

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

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth charity number 1199568

Parochial Administrator: Rev. Fr. James Lewis

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

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Times

Parish Mass Book page 130

Scripture Readings at Mass

Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13 'I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly.'

1 Corinthians 1:26-31 'God chose what is weak in the world.'

Matthew 5:1-12 'Blessed are the poor in spirit.'

1 FEBRUARY 2026

Fr. James writes...

As I had shared with many at Mass the weekend before last, Fr Tom's mum, Muriel was coming to stay with us. She no longer felt safe at home alone. She was struggling with Alzheimer's and her health was deteriorating. Fr Tom and I knew this was the right thing to do. Reaching out, fourteen parishioners kindly offered to come and help Fr Tom with caring for his mum. The outpouring of this spontaneous love touched his heart. Having Tom's mum in the house made our presbytery feel more like a home. Though suffering, Muriel continued to love and allow Tom to love and look after her. On Friday morning, I popped into see her whilst she was watching the news. I asked her if she wanted me to turn the news off as it was depressing. She said to me, I need to know who to pray for. Muriel's heart was the Lord's and for care of others. That Friday evening over supper, we read a chapter of a book which she had written after her daughter died. Those words she had written many years ago, she affirmed as truth that night. I share her writings below. On Saturday Muriel became very weak. I anointed her. Tom and his brother, Robin were on each side of her bed as she peacefully slipped away. Please keep Muriel in your prayers and Fr Tom, Robin, his brother and their family. I thank God for his love for each of us and for our kind and caring community.

Trailing Clouds of Glory

Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting;

The soul that rises with us, our life's star

Hath had elsewhere its setting

And cometh from afar:

Not in entire forgetfulness

And not in utter nakedness

But trailing clouds of glory do we come

From God, who is our home.

'Imitations of Immortality'
By William Wordsworth

These lines express what for me is an intuitive belief, which is that even before our human birth, we were with God, and to Him, we will return. It matters not to me that academics have interpreted Wordsworth's poem in a more complex way. The poem itself worried some Christians when it appeared. They were concerned that Wordsworth was expressing a belief in reincarnation, as suggested in the writings of Plato.

I prefer to exercise my right as a reader to take these beautiful words for what they say to me, I understand them as being a celebration of the heavenly origins and heavenly destination of human life. Who can look at a newborn baby and not see some other worldly wisdom in that peculiarly elderly little face? What a touch of genius to use the word 'trailing'.

It suggests utter unselfconsciousness, as when we walk into the house from the garden, unaware that a few leaves or burs are sticking to the hem of our coat. Toddlers leave a trail behind them, especially when they're learning to walk. A dropped Teddy here, a plastic beaker there. We know where they've come from and can follow their trail. What is that sense of awe and reverence we experience as we approach the crib of a new baby but an awareness that we are treading on holy ground?

Even before I was knitted together in my mother's womb, God had me in his heart. I was there from all eternity, safe in his presence. No wonder the world seems a bewildering place at times. No wonder we feel a homesickness, a sense of melancholy. This is only our temporary home where, for a while, we pitch our tent. It's only part of our story and, of that, neither the beginning nor the end.

Dear Lord, when I am afraid of death, when even the idea of eternity seems, at best, incomprehensible and, at worst alarming, help me to remember that You have made me for the sole purpose of coming back to You, and that I will not be a stranger in Your kingdom but a child back in my Father's house.

Muriel Hiney

DATE	TIME	LITURGICAL CELEBRATION	VENUE	MASS INTENTION
Saturday 31 January St John Bosco, Founder, m Vigil FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	11.30am 12noon 5-6pm 6.15pm	Adoration & Confession Mass followed by Prayer for Healing Holy Hour & Confession Mass	St Michael St Michael St Michael Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Muriel Hiney RIP John & Kathleen Fleming, RIP
Sunday 1 February FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9am 9.30am 11am 4pm 5.30pm	Mass Mass Mass Mass Mass	St Edmund St Michael Sacred Heart QA Hospital Chapel Sacred Heart	Margaret Sopwith, RIP John & Sheila Allen RIP Holy Souls Paul Crombie, RIP (FM)
Monday 2 February THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD, feast	7.30am 12.30pm	Holy Hour Mass	Sacred Heart QA Hospital Chapel	
Tuesday 3 February Feria [4th Week in OT]	7.30am 6pm 6.30pm	Holy Hour Adoration Mass	Sacred Heart St Edmund St Edmund	Samuel Ryder, RIP
Wednesday 4 February Feria [4th Week in OT]	7.30am 10.15am 11.30am 12noon	Holy Hour Mass followed by Adoration Adoration Mass	Sacred Heart St Michael St Michael Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Shirley Sweeney RIP Eugene Peyton, RIP
Thursday 5 February St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr, memorial	7.30am 9.30am 10am	Holy Hour Adoration & Confession Mass	Sacred Heart St Edmund St Edmund	Fr. Daniel, Intention
Friday 6 February St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs, m	7.30am 11.30am 12noon	Holy Hour Adoration Mass	Sacred Heart Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	Mary McNally, RIP (FM)
Saturday 7 February Our Lady on Saturday Vigil FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	11.30am 12noon 12noon 5-6pm 6.15pm	Adoration & Confession Mass Mass for the Sick Holy Hour & Confession Mass	St Michael St Michael St Edmund Sacred Heart Sacred Heart	First Holy Communion children, catechist and families For all the sick Juan Snr, Rosa & Teresa
Sunday 8 February FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	9am 9.30am 11am 4pm 5.30pm	Mass Mass Mass Mass Mass	St Edmund St Michael Sacred Heart QA Hospital Chapel Sacred Heart	Special Int of T. Barnett for Michelle George Riley RIP People of the Parish Intention of the Hodges Family

Fr. James is taking annual leave from Tuesday 27th January until Tuesday 17th February. Please keep him in your prayers and he promises to pray for all of us when he is away. Fr. Tom will be here, steering the ship while Fr. James is away. If you require a priest in an emergency, out of office hours, please call 023 9226 2289 and dial 9 when prompted.

The Rosary group

Meet on Monday at 10 am at St Michael's.

Healing Mass and Prayer

Saturday 31st January at St Michael and All Angels. Celebrated by Fr Tom Hiney and Fr Joe Gruszkiewicz. 11.30am Adoration & Confession followed by Mass at 12noon.

Think & Drink

Faith, fellowship and fun for young adults (18+). Gathering in the Narthex at Sacred Heart Church after 5.30 pm Mass on the first Sunday of every month and walking across to the Woodpecker Pub on London Road. Next meeting is on Sunday 1st February. Around 7pm start for those going straight there.

Love the Bible group - New Zoom Series: Psalms – The School of Prayer

Join our new 10-week Ascension group series led by Jeff Cavins, using DVD teaching and group discussion on Zoom. Resources shared via WhatsApp, or participants may purchase the book (£35).

All are welcome. For Zoom details and joining information, please email Kathy Collins if you would like to attend, kathy.collins1@ntlworld.com.

First Holy Communion Programme

Begins on 7th February at St Michael's. Please see Julia Corps who is available after Sunday Mass.

Mass for the Sick

St Edmund, Horndean, would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone in Jesus Prince of Peace Parish for a special Mass with the Sacrament of the Sick on Saturday 7th February @ 12noon. Lunch in the hall afterwards and for catering reasons please email Sue on office@waterlooville-catholic.org.uk if you wish to attend. They will be collecting donations which go towards the cost of the lunch, and any money left over at the end of the year goes to charities like CAFOD, Stella Maris and Aid to the Church in Need.

Mass for Our Lady of Lourdes

Celebrated at St Colman's Church, Cosham, Friday 13th February at 6.30 pm. Especially for medics, nurses & care workers, all are welcome.

We pray for the rest and peace of the soul of John Tookey-Dickson whose funeral will be on Thursday 19th February at 11.30 am at St Michael's. Please remember his wife Jo, and their family in your prayers.

Racial Justice Sunday

Jenny LeLean, Head of Charity for Caritas Diocese of Portsmouth, reminds us that this Sunday, 1st February is Racial Justice Sunday.

Racial Justice Sunday is the day the Church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. This year "Whoever loves God must also love his brother" (1 John 4:21): Promoting Racial Justice in our Parishes. 'Rooting out Racism from our Parish' was put together by the parish of Our Lady of Fatima, White City, London and includes people's experience of racism, encouragement to change from Cardinal Nichols and Bishop Paul McAleenan along with a prayer for racial Justice www.cbcew.b-cdn.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2021/01/Rooting-Out-Racism.pdf

The National Justice and Peace Network (NJPN) are hosting a webinar 'Shining a Light on Racism in England: From Lived Experience to Collective Action' on Thursday 5 February, online, 7.30-9pm.

For more details and to register go to: www.justice-and-peace.org.uk

Formation Morning for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

Fr Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgical Formation and the Liturgy Formation team invite you to a formation morning at St Peter's Pastoral Centre, Winchester on Saturday 9th May 2026 commencing with Mass at 9 am – 1.30 pm. (Bring your own lunch). There will be a welcome session from Fr Anthony, a talk focussing on the Eucharist in the sacred scriptures as well as a session on Lectio Divina: "Living a Eucharistic life – what does it mean to live out the eucharist?". All Eucharistic Ministers, experienced and new, are very welcome to attend. If you wish to attend, please register via

liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk