

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

Assistant Priest: Rev. Fr. Tom Hiney

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BACS details Lloyds Bank CDP Leigh Park St Michael 30-93-04 Account number: 00882004

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

The Baptism of the Lord

Parish Mass Book page 118

Scripture Readings at Mass

Isiah 42:1-4, 6-7 'Behold my servant, in whom my soul delights.'

Acts 10:34-38 'God anointed Jesus with the Holy Spirit.'

Matthew 3:13-17 'When Jesus was baptised he saw the Spirit of God coming to rest on him.'

10/11 January 2026

Fr. Tom writes... God's idea of Success

During Christmas, enjoying one of the whiskies you gave us, Fr James and I sat up one evening talking about what we thought God wanted His Church to look like in this part of the world. It's a useful conversation to have once in a while, since keeping the lights on, and bringing new people to faith, can preoccupy diocesan clergy the year round. Both of these are vital, but sometimes we have to ask ourselves: what is this Church we are maintaining and inviting people into? The numbers by which financial viability and pew-filling can be calibrated are not in themselves the answer. The Church has been given to us by God, first and foremost, to make us holy, to "partake in the Divine nature", as the apostle St Peter put it; to prepare us for heaven. That is God's plan, to be united with us forever, and, in His Church, He has given us the means to cooperate with this extraordinary (and frankly quite bewildering) project. This is why, in Jesus, He came "to exist in time", as one of the Christmas prefaces puts it. May our hearts shine ever brighter with gratitude for what He is doing since, whatever the challenges of our lives, gratitude is the rock on which all holiness and true worship is built. And because God knows our weakness, He offers us heavenly gratitude, when our own human gratitude is failing. The Church is where God changes us if we let Him. Come, Infant Saviour, and continue to fill our hearts with Your transforming grace!

Next Steps for our Young People on the Confirmation Programme 2026

On Sunday 11th January all parents and young people are to meet @ 3.30pm in the parish centre. Please bring evidence of your child's baptismal certificate, as this is required for official Church documentation. Young people need to have written a handwritten letter to Fr. James, sharing why they would like to be confirmed and what they feel would be helpful to them during the course, both in their practical daily lives and in their relationship with God. Please ensure these letters arrive at the Presbytery, 356a London Road, Waterlooville PO7 7SR no later than Wednesday 7 January 2026.

Please contact Ellen at office@stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk if you have any queries.

Our Liturgies this week

Reconciliation; in the half hour prior to Mass

Saturday 10th January, Liturgy of the Day

12 noon Mass
Toji Sindhu families INT

Sunday 11th January

The Baptism of the Lord

9.30 am Mass
Colin and Marie Cooper INT

Monday 12th January, Feria [1st Week in OT]

Tuesday 13th January, Feria [1st Week in OT]

Wednesday 14th January, Feria [1st Week in OT]

10.15 am Mass
Isla Messenger INT
10.45 am Adoration

Thursday 15th January, Feria [1st Week in OT]

Friday 16th January, Feria [1st Week in OT]

Saturday 17th January

St Anthony of Egypt, Abbot, memorial

12 noon Mass
Gary Marsh Evans INT

Sunday 18th January

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30 am Mass
Colin and Marie Cooper INT

The Rosary group will meet on Monday at 10 am in Church.

Unwanted Christmas Gifts

Please feel welcome to donate any unwanted gifts you have to the parish! A sale will be held on Sunday 18th January after 9.30 am Mass. A box is available in the working sacristy.

Jesus Prince of Peace Feast Day

Our new Feast Day will be on Sunday 18th January. As a pastoral area we will all be celebrating in our respective parishes and we would like to mark the occasion at St Michael's serving tea and cake after 9.30 am Sunday Mass. We will be charging for a slab of cake, and all proceeds will go to church funds.

First Holy Communion Programme begins in February. Please see Julia Corps who is available after Sunday Mass.

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.

Stella Maris Christmas chocolate appeal - Thank You



Good morning, I would like to express our deepest gratitude to all those who advertised, promoted, and collected donated chocolate items for seafarers at Christmas. We received an amazing quantity and were able to deliver bags of chocolate tubs and other gifts to about 100 ships in Southampton and Fawley Refiner. As you can see from the attached photo, the crew were extremely touched by your thoughtfulness and many expressed how it brought their ship the spirit and warmth of Christmas. Praised be the Baby Jesus! Remembering seafarers at Christmas and Easter is a wonderful work of mercy and charity. Many seafarers tell us how lonely and isolated they can feel at times, especially away so far from their families. Visiting the crews with simple gifts of chocolates makes them feel appreciated and loved.

We will be launching our Easter chocolate Easter egg appeal during the beginning of Lent.

Kind regards, Gregory Hogan, Southampton Regional Port Chaplain.

Protecting our parish communities

Gift card fraud is an increasingly common way of tricking victims into purchasing gift cards and sharing their details, leading to financial loss. Please be aware that there have been scam messages circulating which appear to come from priests or diocesan staff, asking people to buy gift cards or provide financial help urgently.

The Diocese and its clergy will never ask for money, gift cards, vouchers, or personal details by email, text message, or social media.

If you receive a message of this kind, do not respond and do not send any money. Please report it to your parish office or to the [Diocese communications team](#) so that we can alert others.