

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/>

Third Sunday of Advent – Year A

Scripture Readings at Mass

Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 'God himself is coming to save you.'

James 5:7-10 'Do not lose heart for the Lord's coming will be soon.'

Matthew 11:2-11 'Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else?'

13/14 December 2025

Fr. Tom writes...

The first reading this Sunday, from Isaiah, sees God urging the prophet to encourage those who are losing their nerve: *Strengthen the weak hands, say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not!"* The second reading has James telling early Christians: *Do not grumble*, while, in the Gospel reading, Jesus, speaking to his followers about John the Baptist, commends the latter's bravery: *What did you go out to see? A reed shaken by the wind? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in king's houses.*

None of these excerpts lead us to anticipate an easy time as a Christian. Finishing Alpha, or being a long-term parishioner; or being a priest – none of this means the going should be easy. In fact, according to saint after saint, the closer one draws to God the more ruthless it can get. Conversion is a life-long process for everyone who takes the invitation of faith seriously. Masks and lukewarmness and hypocrisies (however 'small') - all get ripped away as we approach the dazzling brightness of the Lord.

The difference is that God is with us, helping us to prepare for Him. How good He is!! Neither personal worry nor temptations; nor all the efforts of secular news media, secular education and state-backed consumerism to take our minds off the Truth – nothing cannot separate us from the love and reality of Christ. Not even death. And it was ever thus, as these readings show. *Stay awake* is one of the perennial cries of Scripture, and one of the deep themes of Advent. Be vigilant, be trusting – for God is real and He keeps His promises.

Calling all singers from our Church Communities

If you would like to join a 'scratch' choir to praise God, this Christmas, at our Midnight Mass at St Edmund's, Horndean, please email Marijke Miles at music.hay@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

There will be a practice before the evening and also on the night too.

Our Liturgies this week

Reconciliation; in the half hour prior to Mass

Saturday 13th December

St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr, m

12 noon Mass

For the Parish

Sunday 14th December

Third Sunday of Advent, Gaudete Sunday

9.30 am Mass

Annie Scharwatt INT

Monday 15th December, Feria

Tuesday 16th December, Feria

Wednesday 17th December

Liturgy of the Day

['O Wisdom']

10.15 am Mass

Patricia Rex RIP and Family INT

10.45 am Adoration

Thursday 18th December, Feria

Liturgy of the Day

['O Adonai']

Friday 19th December, Feria

Liturgy of the Day

['O Root of Jesse']

Saturday 20th December

Liturgy of the Day

['O Key of David']

12 noon Mass

Bridge Bell RIP

Sunday 21st December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

9.30 am Mass

Colin and Marie McDonald INT

The Rosary group will not meet this Monday as St Thomas More KSI hold their Nativity in church.

St Michael's Christmas raffle

Raffle tickets will be on sale this weekend. 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, Waterlooovile, 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.

Station Masses on Tuesday Evenings

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

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

Carols and festive songs

If any children would like to sing carols at Malmesbury Lawn Care Home on Saturday, 20th December, they are warmly invited to join the children's choir for their final practice on Wednesday, 17th December at 6pm in the church, for a full run-through.

St Michael's Christmas party

December 20th 5pm – 11 pm. Please bring food to share. See out noticeboard for more information

Christmas Eve

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

Christmas Day:

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

Meeting with Bishop Philip about The Priesthood

Bishop Philip is inviting any man in our Diocese, aged 17 or older, who is not married and who would like to know more about being a diocesan priest, to contact him and to come to a short meeting at the Cathedral on Sunday 4th January at 3 o'clock (finishes at 5 pm). Please scan the QR code to register.



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 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