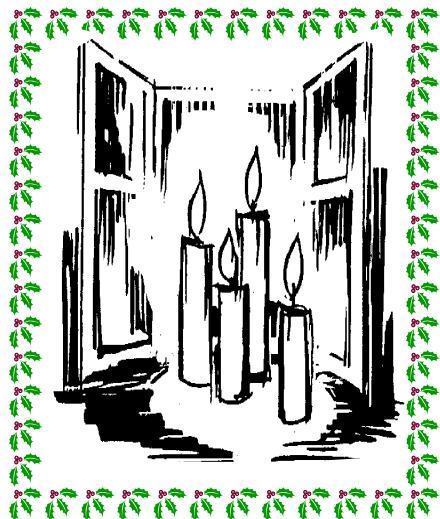




Saturday, 19th December 2009 - Sunday, 3rd January, 2010. 4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas 2009



Advent 2009

The last prayerful reflection in preparation for Christmas today, in St. Joseph's at 4.00pm.

Christmas Services

A parish Christmas card with all the Christmas services is available at the back of the church.

Fr. Des Magennis

Des sends Christmas greetings to all who know him in the parish. His doctors have now stopped him from driving his car, even in the daytime. He has taken that as a very severe blow. He is doing a supply in the lovely town of Bendigo, 80 miles north of Melbourne and he is on email until after Christmas so if you would like to contact him, his email address is miriam@netcom.net.au

Mail Drop

People living in Ashley Close will receive a letter from the parish saying that we are praying for them this week.

St. Joseph's Church Cleaning

Help clean St. Joseph's for Christmas on Tuesday, 22nd at 10.30am. Please come and help to make your church look beautiful.

Christmas Offerings

Envelopes are now available for your offerings at Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Your offerings at these Masses are your personal gift to the priest.

Christmas Greetings and Thanks

Christmas is a great time to express gratitude and I would like to thank you for being a parishioner of St. Joseph's Parish. I wish to thank you without mentioning names; you will know who you are!

We have had a great year. I personally began 2009 with a certain amount of fear as the 'Living Our Faith' Campaign was coming to a Church near us. We formed the A team with X factor qualities. In a very short time our fears were unfounded. 168 of us pledged £319,416 for the next five years. We received some home truths to add to the richness of the campaign as well and these were taken on board. As a pilot parish, we became the guide for other parishes to follow. I am glad to say that we were able to inspire others around the Diocese to take on the fund raising with enthusiasm. 36 Parishes are now involved.

Other significant events took place in our community in that all the usual things we do were done with good grace and with professionalism. We are especially blessed with music and singing, with an excellent Parish Website, with two sets of everything, church cleaners, readers, church decorators, special ministers, servers, social event organisers (we are the envy of many regarding our social events), general helpers, Bible study, Bidding Prayer readers, children's liturgy, repository helpers, parish visitors, mail drop ladies, food collection and Medaille Trust, Cafod, Talent night, Music Concerts and, not least, the gifts that go into our Parish Newsletter.

Stewardship too left its mark on the year. Its purpose is to highlight and draw out the Time, the Talent and the Treasure of every member of the community. I can honestly say that two things happened to all the things I have personally given to the Parish in 2009:

1. I have not missed what I have given.
2. Anything I gave, I got back 100%

We have had our sadness too. We have not lived up to the expectations of some. We said a proper farewell to dear parishioners. May they sleep the peace of those forgiven.

The icing on the cake was the Golden Jubilee of the Church of St. Thomas of Canterbury and St. Thomas More in Emsworth. We marked it in good fashion and many thanks to all those who were involved in the celebration on December 2nd.

I wish you a Happy and Holy Christmas. We will do something similar in 2010 in bringing the real presence of Christ in Word, in Sacrament and in each other to journey with us for yet another year. With renewed thanks, Tom Grufferty

St. Joseph's Catholic Parish of Havant and Emsworth

Fr. Tom Grufferty. 134 West Street, Havant PO9 1LP
E Mail: tom.grufferty@ntlworld.com - Tel: (023) 9248 4520

£140 Raised for CAFOD

The carol sing-in last Sunday was greatly enjoyed by all and a total of £140 has been sent to CAFOD. Many thanks to all who contributed.

Eucharistic Adoration

Adoration has now finished for Christmas and will recommence on Monday, 11th January.

Diary

Sunday, 20th - 4.00pm, 4th Sunday of Advent Preparation for Christmas.

Monday, 21st - 7.30pm Parish Reconciliation Service at St. Joseph's Church.

Poppy Appeal

The local British Legion has written to thank us for the contributions made recently to the Poppy Appeal - Havant £79.89, Emsworth, £62.95.

'Living Faith'

This little booklet is a real treasure with daily reflections for the first 3 months of 2010. Price, £1.

For Sale - Parish Christmas Cards

There are only a few left and since these are dated, the few remaining packets are selling for only £1 for 10 cards and envelopes. Many thanks for your support in this new venture.

'Living our Faith' Campaign

As a mark of gratitude, the Bishop has invited all those who have contributed to the fundraising campaign to a Mass of thanksgiving on 9th January at 12.15pm in The Cathedral. Please note that the invitation includes all the family.

Alpha

In January the Alpha team has decided to run 'Exploring the Catholic Church', a 10-week course with specific reference to the Catholic Church. First session, 19th January at 7.00pm. Ring Alison on (023) 9245 1649.

Soup Lunch

No soup lunch in January. Coffee as usual.

Newsletter

This newsletter will cover the next two weekends so that those who prepare the newsletter can have a rest. We are most grateful to Mark and Lucy for their work throughout the year. Both have remarkable patience as they do not always receive the material on time and sometimes the newsletter has to be done twice.

There will be a Christmas edition in red for all those who come to Mass on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Ss. Thomas, Emsworth - Help Needed

In our 50th anniversary year, we want our Christmas services in Ss. Thomas' Church to be special. If you are able to help put up Christmas decorations or would like to join the music group for the 6.30pm Mass on Christmas Eve, please contact Stuart Thompson on (01243) 377411. Any help is much appreciated.

St. Joseph's Talent Night

A date for your diary! The Talent Night will be held on Saturday, 23rd January in St. Joseph's Hall. We will be appealing for volunteers in the New Year so start working on your acts - you could try them out on the family over Christmas!

Mass Times at St. Joseph's

Sat, 19th - 6.30pm Vigil Mass for the **4th Sunday of Advent** (*In thanksgiving - Willie & Marion*)

Sun, 20th - 11.00am Mass for the **4th Sunday of Advent** (*Janet & Tony Loader's Intentions*)

Mon, 21st - 9.30am Mass (*Ann Hare RIP*)

Weds, 23rd - 9.30am Mass (*Richard & Elizabeth Knapp, Junior & Family RIP*)

Thurs, 24th, Christmas Eve - 11.30pm carols followed by Midnight Mass

Fri, 25th - Christmas Day - 11.00am Mass of Christmas Day (*Phil Hennessy RIP*)

Sat, 26th - 11.00am Mass for the Feast of St. Stephen, Protomartyr

Sat, 26th - 6.30pm Vigil Mass of the Holy Family (*In thanksgiving - Willie & Marion*)

Sun, 27th - 11.00am Mass of the Holy Family (*The Bennett Family RIP*)

Mon, 28th - 9.30am Mass of the Feast of the Holy Innocents

Weds, 30th - 9.30am Mass

Fri, 1st January 2010 - 11.00am Mass for the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God (*Frederick Seymour RIP*)

Sat, 2nd - 6.30pm Vigil Mass of the Epiphany of the Lord (*Theresa Mary Mitchell RIP*)

Sun, 3rd - 11.00am Mass of the Epiphany of the Lord

Mass Times at Ss. Thomas'

Sun, 20th - 9.00am Mass for the **4th Sunday of Advent** (*People of the Parish*)

Sun, 20th - 6.00pm Mass for the **4th Sunday of Advent** (*Special Intention*)

Tues, 22nd - 10.00am Mass (*Martin & Patricia Flahive RIP*)

Thurs, 24th, Christmas Eve - 6.30pm Christmas Vigil Mass especially for Families (*Kevin Kieran RIP*)

Fri, 25th, Christmas Day - 9.00am Christmas Day Mass (*Patricia & Gerry Billington RIP*)

Sun, 27th - 9.00am Mass of the Holy Family (*Charles, Elizabeth & Kathleen Lammass RIP*)

Sun, 27th - 6.00pm Mass of the Holy Family (*Andy Mullreaney RIP*)

Tues, 29th - 10.00am Mass of the Feast of St. Thomas of Canterbury (*Dora Hartnell RIP*)

Sat, 2nd - 10.30am Mass (*Sydney Harmer RIP*)

Sun, 3rd - 9.00am Mass of the Epiphany of the Lord

Sun, 3rd - 6.00pm Mass of the Epiphany of the Lord (*Eamon Rafferty RIP*)

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

Newsletter articles to: rchavant@googlemail.com