

Southeast Hampshire, 'Jesus Prince of Peace' Pastoral Area

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I cannot believe that Advent is nearly upon us. One of the highlights, for me during this season is our weekly Station Masses where we come together on Tuesday evenings at different churches around our pastoral area. Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation is offered by our local clergy between 6pm and 7pm. This is followed by the celebration of Mass at 7pm followed by a wonderful, shared supper. I encourage everyone to make the most of these opportunities.

Following Fr Jeremy's departure (and Ben the dog), I have had the great joy of welcoming Fr Tom to our community. I look up to him in more ways than one! Tom has a real thirst for knowledge and a keenness to accompany people who are interested in coming into the Church. Walks and pints at country pubs too have become a wonderful pastime on days off. I am pleased to report that Jeremy and Ben are settling well into retirement, neither missing the steep stairs of the presbytery. They also continue to pop in to check all is running smoothly!



I am pleased to announce a new appointment in our pastoral area. Josie Higson, from St Patrick's community, is now employed 2 days a week to help coordinate our alpha courses taking place in our churches and schools. I am so grateful for her support. As a pastoral area, we have chosen Alpha as our main tool for evangelisation and continue to welcome many coming to Christ or deepening in their relationship with God. In the last 3 years we have seen over 250 people attend our alpha courses around our pastoral area!

This Autumn, we have over 75 guests (adults and young people) taking part in courses at Sacred Heart, Waterlooville, St Michael's, Leigh Park, Oaklands School and St Thomas More's School. I have been particularly delighted to see a team of young leaders from different Christian Churches working together to deliver these. Their faith and willingness to evangelise their peers is a great joy to behold. Please do keep all those involved in our alpha courses in your prayers. In the Spring we are keen to run alpha courses in our other church communities.

As many of you may remember, last Pentecost we celebrated a wonderful multicultural Mass at Oaklands School at which we announced the new name for our overarching Parish. Over 1300 people within our church and school took part in the vote, with the following results:

Holy Name of Jesus - 355

Jesus the Good Shepherd - 506

Jesus Prince of Peace - 581

With Jesus Prince of Peace receiving the most votes, I was delighted that Bishop Philip confirmed is the name of our new overarching Parish.

Since our Pastoral Area Mass at Pentecost, a number of important developments have taken place. One of these is our Finance teams working together with Charles Blishen, Diocesan Acting Director of Finance, to explore the best way forward for managing our shared resources.

As Canon Gerard often reminded us, there must be a balance between allowing each church community a degree of autonomy for day-to-day costs, while ensuring that some matters are agreed upon collectively by the overarching Finance Team. These discussions will continue in the coming months to find the “best fit” for everyone involved. I am deeply grateful to all those with financial expertise who so generously give their time to assist in this transition.

One issue that had previously seemed a stumbling block was the repayment for the building of Sacred Heart Church in Waterlooville. Thanks to Fr Jeremy’s initiative, fruitful discussions with the Diocese led to a clear and fair agreement before his retirement. Sacred Heart Parish, having already paid the £1 million originally agreed, will—out of fraternal charity—continue to repay a further amount through a manageable diocesan loan, as the final building costs exceeded initial estimates. This clarity has placed our pastoral area in a strong and viable financial position, with all parishes now in credit.

-As we continue on this journey toward becoming one Canonical Parish, a 30-day consultation period will be held from 30th November to 30th December. If you would like to share your thoughts or comments regarding our direction of travel, please send them in writing to: office@stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk

Finally, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your prayer, support and commitment in helping to build the Kingdom of God among us. May this Advent be a time of joyful expectation and may the peace of Christ dwell richly in your hearts.

Wishing you a holy Advent and a blessed, joyful Christmas!

God bless, Father James

(Acting Pastoral Coordinator for Southeast Hampshire Pastoral Area)



Some Masses for you to consider during the Advent and Christmas Season

'Rorate Caeli' Candlelight Masses during Advent in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday 1st December	7am	Sacred Heart, Waterloooville
Monday 8th December	7am	Sacred Heart, Waterloooville
Monday 15th December	7am	Sacred Heart, Waterloooville
Monday 22nd December	7am	Sacred Heart, Waterloooville

Station Masses on Tuesday Evenings

(6-7pm Adoration and Reconciliation, 7-8pm Mass, 8-9pm Soup and Fellowship)

Tuesday 2nd December	St Colman's Cosham
Tuesday 9th December	Sacred Heart, Waterloooville
Tuesday 16th December	St Michael's, Leigh Park

Jesus Prince of Peace – Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve		Location
4pm	Children's Mass	Sacred Heart, Waterloooville
5pm	Family Mass	St Michael's, Leigh Park
5:30pm	Vigil Mass (Carols 5pm)	St Thomas', Emsworth
6pm	Family Mass	St Patrick's, Hayling Island
6pm	Mass	Our Lady of the Nativity and St Paul, Paulsgrove
8pm	Mass	Sacred Heart, Waterloooville
11pm	Polish Carols and Vigil Mass	St Joseph's, Emsworth
11:30pm	Midnight Mass	St Patrick's, Hayling

Christmas Day		Location
Midnight	Mass (Carols 11:30pm)	St Edmund's, Horndean
Midnight	Mass (Carols 11:30pm)	St Colman's, Cosham
8:00am	Dawn Mass	Sacred Heart, Waterloooville
9:00am	Mass (Carols 8:40am)	St Thomas', Emsworth
9:30am	Mass	St Edmund's, Horndean
9:30am	Mass	St Michael's Leigh Park
10am	Mass	St Colman's, Cosham
10am	Mass	St Patrick's, Hayling Island
11am	Mass	St Joseph's, Havant
11am	Mass	Sacred Heart, Waterloooville
1pm	Polish Mass	St Joseph's, Havant
4pm	Mass	QA Hospital

Dates for your diaries:

Sunday 18th January: Celebration of our new Patron, Jesus Prince of Peace, in our Church Communities:

Saturday 23rd May (Time TBC): Pentecost Mass Together at Oaklands School.