



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

Saturday, 13th - Sunday, 21st December, 2008. 3rd Sunday of Advent. Gaudete Sunday

Stewardship Ministry Sunday

Stewardship belongs to Advent as we spend extra time in preparing for the birth of Christ. Today we focus on two very important aspects of our community.

1. Welcoming people to Mass is often crucial to visitors and newcomers becoming fully pledged members of the community. Some people at some of our Masses do an excellent job at greeting people as they come into Mass. For example, nobody can get into Mass at 9.00a.m. in Emsworth without somebody saying "hello" to them. That should happen at all our Masses. Walter Essex and Tony Tucker will speak at all Masses on the Ministry of welcome.
2. Altar servers too play a very significant part in our parish life. We are very short of good altar servers at the moment. Fr. Tom will speak on the need for more servers at all Masses.

You are invited to read the attachments to this newsletter on being good stewards for Advent and Christmas. N.B. A follow-up meeting for both ministries will be on Thursday, 18th December at 7.30p.m. in the presbytery.

Christmas Offerings

Please note that your offerings at all Masses on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day are your personal gift to the priest.

Reconciliation Services in the Havant Pastoral Area

Thursday, 18th – Sacred Heart, Waterlooville, 7.30p.m.

Friday, 19th – St. Edmund's, Horndean, 7.30p.m.

Saturday, 20th – St. Patrick's, Hayling Island, 11.00a.m.

Monday, 22nd – St. Joseph's, 7.30p.m.

Tuesday, 23rd – St. Michael's, Leigh Park, 7.00p.m.

Seeing Your Life Through the Lens of the Gospels

John 1: 6-8, 91-28

1. John the Baptist came to bear witness to Jesus. Who have been the people who have borne witness to you of the Good News of the Gospel that God loves you – a friend, parent, a teacher, etc.? To whom have you borne that witness?
2. John appears in the story as one who had the courage to be himself in the face of loud and aggressive people. He was also a person who knew his own value, did not make exaggerated claims and was content with his mission. Can you recall times when you have been able to be yourself, even in the face of criticism of others?
3. John was 'the voice of one crying out in the wilderness' – announcing confidently to those in the wilderness that they must not despair because God's grace will come to them at any moment. Have you had the experience of being in the wilderness, feeling lost? From whom did you hear a voice that gave you hope? Have you been able to give hope to other people when they were in the wilderness?
4. The priests and levites challenged John on his authority for speaking as he did and tried to put a label on him so they could more easily dismiss what he had to say. When were you open to accept a truth from a person whom you had previously dismissed as having nothing to say to you?

Fr. Tom Grufferty. 134 West Street, Havant PO9 1LP. tom.grufferty@ntlworld.com – (023) 9248 4520

Carol Service at Oaklands

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.

Emsworth Church Cleaning

Church cleaners are encouraged to make sure that the church is 'ship-shape' for Christmas. Volunteers are asked to meet at the church on Saturday, 20th at 2.30p.m. Contact Sharon on (01243) 372621.

Mail Drop

People living in Broadmead Way and Longbrook Close will receive a letter from the parish this week saying that we are praying for them. Many thanks to those who are doing the distribution on our behalf.

'Living Faith'

This little treasure, for the next three months, is now available at the back of the church, price £1.

Praying with the Pope

That in the face of an increase in a culture of violence and death the Church through her apostolic and missionary activity may courageously promote the culture of life.

That, especially in mission countries, Christians may show with acts of fraternal love that the child born in the stable at Bethlehem is the luminous hope of the world.



Newsletter Competition

The answer to last week's quiz was Advent. This week's question is, "Who banned mince pies in the name of national security?"

Emsworth Church

Michael and Nick O'Mahoney are due to finish painting the interior of Ss. Thomas' this weekend. As such, we shall resume regular weekday Masses from this Tuesday, 16th – Mass on Tuesday at 10.00a.m., Mass on Saturday at 10.30a.m. followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 11.00a.m.

Many thanks for your patience while these works were being carried out.

Your Prayers

Your prayers are requested for Canon Harry Murphy who is seriously ill in hospital.

Aged between 11 and 17?

Are you aged between 11 and 17 or do you have children of that age? If so, please take, from Ss Thomas' Church porch, a leaflet entitled "Don't miss out – Take a look at what's going on in Emsworth".



Mass Times at St. Joseph's

Sat, 13th – 6.30p.m. Vigil Mass (*Fr. David Buckley's Intention*)

Sun, 14th – 11.00a.m. Mass (*People of the Parish*)

Mon, 15th – 9.15a.m. Morning Prayer,
9.30a.m. Eucharistic Service

Weds, 17th – 9.15a.m. Morning Prayer, 9.30a.m. Mass
(*Rev. Joseph Knapp RIP*)

Sat, 20th – 6.30p.m. Vigil Mass (*Robert Osborne RIP*)

Sun, 21st – 11.00a.m. Mass

Mass Times at Ss. Thomas

Sun, 14th – 9.00a.m. Mass (*Chris Jones RIP*)

Sun, 14th – 6.00p.m. Mass (*Catherine Bulbeck RIP*)

Tues, 16th – 10.00a.m. Mass
(*Deceased Members of the Scurr Family*)

Sat, 20th – 10.30a.m. Mass (*In thanksgiving for the Year*)

Sun, 21st – 9.00a.m. Mass (*People of the Parish*)

Sun, 21st – 6.00p.m. Mass (*Special Intentions*)

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.

Joint Christmas Card

Churches Together in Havant and Bedhampton have the annual joint Christmas card. St. Joseph's is responsible for posting these in many of the roads around St. Joseph's itself - all the roads west of Park Road South and north to the level crossing in Bedhampton.

If you are willing to help, the cards are in St. Joseph's porch as well as a list. Count out the number of cards for the particular street you wish to cover and cross off the street so there is no duplication.

Parish Diary

Sunday, 14th - 9.00a.m. 1st Holy Communion liturgy. (Christingle)

Sunday, 14th - 4.00p.m. Preparation for Christmas (No. 3).

Tuesday, 16th - 7.30.m. Carol Service at Oaklands School.

Thursday, 18th - End of term Mass at Oaklands School.

Sunday, 21st - 4.00p.m. Preparation for Christmas (No. 4).

Monday, 22nd - 7.30p.m. Parish Reconciliation Service at St. Joseph's.



Christmas Helpers Needed

Because we get many visitors at all our Masses on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day, our regular church goers are invited to pull out all the stops this year especially in the following areas:-

Car park attendants, welcomers, singers, musicians, readers, church cleaners and special ministers. Everybody should be especially vigilant about clearing up after Masses because another group of people will use the churches after you. They too will expect the same high standards you have enjoyed.

Using Your Talents in the Credit Crunch

The response has been fantastic!

Freda made cushions and sold them at the coffee morning on Wednesday.

Liz Hall had a coffee morning and her £5 talent became £120.

Ciaran Baird, aged 11, made a special soft drink, bottled it and, with permission from Oaklands School, sold it to his school friends and members of his karate club. His £5 talent became £78.60.

Will Castle aged 5, is having a cake stall after the 9.00a.m. Mass today. Please be generous in your support.

Anne Bundy is making chocolate truffles for CAFOD. She can make any flavour to order and a box of twelve is £3.50. To place an order please 'phone (023) 9271 9134 or 07933936453 or email anne-bundy@btinternet.com

Joyce and Norman King decided not to give presents to each other this Christmas and gave a very generous cheque to CAFOD instead.

Alan Brett's £2 talent became £34.

Well done to all concerned. Please remember that if your talent is still outstanding, then the closing date is Sunday, 20th December.

Christian Aid Carol Singing

In the Square, Emsworth, at 10.00a.m, on Thursday, December 18th, for Christian Aid. Please come and support us.

Parish Repositories

Christmas cards, decorations, books, 2009 parish diaries, as well as all the usual items, are on sale at both our repositories. Advent reading material is also available for purchase.

Gaudete Sunday

This particular Sunday of Advent is traditionally known as 'Gaudete Sunday'. Gaudete is the Latin word meaning 'rejoice'.

As Advent moves up a gear, we wait in joyful hope for the coming of our Saviour and if our Lord has anything like the same message as he did last time, then it will not be about gloom and doom but happiness and joy.

Donations to the Christmas Bazaar

In addition to what we received at the Christmas Bazaar, donations to the sum of £86 have come in since the event. This has brought the total to £2,769. Many thanks to all concerned.

