

Southeast Hampshire Pastoral Area
Jesus Prince of Peace
St Michael and All Angels Catholic Church, Leigh Park

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth charity number 1199568

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Our Website: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/st-michael-and-all-angels-leigh-park/>

Second Sunday of Advent – Year A

Parish Mass Book page 85

Scripture Readings at Mass

Isaiah 11:1-10 *'With righteousness he shall judge the poor.'*

Romans 15:4-9 *'Christ saves humanity.'*

Matthew 3:1-12 *'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.'*

6/7 December 2025

Fr Tom writes...

At one point in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus says: "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." It is worth meditating on these words in the light of what is going on in 'liturgical time' right now. Mary is heavily pregnant, in her ninth month in fact. The child she carries is God in human form, the Creator of the Universe. We do not hold this to be a metaphor, but the literal, mindboggling and historical truth of what was about to happen in Bethlehem.

And there's more, for the infant she bears is fully human as well as fully divine. In light of Jesus's fingers-and toes physicality, it is hardly less bewildering to consider that this tiny infant, eight months in the womb, who will in time be clothed and fed like any other baby, is also a seed. He is the seed that gave birth to the Church to which we belong, that, for all our imperfections, continues to grow around the world. He is the tree in which we nest, for this baby is not just set to be a Teacher (though he will be that) Truth itself in human form. Not just a prophet, but that which was prophesied by the prophets – for what Mary carries is the Healing of the Nations, Godwith-us. As my father used to say: 'It's too unlikely not to be true!'

Bambinelli Sunday – 14th December



Please bring your infant Jesus figure and your crib scene to Mass next Sunday 14th December, when we ask for God's blessing upon your crib figures, especially upon the *bambinelli*, the figures of baby Jesus. Just place them before the altar when you arrive for Mass.

Our Liturgies this week

Reconciliation; in the half hour prior to Mass

Saturday 6th December, Feria

12 noon Mass

Catherine Marie Walsh & deceased family

Sunday 7th December

Second Sunday of Advent

9.30 am Mass

Private INT

Monday 8th December

7 pm Mass

The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

For the Parish

Tuesday 9th December, Feria

Wednesday 10th December

St Swithun Wells, Martyr, memorial

10.15 am Mass

Rev Father Sean Budden RIP

10.45 am Adoration

Thursday 11th December, Feria

Friday 12th December, Feria

Saturday 13th December

St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr, m

12 noon Mass

For the Parish

Sunday 14th December

Second Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday

9.30 am Mass

Annie Scharwatt INT

St Michael's Christmas raffle

We will be selling raffle tickets soon. If you are able to donate a raffle prize, we would be grateful.

Altar Servers Training in preparation for our liturgies a training session for all altar servers will take place on Sunday 14th December, immediately after the 9.30 am Mass. We'll enjoy some pizza together as well. Please let Deacon Nick or the parish office know if you are able to attend.

A Candlelit Carol Concert at Sacred Heart, Waterloooville, with the Denmead Brass Band Monday 15th December at 6.30pm, Readings & Carols followed by Mulled Wine & Mince Pies. Money raised from the evening will go to church funds

Carols and festive songs As is now our tradition, our choir will be visiting Malmesbury Lawn Care Home on Saturday 20th December to sing carols and festive songs. Everyone is warmly invited to join us. Please meet at 1.30pm at Malmesbury Lawn, Woolston Road, Havant, ready for a 2 pm start. Come along to share the music, joy, and community spirit of the Christmas season.

St Michael's Christmas party December 20th 5pm – 11 pm. Please bring food to share. See out noticeboard for more information

Buckfast Abbey Retreat

For anyone who would like to join us on retreat at Buckfast Abbey, there are still four rooms available as part of our booking of the whole hotel from 22nd to 26th June 2026. This will be our third visit to Buckfast Abbey. Previous retreats have proved to be very relaxed and restful with time to make the most of the spiritual activities available to us:

Monastery daily prayer times, Lectio Divina, Morning mass, and meaningful, inspirational, spiritual reflections led by Father Jeremy. All on offer but completely voluntary.

The peaceful atmosphere of Buckfast Abbey and gardens enhances all we do, with everything close at hand but by no means enclosed.

Please contact Margaret Whyte or Trevor Nee margaret@mwhyte.co.uk trev.pat@ntlworld.com both parishioner at St. Edmund's, for cost and further details. Deposits will be requested at the start of next week.

Christmas Chocolate Appeal 2025

Stella Maris meets and supports seafarers around the world. We want to show them that they are not forgotten this Christmas, so we're planning to collect hundreds of chocolate Christmas presents. Can you help us by donating chocolate gifts? Please bring donations to Church.

Dear all Please accept our deep gratitude for your support, kindness and prayers for George Riley RIP. Your presence at his Requiem Mass made George's farewell unforgettable. May he Rest in Peace.
Much love, Zoya, Nicholas and Claire.

Join us at St Michael's for a Children's Choir every Wednesday from 6 pm to 7 pm, All children are welcome to sing and make music. Please see Felicity in our music group if you are interested.

Jesus, Prince of Peace Christmas Fair will be held at St Joseph's on Saturday 6th December. If you would like to run a table for St Michael's, please let the parish office know.

Sacred Heart Christmas Fair Coordinated by Nina McCormack on Sunday 7th December, straight after Mass.

Station Masses on Tuesday Evenings

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

Tuesday 9th December, Sacred Heart, Waterloooville

Tuesday 16th December, St Michael's, Leigh Park

Christmas Eve & Christmas Day – Masses around Jesus Prince of Peace

Christmas Eve:

4pm Children's Nativity & Mass Sacred Heart, Waterloooville

5pm Family Mass (Carols from 4.30pm) St. Michael & All Angels, Leigh Park

5.30pm Vigil Mass (Carols from 5pm) St. Thomas', Emsworth

6pm Family Mass St. Patrick, Hayling Island

6pm Mass Our Lady of the Nativity & St. Paul, Paulsgrove

8pm Mass Sacred Heart, Waterloooville

11pm Polish Carols & Vigil Mass St. Joseph, Emsworth

11.30pm Midnight Mass St. Patrick, Hayling Island

Midnight Mass (Carols from 11.30pm) St. Edmund, Horndean

Midnight Mass (Carols from 11.30pm) St. Colman, Cosham

Christmas Day:

8am Dawn Mass Sacred Heart, Waterloooville

9am Mass (Carols from 8.40am) St. Thomas, Emsworth

9.30am Mass St. Edmund, Horndean

9.30am Mass St. Michael & All Angels, Leigh Park

10am Mass St. Colman, Cosham

10am Mass St. Patrick, Hayling Island

11am Mass ` St. Joseph, Havant

11am Mass Sacred Heart, Waterloooville

1pm Polish Mass St. Joseph, Havant

4pm Mass QA Hospital, Cosham