



ST. JOSEPH'S & SS. THOMAS CATHOLIC PARISH OF HAVANT & EMSWORTH NEWSLETTER

Saturday, 29th - Sunday, 7th December, 2008. 1st Sunday of Advent

Advent 2008

We have moved into a new liturgical year with the 1st Sunday of Advent. This is the year of Mark, Year B. Mark was a close friend of Peter – he was his catechist. Because he worked closely with Peter, Mark's Gospel is the original source. There are many references to the fact that these are 'eye witness accounts' based on the personal testimony of Peter. For Mark, the person of Jesus is crucial but this person demands a response.

That is exactly what happens in Chapter 8 of Mark's Gospel. Half way through the Gospel, Peter makes his profession that Jesus is the Christ. The direction of the Gospel changes immediately after, at least one person knows who Jesus is and Mark moves into the journey of Jesus to Jerusalem for the next eight chapters. Mark's Gospel is the shortest – it is direct and simple. We do not have enough to fill the whole year so for five Sundays (17–21) we dip into the Eucharistic theology of John.

Christmas Services

A full list of Christmas services is now available and will go out with the newsletter next week. Please take extra copies for your Catholic neighbours, especially those who do not go to church.

Stewardship 2008

Catherine Hargaden attended an international conference in Chicago in October on Stewardship. She was there on behalf of the diocese and she will share her experiences at all Masses this Sunday.

Coffee at Emsworth

The Justice and Peace Group has agreed that the month of December donations for coffee will go to the Congo crisis appeal. Next Sunday Gabby and Emma Luck will bring along the cakes they have baked with their 'talent'.

Newsletter Attachments

Attached to the newsletter this week is an Advent Pastoral Letter from Bishop Crispian. Also attached is an Advent Calendar. This comes from Margaret Howells and her prayer group in Farnborough. It fits in very well with the Congo appeal organised by CAFOD. All the children in St. Thomas More's School have received a copy as well.

The Rowans Hospice 'Light up a Life'

Remember a loved one on Sunday, 14th at 4.00p.m. by dedicating a light on the Christmas tree in the Guildhall Square, Portsmouth. The lights will be switched on during a special outdoor service with carols.

Emsworth Church

The church remains closed for Mass on Tuesdays and Saturdays but operates as usual on Sundays. Good progress has been made by the decorators, Michael and Nick O'Mahoney. This is a father and son team and both worship at St. Patrick's, Hayling.

In Aid of CAFOD Congo Appeal

A Christmas Sing-along – carols, mince pies and mulled wine. Come and join St. Joseph's Church choir singing all your favourite carols. Enjoy a mince pie and a glass of wine or a cup of tea.

Everyone welcome – if you play an instrument, bring it along and join in on Saturday 13th December, from 3.00p.m. to 5.00p.m. in the Small Hall, St. Joseph's. Entry free, donations to CAFOD.

Forthcoming Events at Oaklands

Christmas Concert, Tuesday, 2nd December at 7.30p.m. in the Hall, featuring Oaklands bands and choirs playing seasonal music.

Carol Service, Tuesday, 16th December at 7.30p.m. in the Hall, a family service of readings and carols to celebrate the Christmas season.

Everyone is warmly invited to these events.

Justice and Peace Group

The Justice and Peace Group will be collecting cleaning materials for the Medaille Trust at Masses this week-end. The Trust uses donations of cleaning materials for the women whom they free from trafficking to clean their rooms in the refuges owned by the Trust. All donations of materials gratefully received.

November Cemetery Visit

30th – Old Cemetery, New Lane, Havant, 3.00p.m.

Children's Liturgy, Emsworth

A short meeting over coffee after the 9.00a.m. Mass today to welcome new volunteers. There were 3 new volunteers but anyone else who might like to help once every 6 weeks, is more than welcome to join us.

Parish Pastoral Council

The minutes from the recent PPC meeting can now be found on the notice boards in both churches.

Catholic Bible School in December

Saturday, 6th – 'Embracing Change in a Changing World – A Day for Men', 10.00a.m. to 3.30p.m.

Monday, 8th – SOS Anniversary Mass at 7.30p.m.

Diary

Sunday, 30th – 11.00a.m. Mass Parents and children of 1st Holy Communion programme.

Sunday, 30th – 4.00p.m. 'Preparation for Christmas' at St. Joseph's.

Tuesday, 2nd – 7.00p.m. Alpha meeting, 'How Can I make the Most of the Rest of my Life?'

Tuesday, 2nd – Parish bible study group. For more information, please contact Liam on (01243) 379646 or at the Emsworth Repository.

Thursday, 4th – 7.00p.m. 'Living our Faith' at Bishop's House.

Friday, 5th – 7.00p.m. First Friday of the month Mass.

Sunday, 7th – 4.00p.m. 'Preparation for Christmas' at St. Joseph's.

Newsletter Competition

The answer to last week's quiz was 'the Christmas No. 1 hit song'. This week's question is, "My Feast Day is in a few days but I always have more fun on somebody else's birthday. Who am I?"

Advent Repository – Last Chance

This Sunday is the last chance to purchase Advent calendars, candles and wreaths at the Emsworth repository. Christmas cards, decorations, books, as well as 2009 parish diaries are also for sale, together with all the usual items.

Christmas Carol Singing

Saturday, 13th December, Churches Together in Havant and Bedhampton, singing Christmas carols at Tesco's in Havant, 10.30a.m. to 11.30a.m. Permission has been granted by the management. Come and join us. There will be a collection for CAFOD and its work in the Congo. Come in festive dress!

Will Castle's Cakes for CAFOD

Will, aged 5, was one of the volunteers to take on the talent challenge from Fr. Tom. He has been making cakes and selling them to family, friends and at his school. He is also having a cake stall after 9.00a.m. Mass on Sunday, 14th December. If you would like to donate cakes to his stall please bring them to Mass on 14th or drop them to 8 Wisteria Gardens, Denvilles beforehand.

'Living the Talents in the Credit Crunch'

One person who received one 'talent' returned £100 - the Biblical hundredfold. Somebody else who received 2 'talents' returned £25 more. Vilma Carroll made £15 at the Wednesday coffee morning and Maureen Thompson collected £125 from her 'rich man/poor man' table.

Vacancy at Oaklands

Oaklands is looking for someone to develop and fulfil the role of chaplain. 25 -30 hours a week, term time only. Details from the Head, Mr. Quinn on (023)

Mass Times at St. Joseph's

Sat, 29th – 6.30p.m. Vigil Mass (*Phil Hennessey & Gerald New RIP*)

Sun, 30th – 11.00a.m. Mass (*Stephen Hicks RIP*)

Mon, 1st – 9.15a.m. Morning Prayer, 9.30a.m. Mass

Tues, 2nd – 9.30a.m. Mass (*Richard Boniface RIP*)

Weds, 3rd – 9.15a.m. Morning Prayer, 9.30a.m. Mass
(*Richard & Elizabeth Knapp, Senior & Family RIP*)

Fri, 5th – 7.00p.m. Mass (*Dominic McSweeney RIP*)

Sat, 6th – 9.30a.m. Mass

Sat, 6th – 6.30p.m. Vigil Mass (*Nora Hailes RIP*)

Sun, 7th – 11.00a.m. Mass (*May Campbell RIP*)

Mass Times at Ss. Thomas

Sun, 30th – 9.00a.m. Mass (*Jean Symons RIP*)

Sun, 30th – 6.00p.m. Mass (*Eileen Farrell RIP*)

Sun, 7th – 9.00a.m. Mass

Sun, 7th – 6.00p.m. Mass

Parish Website: www.rchavant.org.uk or www.rc-havant.org.uk

Newsletter articles to: rchavant@googlemail.com