



15 DECEMBER 2024

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

**REFLECTION FROM FR. ANTHONY.** On this third Sunday of Advent, the Church puts before us, through the Liturgy, the vital importance of joy. The prophet Zephaniah exhorts us to, *"Shout for joy...[to] rejoice [and] exult with all your heart...[because] the Lord, the king of Israel, is in your midst."* This is reiterated in the responsorial psalm, *"Sing and shout for joy, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."* St. Paul also exhorts us to be happy: *"I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord; I repeat, what I want is your happiness."*

This joy is expressed in the reality and truth that firstly God created us and continues to keep us in existence, and secondly, he took on human flesh through the Incarnation and shared our humanity, with all the different human experiences such as joy, anger, happiness, sadness, love, crying, and suffering. He is truly in our midst. We are called, on this Gaudete Sunday, to be witnesses of joy in the world in our generosity and justice. Our lives as Christians must have the distinctive mark of being joyful. Let not cynicism possess our hearts.

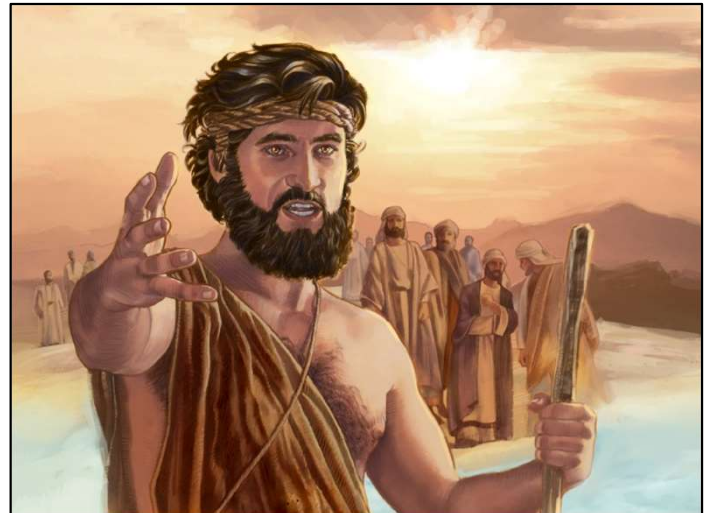
**ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER.** Please email the parish office by 9.00am on Wednesday.

**CAFOD WORLD GIFTS.** [Worldgifts.cafod.org.uk](http://Worldgifts.cafod.org.uk). These gifts will keep giving 365 days of the year.

**PARISH REGISTRATION.** We are developing a new parish database and would like you to visit the website [www.caspar.church/me?ID=9840](http://www.caspar.church/me?ID=9840) and fill in a few details. You can also access the site by



swiping the QR code to the left of this notice. If you don't feel confident using the internet, please speak to the parish office.



**GOSPEL.** Luke 3:10-18. *"Someone is coming who will baptise you."*

**OFFERING.** Christmas and Easter are traditionally the times when we make personal gifts to our priests, as it is the main source of their annual income. Your generosity to Fr. Anthony Fyk would be greatly appreciated. Your regular standing order doesn't get included for this purpose as it's for the parish. Donations may be given by cash on Christmas Day, through the Dona machines, at <https://www.giveasyoulive.com/charity/porls> or through a bank transfer to the parish.

**APPEAL FOR CROSS.** Urgent repairs are needed to secure the cross on the north end of the church. Work will begin shortly. It will cost around £2,000. We have raised £1,376.56 so far. Thank you! We would appreciate your generosity towards this urgent repair.

**OUR BIBLE STUDY GROUP** is on Wednesday evenings from 7.30pm in St. Swithun's Hall. We will focus on the Gospel of Luke. Please join us if you can.

# MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

**Saturday 14 December - ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS**  
5.30pm - St. Swithun's (Vigil Mass) *People of the parish*

**Sunday 15 December - 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
8.30am - St. Swithun's - *Alan Lewis*  
10.15am - St. Swithun's - *Selina Fairhall*

**Monday 16 December - 3RD WEEK OF ADVENT**  
No Mass

**Tuesday 17 December - LITURGY OF THE DAY 'O WISDOM'**  
9.00am - St. Swithun's - *Agnes Stevenson RIP*

**Wednesday 18 December - LITURGY OF THE DAY 'O ADONAI'**  
9.00am - St. Swithun's - *Fr John Bradley RIP*

**Thursday 19 December - LITURGY OF THE DAY 'O ROOT OF JESSE'**  
9.00am - St. Swithun's - *Nicola Pacitti*

**Friday 20 December - LITURGY OF THE DAY 'O KEY OF DAVID'**  
10.00am - St. Swithun's - *Bishop John Hine RIP*

**Saturday 21 December - LITURGY OF THE DAY 'O MORNING STAR'**  
9.00am - St. Swithun's - *Fr Michael Cronin RIP*  
5.30pm - St. Swithun's (Vigil Mass) *Fr John McFadden*

**Sunday 22 December - 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**  
8.30am - St. Swithun's - *People of the parish*  
10.15am - St. Swithun's - *Fr Patrick Brannan RIP*

## CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

24 December - 5.30pm - Vigil Mass (Family & Children Mass)  
24 December - 8.00pm - Christmas night Mass  
25 December - 7.30am - Carols and readings  
25 December - 8.30am - Dawn Mass  
25 December - 10.15am - Christmas Day Mass

**SUNDAY COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND**  
£995.31

**OFFERTORY.** The Parish bank account details are as follows:

**Lloyds Bank Account name:** CDP  
Our Lady of Lourdes' and St Swithun Church

**Sort code:** 30-93-04

**Parish Account no:** 01730453

**PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS.** Our School Christmas Carol Service will be on Tuesday 17 December at 2.00 pm at St. Swithun's Church. All are welcome.

**IF YOU VOLUNTEER** with children or vulnerable adults in any groups connected to the Church, it is a requirement that you take part in safeguarding training every 3 years. We have some training booked to take place in St. Swithun's Hall on Saturday 8 February 2025, starting at 11.00am. As we need a minimum number of attendees, please let Teresa Rowe or Anne Worden know if you can attend. You can email [safeguarding.porls@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.porls@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

**POPE'S INTENTION FOR DECEMBER.** *For pilgrims of hope.* We pray that this jubilee year strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope.

# PARISH OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES & ST. SWITHUN'S

**Address:** 105 Waverley Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO5 2PL United Kingdom

**Priest in Charge:** Fr. Anthony Fyk - 023 9282 8305

**Email:** [afyk@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:afyk@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Parish office:** [southseaparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:southseaparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Parish office opening hours:** Tuesday - Friday, 9.00am - 1.00pm

**Safeguarding:** [safeguarding.porls@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.porls@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) (Anne Worden and Teresa Rowe)

**Website:** [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/southsea](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/southsea)

**Charity number:** 1199568