

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 OPT

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.nfwf.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; Roger Maughan, Milford on Sea

Parish Safeguarding Representative: Vanessa Dugdale (Lym); Susan McCabe (Brock); Liz Price (Mil).

PA to Pastoral Co Ordinator & Health & Safety Co ordinator : Linda Guilding; **Health & Safety Rep St Francis:** John Parry.

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

By appointment only -
contact Fr David at the
parish office.

The Week: 20th December 2020 - 27th December 2020

DAY	DATE	CHURCH	TIME		LITURGY/CELEBRATION	INTENTION	P
SAT/SUN	19 th /20 th	Our Lady	SAT 6pm	Mass	Fourth Sunday of Advent Yr B (V)	For the People of the Parishes	DMA
MON	21 st	N/A	N/A	Mass	Liturgy of the Day (V)	Special Intention (R&C C)	DMA
TUE	22 nd	N/A	N/A	Mass	Liturgy of the Day (V)	Normina Marshall RIP F/M	DMA
WED	23 rd	N/A	N/A	Mass	Liturgy of the Day (V)	For wellbeing of Family & Friends (PE)	DMA
THU	24 th	Our Lady	6pm	Mass	Christmas Night Mass	Patricia Harrison RIP	DMA
FRI	25 th	St Francis	9am	Mass	Christmas Day Mass	Margaret Hurley RIP	DMA
FRI	25 th	St Anne	10.30am	Mass	Christmas Day Mass	For the People of the Parishes	DMA
SAT	26 th	N/A	N/A	Mass	St Stephen, Feast, (R)	Anthony Jamieson RIP	DMA
SUN	27 th	St Francis	9am	Mass	Christmas - Holy Family	Tom & Audrey Lauer (Thanksgiving)	DMA
SUN	27 th	Our Lady	10.30am	Mass	Christmas - Holy Family	For the People of the Parishes	DMA
SUN	27 th	St Anne	6pm	Mass	Christmas - Holy Family	Lowenna Haskell (Health)	DMA

PUBLIC WORSHIP ON SUNDAYS & HOLY DAYS WITH RESTRICTIONS - NOW FULLY BOOKED

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: Irene (Mac) Hutchinson (20th), Anna-Marie Bares (22nd), Robert Joseph Lynch (23rd), Fortunee Annette Bernard (25th), Thomas Phelan, Paul Bartholomew Meade (26th)

Sick & Housebound: Sr Rosaleen, Louise Layne, Daphne Jones, Joan Lloyd, Sarah Bell. (Note: Our Pastoral Council agreed that people should be taken off the sick list after they have been on it a month unless they or someone asks for them to stay on it.)

IF YOU ARE NOT DOING SO ALREADY:

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE PARISH FINANCIALLY WITH A REGULAR STANDING ORDER:

A/C NAME: "PRCDTR - MIL-ON-SEA - ST FRANCIS ASS"

A/C NUMBER: 00882772

SORT CODE: 30-93-04

Contact Eva Gaskin on 01590-643199 if you need any help. (PRCDTR i.e. Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Reg'd)

St Anne, Brockenhurst

Anniversaries this week: Maureen Patricia O'Riordan, Josephine Margaret Kershaw (21st), Sheelah Munford (22nd), Normina Marshall (24th), Winifred Doris Sergeant, Kieran Patrick Holland (25th), Ethel Mary Knight-Grigg (26th)

Sick and Housebound: Please keep in your prayers: Rosemary Sheldon, Sr Rosaleen, Sean Dunn, Linda Reardon.

KEEPING CONTACT WITH PARISHIONERS: Our PPC members have been contacting parishioners to wish them well & offer any support if needed. If desired they will also share a prayer which I have been asked to compose: *Gracious Father, we thank you that you shared our life in your Son Jesus so that through him we can share in your life. Help us, with joyful hearts, to receive your love and to give your love. As Mary and Joseph, may we do our part to share Christ with all your people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

The Rosary on Christmas Eve: While as a Parish we cannot all worship together this Christmas season, we thought it would be lovely if on Christmas Eve, those who would like to, could say the Joyful Mysteries in our own homes between 5pm and 6pm, and with our own intentions, thus bringing us closer together.

BOOST TO PARISH FUNDS: We are very grateful to one of our parishioner couples (they want to remain anonymous) who have given a £1000 donation to parish funds in addition to their usual monthly standing order. Be assured of gratitude and our prayers.

IF YOU ARE NOT DOING SO ALREADY:

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING THE PARISH FINANCIALLY WITH A REGULAR STANDING ORDER:

A/C NAME: "PRCDTR - BROCKENHURST - ST ANNE"

A/C NUMBER: 00875962

SORT CODE: 30-93-04

(PRCDTR i.e. Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Reg'd)

Any items for the newsletter to anna@boylemellor.co.uk to arrive EARLIER PLEASE - WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME

All Parishes

FROM THE SISTERS AT SWAY:

Formation for Readers: During the 2020 lockdown we have been able to form about 100 readers over two sets of online workshops in October and November, offering a reading practice to each one with a Diocesan Listener. We will continue offering these workshops in 2021, Year of the Word in Portsmouth Diocese. The 2021 workshops will take place in **February (6th and 13th)** and in **April (17th and 24th)**. Participants need to have attended both workshop 1 and workshop 2, and completed a reading practice to receive a Diocesan *Recognitio*. Sign up for the workshops here: <https://www.godwhospeaks.org/readers>

Our Lady & St Joseph, Lymington

Anniversaries this week: Philip Jones, Charles Phillips, Herbert (Bertie) Charles Nutt (20th), Harold Derek Barrett, Alice Ann Dobson, Marcia Greenwood, Terrence (Terry) Iles (21st), William Custis (22nd), John Adams, Nicholas James Phillips (24th), Pamela Joan Clifford, Frances Anne Locke (25th)

Sick and Housebound: Rita Barrett, Cathy Pickles, Caite Healy, Beatrice Tucker, Sr Rosaleen, Gerry Heneghan, Anne Nyland, Deacon Anthony Cairns, Johnny Flood, Simone Cluett, Ramona Heath-Saunders, Concetta Losanno, Den Walker, Len Harley, Marie Smith.

CONGRATULATIONS to our final 100 Club winners of the year, who are as follows:- Star Prize £75 No.85 Antony Cunningham, No.12 £40 Wendy Gallagher, No.82 £30 Sinead Joyce, No.74 £20 Lisa Thurston, No.43 £15 Julia Lewcock, No.38 £10 Neville Lewcock. Many thanks to all our 100 Club members for their support. We look forward to re-starting the 100 Club in 2022.

BUILDING FUND UPDATE: Total in Bank as at 18/12/20: £56,983.09.

PARISH FINANCIAL SUPPORT: If you are not doing so already, please consider supporting the parish with a regular standing order. Parish Standing Order Forms are available from the Parish office.

Donations to the church can also be given by cash, cheque or bank transfer, details below:-

A/C NAME: "PRCDTR - LYMINGTON - OUR LADY"

A/C NUMBER: 00882225 SORT CODE: 30-93-04

(Please reference: DONATION)

Pledge Forms are still available if you wish to support the **Building Fund**. You may also **Gift Aid** your donations if you let us know.

Please contact the Parish Office if you have any questions or would like to discuss how best to proceed.

All Parishes

CHECK OUR WEBSITE: www.nfwp.org.uk for resources to support us in our faith and in our care of one another.

NEW FOREST BASICS BANK CHRISTMAS GIFT APPEAL: Thank you to everyone who has supported the NFBB Christmas Gift Appeal; we have been able to provide gifts for almost 70 people. The box of gifts will be delivered to NFBB on 14 December so that they can be included in the food parcels which are being packed next week.

FOR ONLINE DONATIONS TO BASICS BANK: follow the link below: <https://localgiving.org/appeal/BasicsBankChristmas/>

CHRISTMAS SERVICES: The seats have been allocated for the Christmas Eve, Christmas Day Masses and Sun 27th, all 3 churches are now full. If you would like to be put on a reserve list in case anyone cannot attend, please let Linda know by emailing or ringing the parish office. We can't promise anything, but sometimes people drop out.

There are still all the COVID restrictions in place this Christmas, and we may not be able to sing Carols in church, but we can still be joyous and celebrate the Saviour's birth! His birth gives us hope and, with the vaccine now being distributed among the population, we can now look forward with hope to celebrating Easter and all being together again. I have missed seeing all of you.

WORLD GIFTS CAFOD: We cannot leave any paper items in church as it is a means of transmitting the virus, so the CAFOD catalogue for World Gifts is not available. However, you can visit their catalogue on line cafod.org.uk/worldgifts then you can order on line or choose online and phone 0808 14 000 14 Monday to Friday, 9.30am-5.30pm to place an order. Last online order date to receive free delivery for Christmas is 16th December. Order by 12noon 21st December via telephone to receive express delivery at a cost of £5. E-gifts Order online and select a print-at-home certificate or e-card.

FROM THE SISTERS AT SWAY:

Formation on the Mass: This coming January, I invite you to join us for a **Back to Basics Course on the Mass in 6 sessions** to refresh our understanding and deepen our love for the Mass. After lockdown, some of our friends and family, and even ourselves, may find it difficult to return to the sacramental practice of our faith. Taking time to discover or rediscover what we believe in our faith, how this is celebrated in the Mass, and how we are called to live it may be just what we need at the beginning of the year, to re-ignite our love for the Mass and find the words to encourage others to practice. Each session will end with a time of prayer. They will be led by Sr Hyacinthe and Angela Wood. This course will be especially helpful to catechists, readers and parents of First Holy Communion children, but it is open to everyone. It will be taking place on **Monday evenings from 7 to 9 pm, from the 11th January to the 15th February.**

Sign up for the course here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZwof-mrjiltEtDVpuf54s7y-BFuAraTlVe6>