



22 DECEMBER 2024

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

REFLECTION FROM FR. ANTHONY. Holy exchange: The Nativity of Our Lord recalls that the Son of God became man, shared our common humanity, in order to elevate it and reconcile it. God wonderfully created the dignity of human nature but restored it through the Paschal Mystery of Christ, which consists in the Nativity of Jesus Christ. In sharing in our humanity, God enters into a relationship with each and every one of us. We believe in a God who is not distant but is involved in all of the universe and in our lives. In becoming man, Jesus also shared in our human experiences of joy, sorrow, hope, anxiety and suffering.

Through the Nativity of Jesus Christ, he raises up in himself all that is cast down, that he might restore unity to all creation and call straying humanity back to the heavenly Kingdom. This has been brought about by the 'holy exchange,' in Jesus Christ taking on a human nature, that it restores life, that our frailty is assumed by him, that our mortality realises unending honour, and we are made eternal. In his work On the Incarnation, St. Athanasius reminds us, "For the Son of God became man so that we might become God." This is the holy exchange. On this Nativity of Our Lord, we may ask ourselves, do we allow God to enter into relationship with us?

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

PARISH REGISTRATION. We are developing a new parish database and would like you to visit the website 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 1:39-45. "*Why should I be honoured with a visit from the mother of my Lord?*"

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://shorturl.at/SsOY8> or through a bank transfer to the parish (reference: PRIEST)

CHURCH CROSS. On Tuesday 17 December, a mobile platform was used to inspect the metal cross at the church entrance roof, following the advice of the structural engineer. The Conservation Builder and Diocesan Estates Surveyor noted a slight lean in the cross, which is common, and confirmed there were no structural issues. Some minor cement repairs were carried out, and the findings were shared with the structural engineer. Thank you for your donations for the cross. We have raised enough money.

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Saturday 21 December - LITURGY OF THE DAY 'O MORNING STAR'

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*

Monday 23 December - LITURGY OF THE DAY

No Mass

Tue 24 December - LITURGY OF THE DAY / NATIVITY OF THE LORD

10.00am - St. Swithun's - *Fr. Donald Clements, RIP*

5.30pm - St. Swithun's - *Private intention*

7.30pm - St. Swithun's - *Carols and readings*

8.00pm - St. Swithun's - *People of the parish*

Wednesday 25 December - THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

8.30am - St. Swithun's - *Marion Noone*

10.15am - St. Swithun's - *Margaret Smith, RIP*

Thursday 26 December - ST. STEPHEN

9.00am - St. Swithun's - *Laurence Warren, RIP*

Friday 27 December - ST. JOHN

10.00am - St. Swithun's - *Fr Eric Spencer, RIP*

Saturday 28 December - THE HOLY INNOCENTS

9.00am - St. Swithun's - *Joan Margaret Baxter, RIP*

5.30pm - St. Swithun's (Vigil Mass) *People of the parish*

Sunday 29 December - ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

8.30am - St. Swithun's - *James Joseph & Joan Irene Brennan*

10.15am - St. Swithun's - *Thanksgiving for this past year*

SUNDAY COLLECTION LAST WEEKEND

£1,010.95

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

THANK YOU very much for the numerous Christmas cards and gifts. I am very grateful of your kindness and support. *Fr. Anthony*

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.

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

Parish office: southseaparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

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

Website: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/southsea

Charity number: 1199568

CATHOLIC PARISH OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES & ST. SWITHUN'S NEWSLETTER



29 DECEMBER 2024

ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

JUBILEE 2025 - "PILGRIMS OF HOPE". The Holy Father has decided that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, something which happens every 25 years. The theme is "*Pilgrims of Hope*". The Jubilee was officially opened on 24 December with a Mass presided over by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square. The rite of the Opening of the Holy Door followed.

The Jubilee Year is a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. "Jubilee" is the name given to a particular year; the name comes from the instrument used to mark its launch. In this case, the instrument in question is the yobel, the ram's horn, used to proclaim the Day of Atonement (Yom Kippur). This (Jewish) holiday occurs every year, but it takes on special significance when it marks the beginning of a Jubilee year.

We can find an early indication of it in the Bible: a Jubilee year was to be marked every 50 years, since this would be an "extra" year, one which would happen every seven weeks of seven years, i.e., every 49 years (cf. Leviticus 25:8-13). Even though it wasn't easy to organise, it was intended to be marked as a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation, and involved the forgiveness of debts, the return of misappropriated land, and a fallow period for the fields.

May this Jubilee be an experience of faith and a profound encounter with the Lord.

VOCATIONS. Pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, especially for our diocese. If you are considering such a vocation, talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. Email him at vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.



NEWS FROM THE PRIMARY SCHOOL. St. Augustine said, '*Those who sing, pray twice.*' The first prayer is the words we use. The second prayer is the extra we add to those words when we express them in song. These words were reminded to us by our wonderful Key Stage 2 children, for whom prayer, singing and a reflection on the meaning of the Christmas story were paramount one Tuesday afternoon in St. Swithun's church.

It was a joyous occasion and one for which staff, parents and parishioners alike were thankful for having the opportunity to attend. We would like to extend our thanks for the welcome given to us all in the church, especially Fr. Anthony. Furthermore, we would like to wish all our family at St. Swithun's Church a wonderful and blessed Christmas.

BECOMING A CATHOLIC. If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a Catholic, please speak to Fr. Anthony.

ITEMS FOR THE NEWSLETTER. Please email the parish office by 9.00am on Wednesday. We reserve the right to edit. Thank you.

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/southsea

MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS

Saturday 28 December - THE HOLY INNOCENTS

5.30pm - St. Swithun's (Vigil Mass) *People of the parish*

Sunday 29 December - ST. THOMAS OF CANTERBURY

8.30am - St. Swithun's - *James Joseph & Joan Irene Brennan*

10.15am - St. Swithun's - *Thanksgiving for this past year*

Monday 30 December - LITURGY OF THE DAY

No Mass

Tuesday 31 December - LITURGY OF THE DAY

10.00am - St. Swithun's - *Johanna O'Connor, RIP*

Wednesday 1 January - MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

10.00am - St. Swithun's - *Graces for the new year*

Thu 2 January - Ss. BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANZEN

No Mass

Friday 3 January - LITURGY OF THE DAY

No Mass

Sat 4 January - LITURGY OF THE DAY / EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

No Mass or confessions in the morning

5.30pm - St. Swithun's (Vigil Mass) *People of the parish*

Sunday 5 January - EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

8.30am - St. Swithun's - *Private intention*

10.15am - St. Swithun's - *Fr. John Lawrence RIP*



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

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.

POPE'S INTENTION FOR JANUARY. *For the right to an education.* Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

GETTING MARRIED? Please note that you need to give 12 months' notice. Contact Fr. Anthony or speak to Emma in the office. They will be pleased to support you through the process.

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

Parish office: southseaparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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

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

Website: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/southsea

Charity number: 1199568