

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:** lymbrockmil@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
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. Exec. Head: Gerida Montague
Chairs of Parish Pastoral Councils: Mike Reynolds, Lymington; Ian Holden, Brockenhurst; Anthony Kirke, Milford on Sea
Parish Safeguarding Representative: Vanessa Dugdale (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.

Confessions:

Sat 21st Dec
10.30am -11.30am

Mon, 23rd Dec
7pm-8pm

Masses & Services for the Week: 14th December - 29th December 2019

| DAY | DATE | TIME | SERVICE | CHURCH | LITURGY | INTENTION | P |
|-----|------------------|---------|-----------|------------|---|-------------------------------|-----|
| SAT | 14 th | 6.00pm | Mass | Our Lady | Third Sunday of Advent Yr A (P) | People of the Parishes | DMA |
| SUN | 15 th | 9.00am | Mass + AS | St Francis | Third Sunday of Advent Yr A (P) | Dorothy Kingston RIP | DMA |
| SUN | 15 th | 10.30am | Mass | Our Lady | Third Sunday of Advent Yr A (P) | as per celebrant | PWR |
| SUN | 15 th | 6.00pm | Mass | St Anne | Third Sunday of Advent Yr A (P) | People of the Parishes | DMA |
| MON | 16 th | 9.30am | Mass | Our Lady | of the 3 rd week of Advent (P) | as per celebrant | PWR |
| TUE | 17 th | 9.30am | Mass | Our Lady | Liturgy of the Day (P) | For our elected MP's | DMA |
| WED | 18 th | 9.30am | W & C | Our Lady | Liturgy of the Day (P) | N/A | |
| WED | 18 th | 10.00am | Mass | St Francis | Liturgy of the Day (P) | for the poor & suffering | PWR |
| WED | 18 th | 10.00am | Mass | St Anne | Liturgy of the Day (P) | Normina Marshall RIP F/M | DMA |
| THU | 19 th | 9.30am | Mass | Our Lady | Liturgy of the Day (P) | Tony O'Shea RIP | DMA |
| THU | 19 th | 2.00pm | School | Our Lady | OLSJ School Carol Service | N/A | |
| FRI | 20 th | 9.30am | Mass | Our Lady | Liturgy of the Day (P) | for those who are unwell | DMA |
| SAT | 21 st | 9.30am | Mass | Our Lady | Liturgy of the Day (P) | Helen May Burne RIP Anniv F/M | DMA |
| SAT | 21 st | 6.00pm | Mass + AS | Our Lady | Fourth Sunday of Advent Yr A (P) | People of the Parishes | DMA |
| SUN | 22 nd | 9.00am | Mass | St Francis | Fourth Sunday of Advent Yr A (P) | People of the Parishes | DMA |
| SUN | 22 nd | 10.30am | Mass | Our Lady | Fourth Sunday of Advent Yr A (P) | People of the Parishes | DMA |
| SUN | 22 nd | 6.00pm | Mass | St Anne | Fourth Sunday of Advent Yr A (P) | as per celebrant | PWR |
| MON | 23 rd | 9.30am | Mass | Our Lady | Liturgy of the Day (P) | as per celebrant | PWR |
| TUE | 24 th | 9.30am | Mass | Our Lady | Liturgy of the Day (P) | as per celebrant | PWR |
| TUE | 24 th | 5.00pm | Mass | Our Lady | Christmas Night Mass (Children) | Louise Layne (Recovery) | DMA |
| TUE | 24 th | 7.30pm | Mass | Our Lady | Carols & Christmas Night Mass | People of the Parishes | DMA |
| WED | 25 th | 9.00am | Mass | St Francis | Christmas Dawn Mass | People of the Parishes | DMA |
| WED | 25 th | 10.00am | Mass | St Anne | Christmas Day Mass | as per celebrant | DQ |
| WED | 25 th | 10.30am | Mass | Our Lady | Christmas Day Mass | as per celebrant | PWR |
| THU | 26 th | 10.00am | Mass | Our Lady | St Stephen, Feast, (R) | as per celebrant | PWR |
| FRI | 27 th | 9.30am | Mass | Our Lady | St John, Apostle, Feast, (W) | for those who are unwell | DMA |
| SAT | 28 th | 9.30am | Mass | Our Lady | The Holy innocents, Feast, (R) | for victims of a abuse | DMA |
| SAT | 28 th | 6.00pm | Mass | Our Lady | The Holy Family Yr A (W) | as per celebrant | PWR |
| SUN | 29 th | 9.00am | Mass | St Francis | The Holy Family Yr A (W) | People of the Parishes | DMA |
| SUN | 29 th | 10.30am | Mass + AS | Our Lady | The Holy Family Yr A (W) | People of the Parishes | DMA |
| SUN | 29 th | 6.00pm | Mass | St Anne | The Holy Family Yr A (W) | People of the Parishes | DMA |

A SOLIDARITY BEYOND POLITICS

I am writing this a week **before** the General Election. When you come to read this the result will have been declared. I can't foresee the future but in the tradition of biblical prophecy I can herald an important truth that is always challenging but not always welcome. The future well-being of our country and indeed of humanity in general will depend on our willingness to co-operate together for the good of all. Factional politics has failed to unite and seems incapable of giving birth to the changes that are needed. We need to embrace a collective identity that transcends all that can divide us.

Christians believe this deeper, unifying identity has been revealed by Jesus Christ. St Paul wrote that Jesus broke down all the dividing walls between human beings. The purpose was not to found another competitive religion but to create a "new humanity". This evolutionary leap forward is not an impersonal,

autonomous process. It is a freely accepted transformation of heart and mind. It is about seeing and relating to others and all things, as God does, in love. For most of us this is a slow, sometimes painful journey of learning & re-learning, maturing out of self-centredness into a more generous and universal compassion.

We all come from God. We are finite sparks of divine light. Our burden is that we can't see, feel, experience or imagine that in ourselves. But many people see the Divine light, the eternal Word, the Christ, in Jesus born in Bethlehem. In Jesus the light of God's love for us shines clearly. And so, in spite of our messy, contradictory lives we are able to believe that we, and indeed the whole of creation, have come from God and are held in God's embrace. We are all God's children; we breathe the same air and inhabit the same planet. We must now work together for the good of all. (DMA – first printed in the Lymington Times 14-12-19)

St Francis, Milford-on-Sea

Anniversaries this week: Lawrence Fee (15th), Mary Fugett, A. Slade (16th), Blanche Gertrude Grantham-Hill (18th), Irene "Mac" Hutchinson (20th)

Sick & Housebound: Colin Stack, Joan Lloyd, Marjorie Horton, Sarah Bell, Alison Doubleday & Sean McVeigh.

MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION: A Minister writes - *it is such a joy and an honour to take Holy Communion to fellow parishioners who have become unable to get to Mass either temporarily or long-term.* Please consider joining this wonderful ministry, or extending your existing ministry if your circumstances allow you to give time to serve out in the community. Fr David, Anthony and Helen can give you more information.

St Anne, Brockenhurst

Anniversaries this week: Violet Mary Sampson, (16th), Joseph Claude Marshall (18th), Maureen Patricia O'Riordan, Josephine Margaret Kershaw (21st)

Sick and Housebound: Please keep in your prayers: Jules Holden, Anna Hubbard, Sean Dunn, Linda Reardon and Mary Byrne.

Fr Quarmby's Mass times: weekday Mass times for weeks beginning: 15th, 22nd, 29th December, & 5th January: 10 a.m. every day except Tuesday 8 a.m. Eucharistic Adoration every Wednesday (except Christmas Day) at 9.00am followed by the Rosary at 9.30am.

RECEPTION IN THE CHURCH: This Sunday, during Mass we will have the joy of receiving Angela McQuillin into the Church. Fr David Quarmby has been preparing her for this step.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU to all who helped, fund raise, prepare and serve the fabulous Christmas lunch this Sunday afternoon. It was great to get together as a parish. A special thanks for the generous gifts to our active and retired clergy.

Christmas Day lunch: at St Saviour's Church Hall, Wilverley Road (12.00 for 12.30pm). Tickets £10 each. To book, phone the Church Office.

Any items for the newsletter to anna@boylemellor.co.uk to arrive by Thursday lunch time.

All Parishes

CHRISTMAS TREE: The Christmas tree is the most visible and frequent symbol for Christmas. Unfortunately, we don't always give it a religious meaning. The commercial world has appropriated the Christmas tree as if it were simply a symbol of the "holidays" and completely ignore the centrality of the Our Lord's role. While the traditions that each family may use can vary, what's important is that we remember and make it clear that the Christmas tree is a Catholic symbol.

According to Cardinal Giuseppe Bertello, Pope John Paul II brought a Christmas tree to the Vatican in 1982. *"The tree, in every culture, is a symbol of life," the cardinal said. A Christmas tree is a reminder that "the Lord comes to give us his life. Let us welcome him in our hearts and, in the glow of its light, let us bring him to the world," he said.*

In 2004, Pope John Paul called the Christmas tree a symbol of Christ. This very ancient custom, he said, *exalts the value of life, as in winter what is evergreen becomes a sign of undying life, and it reminds Christians of the "tree of life" of Genesis 2:9, an image of Christ, the supreme gift of God to humanity.*

In the early 700's, Saint Boniface, who converted the German people to Christianity, demolished the Oak of Thor, the mighty sacred tree worshipped by the Saxons. From its roots grew a fir tree which Boniface took as a sign of the Christian faith.

In the 11th century, Paradise plays portrayed the tree of Paradise, decorated with red apples. During the 15th century, the faithful began to erect trees in their homes on December 24, reported to be the feast day of Adam and Eve. About the year 1500, inspired by a snow-covered fir tree, a small tree was brought indoors and decorated with candles in honour of Christ's birth.

Thus, the Christmas tree represents the original Tree of Paradise, the burning bush which spoke to Moses, the branch of Jesse from which Jesus was born, the life-giving tree of the cross of Christ, and the tree which St. John the Apostle saw in the Book of Revelations whose leaves have medicine for the people and which yields fruit each month for the healing of the nations.

Because it is green year-round, the evergreen tree represents hope. Its needles and its narrow crest point upward, turning our thoughts to heaven. Because the tree is cut down and then erected again, it is a symbol of Christ's resurrection. Christmas lights also remind us that we are to be light to others, to show them the way to Christ.

Lord, may I see Christmas trees as a sign of hope and as reminders of the many trees that figure in salvation history. I thank You, Lord, for turning the tree of Adam and Eve's sin into the tree of life through the cross of Christ. Because of Christ who died on the tree, you have given us the promise of eternal life. Amen.

Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington

Anniversaries this week: Anthony John Leahy (14th), Mary O'Callaghan, Katherine Brown (15th), Hazel Barrett (16th), Andre Mathey (17th), John Hooker, Marie O'Reirden (18th), John Bishorek, Albert Andrews, Ruth Adams (19th), Philip Jones, Charles Phillips, Herbert 'Bertie' Charles Nutt (20th).

Sick and Housebound: Anne Nyland, Deacon Anthony Cairns, Johnny Flood, Simone Cluett, Ramona Heath-Saunders, Concetta Losanno, Mai Wilson, Den Walker, Brian Choules, Len Harley, Marie Smith, Patricia Mate.

THANKS: to Cathy Pickles, Lisa Thurston and Anne Reynolds for giving us a lovely reflective Advent Service on Friday.

KNIT & STITCH will meet next Friday 20th December 2019 in Joseph's Place from 2.30pm to 4pm. All welcome.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH 2019 – a reminder that we would be grateful for any suitable gifts (or appropriate donation) for the Christmas tree for our guests to take home. The gift, value £2-£4, should be wrapped and labelled for a "lady" or "gentleman". Thank you, Mike and Ann Reynolds 01590 679084

100 CLUB DRAW will take place after Mass this Sunday 15th December. The final draw of the year will include the star prize of £75! Thank you to all members of the 100 Club who have helped raise funds for the parish. We are receiving subscriptions for 2020 and will be in touch with members in January.

FUND-RAISING UPDATE: Pledges - Number of pledges: 31
Expected return over 5 years including gift aid: £75,915
Actual Bank Account Receipts to date:- **£28,205.53**

All Parishes

CRIB COLLECTIONS: For the Christian Communities of the Holy Land (via the Friends of the Holy Land)

THIS TUESDAY...17th DECEMBER...ANGELFEST NEEDS YOU!

Our Lady & St Joseph Catholic Primary school, Ramley Road, Pennington is hosting a Christmas Fayre with an Angel theme this Tuesday from 3.30-4.30pm. All proceeds will go to our Building Fund, and you have all been invited to attend. There will be lots to do and lots to buy. The school choir will be singing. Please support the school if you can.

CAROL CONCERT: Our Lady & St Joseph Primary school's Christmas Carol Concert will be in OLMSJ church 2pm Thursday 19th December. The children will be here from 12noon having lunch in Joseph's place, then a dress rehearsal in the church. There will be a lot of children, parents and cars moving around the site that afternoon so please avoid parking on site that day.

FUNDRAISING 2020: We will not be organising any Fundraising events in January, but will start again in February. If you have an idea for a fundraising event for 2020, please see one of the fundraising committee: Magdalene Chadbourn, Linda Guilding, Jill Heneghan, Nichola Kirby or Keith & Rini Stittaford. A big thank you to you all for supporting the Fundraising events this year.

SCHOOL MASS- date for your diary: The next Mass at the school will be on Thursday 9th January at 9am. You are all welcome to attend.

Christmas is filled with symbols, many of which have lost their Christian symbolism in a secular world. Here you will find the Christian meaning of two of our Christmas symbols. The tradition of the church incorporates material symbols because they help us get a better grasp on the spiritual realities that they are representing.

ADVENT WREATH: The Advent Wreath combines the symbolism of wreathes, evergreens and candles. In addition, the Advent wreath utilizes the symbolic colours purple and pink, the colour of the priest's Advent vestments. In an Advent Wreath, three purple candles (to signify penance, prayer, and preparation for Christmas) and one pink candle (to symbolize rejoicing) are spaced equidistantly around the wreath. Each candle represents 1000 years which, taken together, equal the traditional sense of 4000 years from Adam to the birth of Christ. The purple candles are lit on the First, Second, and Fourth Sundays of Advent and the pink one on the Third Sunday, which is called Gaudete (Rejoicing) Sunday. On Christmas Day, a white (for the purity of Christ) candle is lit. The white candle symbolizes the birth of Christ, the Light of the World and the Centre of all creation.

Lord, be my Light in the darkness and help me to be a light to others, to show them the way to you. When all seems hopeless, help me to remember that the darkness cannot overcome Your Light. You are the eternal Brilliance of God. May Your Light be my hope, my God. Amen.