth of Jesus. Zechariah and Elizabeth, the parents of John, are blameless and upright keepers of the Law. Yet they are barren, they have no children. We can see them as symbolic of the sterility of the Law. No matter how good the rules they cannot ignite one spark of divine love or conceive any divine life. In fact the Law becomes an instrument, not of holiness, but of division and hostility, cfr Ephesians 2:14.

Mary, in contrast, has no qualifications with respect to the law, or at least they are ignored, she is rather "so highly favoured", or as the Latin Bible translated *gratia plena*, "full of grace". Mary is the one who must receive the Divine initiative. This free gift of God's love is promised in the gratuity of creation. And it has been promised in history most clearly through Abraham and the prophets of Israel, including King David who is mentioned in the first reading today. This promise is unconditional and independent of the Law. The two-sided covenant based on the keeping of the Law ended in failure. As St Peter said and history has proved we cannot keep the Law. And self-righteousness is achieved only at the cost of self-deception.

God abandoned that covenant and promised a new one. This is the one-sided Covenant based solely on God's love and forgiveness, cfr Jeremiah 31:31 – *for they shall all know me from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.* This new Covenant is realised in Jesus – he will save his people from their sins & reveal divinity in humanity (Matt 1:21).

Mary is the first one to be invited to the wedding feast of God. Her consent is requested because love can only be freely given and freely received. Mary's freedom from the negativity of sin is demonstrated above all in her joyful acceptance of grace. She does not offer any protestations of unworthiness. These only witness to our estrangement from God and to the fact that we are trapped in our own categories of deserving/undeserving, worthy/unworthy. Mary's disturbance arises because she knows her nothingness and could not presume. Her question arises not from doubt but from simple inquiry. Mary's "Yes" to God arises from her joyful willingness to let God's work of love be fulfilled through her. Similarly God invites all of us to let God love us and transform us. (DMA)

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: Fortunee Annette Bernard (25th), Kevin Andrew Ford, Eve Brown (30th)

Sick & Housebound: Sarah Bell, Audrey Heneghan, Margaret Langford, Hannah McArthur, Sean McVeigh & Hilary Sendall.

MASS: back to usual today, with hymn singing and music. Thanks to all our committee members for their presentations & service of the parish.

St Anne, Brockenhurst

Anniversaries this week: Honoria Marshall, Ethel Knight-Grigg (24th), Winifred Sergeant (25th), James Kelly, Catherine Kitty Hayward (27th), George O'Donnell (29th)

Even at Christmas time, no, especially at Christmas time, our prayers are our unseen gift for those in our community who need them: Kieran Holland, Anna Hubbard and Eileen Dunn.

Fr Quarmby will celebrate Mass each morning during Christmas week at 10am.

Community's thanks from Aude: This year again, the social committee organised a fantastic parish Christmas lunch. The food was delicious and it was very hard to choose between the most tempting puddings. The tables were Beautifully decorated, thanks to the flower arrangers and the atmosphere was very jolly and festive. Our priests were delighted with their lovely hampers as were the children with their chocolates. Thank you to all the Social Committee and their many helpers for their hard work in cooking, serving and clearing away: all to create a memorable Parish event.

Red Mission Boxes. A big thank you to everyone who returned their boxes which have all been emptied and counted and are ready to be returned and hopefully, filled again for next year! This has been an excellent year and I am pleased to say £439.97 was collected and banked for the missions. These small boxes make a big difference. If you do not hold a box and would like one please talk to Bill Pignatelli who will happily supply one.

Christmas Greetings from Malawi! Father Charlie sends Christmas greetings to all the parishioners of St Anne's and has given an update on the work on the school that our donation from the Summer Fair is helping to support. His letter and a few photos are on the notice board in the parish rooms.

Christmas Offertory (a note from the Treasurer) Last year most of the Christmas Offertory was not gift aided. If you wish to gift aid your Christmas Offering and you do not have the envelope, please note that there is a supply of yellow Gift Aid Envelopes which can be used, at the back of the church.

Choir questionnaire To those who have already completed the choir questionnaire, thank you. All further comments, will be left until after Christmas, when perhaps there will be a few more replies. There are already some helpful, positive responses.

Please remember your sub-editor and keep the sheet alive and up to date. Just tell me the item and I'll write up the rest. Send it to greenoaks@waitrose.com before Thursday lunch time. Thank you!

All Parishes

A Christmas gift from the Bishop! Thanks to a generous donor, this Christmas the Bishop wants to give everyone (all adults and young people) coming to Mass on Christmas Day a copy of Matthew Kelly's best-selling book, *Rediscover Jesus*. He hopes you enjoy it. Please make sure you collect your copy on the day!"

Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington

Anniversaries this week: Nicholas James Phillips (24th), Frances Locke (25th), Pamela Clifford (26th), Mary Flood, Annie Foot, Lily Pearce, Eileen Mary Weguelin (27th), Blanche Bardell (28th)

Sick and Housebound: Marcia Greenwood, Terry Iles, Mai Wilson, Cathy Pickles, Den Walker, Brian Choules, Len Harley, Marie Smith, Celine McCay, Mary Norton, Patricia Mate.

MARCIA GREENWOOD RIP: We just received news that Marcia died very peacefully on 21st Dec surrounded by her family. She was being cared for by her daughter & family in Gloucestershire. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen

MARY AYLWARD RIP: You'll be sad to hear that Mary has died aged 96yrs. In the last months of her life she was being cared for in a nursing home in Totton. Mary was in Lymington for many, many years and was a faithful member of this church. Her funeral Service will take place at Romsey Crematorium on Friday, January 5th at 3.25pm. This will be followed at a later date by a Memorial Mass in OLSJ. May she rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen

MISSIO CALENDARS: are available at the back of church. Please help yourself to a free calendar and keep up to date with the wonderful work of the Missions throughout the world.

CONGRATULATIONS TO WINNERS OF OUR 100 CLUB DRAW who are as follows:- Star Prize £70 John Stephenson, £36 Mel Thomas, £27 Martha Medina Campos, £18 Lisa Thurston, £14 Eric Sey, £9 Cathryn Lawrence. Subscriptions are being received for 2018 at £15 per number. To renew your subscription and to purchase additional numbers, please leave cash or cheque at the parish office. New members can call 678525 or email fran.walker@talktalk.net for information and joining information. Cheques payable to PRCDTR OUR LADY 100 CLUB. Many thanks to all Club members who make a valuable contribution to parish funds.

BOOKS, BOOKS, BOOKS! With Christmas approaching why not give someone a book as a present or even one for yourself to while away a cold and grey afternoon. We have a good selection of books available in Joseph's Place to borrow or to buy for a small donation - all proceeds to Parish funds. Come and have a browse!

LEGACY LEFT TO OUR CHURCH: We are very grateful to the late Monica Hay who recently bequeathed £5000 to our parish. Please do consider whether you can support the church by a legacy gift.

All Parishes

THE CHRISTMAS COLLECTIONS: These are for your Parish Priest & help to make up his ordinary income for the year. And thank you to many for cards, blessings and gifts already received. Your generosity is always greatly appreciated.

PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE: The next edition of Portsmouth People has arrived. Please pick up a copy from the back of the church. It's free!

TOGETHER IN HARMONY: A new community music group, for people with dementia and their carers. Beginning 24th January 2018, 2nd and 4th Wednesdays every month, 10.00-11.30 a.m. Boldre Memorial Hall SO41 5QT £5 per couple. For further information contact Frances Attwood n 01590 718749 or 07500 117814

WELCOME TO WORSHIP: Everyone, Christian or not, is invited to the next Avon Stour Pastoral Area Welcome to Worship event: **When?**

Wednesday 10th January 2018, 7-8.30pm (followed by refreshments) .Where? Our Lady Queen of Peace Church, Douglas Rd, Southbourne BH6 3ER. What? : Contemporary worship music, scripture reading, a short talk and a range of silent ways to respond in prayer/reflection. There is also the opportunity to receive personal prayer through our growing team of prayer ministers.