

**Today**

**RCIA Presentation:** During the 1000 Mass.  
**First Holy Communion Programme:** Children preparing for their First Holy Communion will hold their ninth session during the 1200 Mass. Please keep them in your prayers.

**Youth Justice & Peace Group Meeting:** 1600-1800 Cathedral Centre. We invite our young parishioners (ages 13 and up) to join us. You will be most welcome!

**Forthcoming Events**

**12/02 Hatha Yoga continues:** 1830-2000 Cathedral Centre. A gentle way to fitness, health and well-being.

**12/02 Exploring God's Word:** 1900 St John's Room. Group Study and discussion meeting on the Gospel of Matthew. All are welcome.

**14/02 Annual Senior Citizens' Party:** 1400-1600 St Edmund's School. Hosted by Year 8 pupils. All parishioners are most welcome to attend this enjoyable event.

**14/02 Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA):** 1930 St John's Chapel. An ongoing programme every Thursday.

**15/02 and every Saturday: Meditation Group** 1700-1730 St John's Chapel. A time of quiet, reflection and silent prayer. All are welcome.

**17/02 Renewal of Marriage Vows:** during all Masses.

**18/02 Girls' Night In** 1830-2100 St Joseph's Hall, Copnor for girls in Year 9 and over. Cost £2.50. Consent forms available in Church. Also see Mary-Ellen Donnelly.

**18/02 CWL Section AGM** 1315-1530 Cathedral Centre. The Branch Secretary will be in attendance. All welcome.

**19/02 Deanery Justice & Peace Group Meeting** 1930 St John's Room. New members are always welcome.

**26/02-09/03 Fairtrade Fortnight Events in Portsmouth.** Please visit the Fairtrade page in the Cathedral website.

Cathedral Priests:

- Canon David Hopgood and Father Steven Restori
- Mrs Lily Peach, Parish Secretary: 023 9282 6170
- Sister Rita, FMDM, Pastoral Assistant: 023 9296 0376
- Mr Peter Newman, Director of Music: 07811205729
- Mr Oliver Bailey-Green, Cathedral Organist: 07849 872010
- Mr Dave Yates, Cathedral Verger: 023 9287 0348
- Hospital Chaplaincy: 023 9228 6000
- St John's Cathedral Primary School: 023 9282 1055
- St Edmund's Secondary School: 023 9282 3766
- Discovery Centre: 023 9287 0348



St John's



Catholic Cathedral Portsmouth

Thought of the Week

Fr Steven Restori

**Building Blocks . . . Building Better Lives**

This Lent our parish community is supporting a CAFOD led project to build classrooms in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Each classroom, from construction to furniture, costs £3,400. To aid our almsgiving each week the thought on the front of our newsletter will include a short reflection by the Justice & Peace Group, together with visual displays in both the Cathedral and the Discovery Centre.

We have taken, as the overall theme of Lent this year, the catchphrase 'Building Blocks . . . Building Better Lives.' This not only reflects the bricks that build the walls of the classroom but the living stones that make up our own lives and the spiritual blocks that build the roadways in our journey towards Christ, a journey that is highlighted in this Season of Lent. For some it is a journey to baptism, for others a journey of conversion, but for all of us it is a journey towards Holy Week and Easter – a sharing in the Paschal Mystery, the death and resurrection of Jesus.

Our first steps on this journey challenge us to build the foundations. The gospel speaks of Christ tempted in the desert as he begins his work of mission and ministry, of proclaiming the Good News. As we set out on this Lenten journey we are challenged, through the disciplines of Lent, to prayer, fasting and almsgiving; we are called to lay foundations on which to build our road to Easter. Daily Mass (early morning?), Stations of the Cross and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Fridays and Saturdays are just some of the ways in which we can build the foundations for our spiritual journey.

**Building the Foundation**

*Naturally we tend to concentrate on our own children's education, which is the foundation of their lives. But like Christ in the desert we must resist the temptation to be purely self-centered. In many African countries around 80% of the people live in the countryside existing on what they can grow for about 60p a day! If their children could get a decent education they would gain the confidence and skills necessary to get a better paid job.*

**The Justice & Peace Group**

Music	Music at the 1000 Mass
1800 199 315 829	The various sung parts of the Mass can be found in the Hymn Books: Kyrie - 497, Sanctus - 571 Acclamation - 572b
1000 180 503 833 829	
1200 205 609 965 829	
1800 199 315 829	

**Liturgical Calendar**

**& Mass Times**

**Sunday 10th February  
First Sunday of Lent**

- 1000 Sadek Family (F)
- 1200 People of the Parish
- 1800 Helen Dyer RIP

**Monday 11th February Memorial Our Lady of Lourdes.** This memorial commemorates the apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary to St Bernadette Soubirou in 1858. Today is also the World Day of Prayer for the Sick.

- 0700 Recitation of the Rosary
- 0730 Sr Stephen Sleep (F)
- 1215 Requiem Mass for William Hart RIP

**Tuesday 12th February  
1st Week of Lent**

- 0730 Andrew RIP
- 1215 Bridie Traynor RIP

**Wednesday 13th February  
1st Week of Lent**

- 0730 Michael Crowe RIP
- 1215 Cyril Hughes RIP

**Thursday 14th February Feast St Cyril & St Methodius,** brothers, who were instrumental in the early spread of the Gospel throughout Slavic areas of Russia, Monrovia, Bulgaria and Dalmatia. They translated the liturgy into Slavic. They were proclaimed co-patrons of Europe with St Benedict by Pope John Paul II in 1980.

- 0730 Nula O'Connor Intention
- 1215 John & Catherine Cassey (F)

**Friday 15th February (Lenten Fast Day) 1st Week of Lent**

- 0730 Mary Deebank RIP
- 1100 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
- 1215 Doreen Yates Intention
- 1830 Stations of the Cross

**Saturday 16th February  
1st Week of Lent**

- 1215 Souls in Purgatory
- 1700 Meditation in St John's Chapel
- 1800 Johnson Family RIP

**Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes**

There will be a recitation of the Rosary at 0700 on Monday 11 Feb to commemorate the Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes in the Lady Altar.

**Rite of Acceptance**

This Sunday at 1000 Mass we celebrate the Rite of Acceptance into the Order of Catechumens & Rite of Welcoming Candidates for the sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation. At this time the inquirers publicly declare their intention to continue their journey toward full initiation in the Catholic Church. Please keep the following people in your prayers ...

**Catechumens:**  
Rachel Lee Kim Laughton  
Victoria Gargaro  
Gemma McGrail

**Candidates:**  
Matt Tinker Hayley Mills  
Chloe Rance Peter Aldam  
Yelena Towill Martin Griffin  
Mandy Pereira

**Senior Citizens' Party**

The Year 8 pupils of St Edmund's School are hosting this annual event on Thursday 14 Feb from 1400-1600.

All parishioners are most welcome to attend and enjoy plenty of social activities. For details contact the Parish Office or St Edmund's School.

**Attention All Married Couples!**

During all Masses next weekend, there will be a celebration of marriage with the renewal of your vows to each other. Do bring your spouses along to the Mass.

**Cathedral Discovery Centre Appointments**

We welcome Gerry Johnson as the new Supervisor of the Cathedral Discovery Centre together with Adolf Pereira as the Coffee Shop Sales Assistant.

We wish them both well in their new positions.

**Fairtrade Fortnight in Portsmouth**

Fairtrade Fortnight will run from 25 Feb to 9 March. Events include showing of the award-winning film 'Black Gold' about the coffee industry, a wine tasting, a coffee morning, a Fairtrade stall in the Cascades and a recipe competition.

Please visit the Fairtrade page on the Cathedral website.

**The Season of Lent Activities**

Ash Wednesday & Good Friday are days of fasting and abstinence. Fridays during Lent are optional days of fasting.

**Daily Mass,** Monday to Friday, 0730 and 1215.

**Stations of the Cross,** every Friday at 1830.

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** every Friday and Saturday from 1100 to 1215.

**Lent Day of Prayer**

Led by Bishop Crispian  
Saturday 23 Feb 1100-1500  
Talk and celebration of Mass.  
Cathedral Centre. Bring packed lunch

**Lenten Alms - Building Blocks ... Building Better Lives**

This Lent, the Justice & Peace Group is appealing for your help to fund the construction of a school classroom in a developing nation.

This incredible gift of a new classroom will provide for a team of builders, plus all the materials to refurbish and fully equip a whole classroom that has been destroyed or damaged by natural disaster or by conflict. It includes everything from solid walls and a roof, to desk, chairs and a blackboard, so that literally hundreds of children can get the education they need for years to come.

The cost of this classroom is £3400, which will buy what is virtually a lifelong gift to many. Throughout Lent, there will be a display in the Cathedral Centre of similar projects that have been carried out in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Please view the display.

The purple buckets will be at the exits of the Cathedral for your donations to the 'Building Blocks' Appeal.

**Hospital Chaplaincy**

Fr Andrew, the Hospital Chaplain, is asking for volunteers to take Holy Communion on a Sunday morning to those who are ill in hospital. Anyone interested and who would like to know more, please contact Fr Andrew on 023 9228 6408.

**Charity Concert in Aid of the Portsmouth Street Pastors**

Please support this concert on Wed 12 March at 1930 at The Salvation Army, Lake Road Portsmouth. The proceeds of the concert will go to financially support the work and services that the Street Pastors are doing in our area. For full details please see poster in the Centre or contact 01329 233460.

**Please pray for those who are ill, especially:**

Pam Rundell, Yvonne Tomkins, Carole Winsor, Agatha de Mornay, Fr Peter Sprague, Nora North, John and Kathleen Cotter, Mark Hamilton, Betty Knighton, Albert Hider, Dan & Elish Cregan, Laurie Payne, Brenda Hamilton, Adelaide de Battista, Caroline Moran, Maisie Hider, Jenny Edwards, Doreen Yates and Pat Wright.

**Please keep in your prayers those who have died:** William Hart RIP Margaret Fox RIP (mother of Susan Timoney)

**As well as for those whose anniversaries occur at this time:**

Winifred Creasey †  
Valerie Henderson † Mary Baker † Robert Warren †  
John Huntley † Paul Stone † Dorothy Bradshaw †  
Rose Philpott † Paul Pond † Constance Henessey †  
Gladys Putnam † Theresa Harris † Hilda Simmons †  
Joseph Hillhouse † William Long † Ernest Elliott †  
Elizabeth Yeates † Helen Dyer † **May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.**

**Confession**

Saturday 1100 - 1200  
1630 - 1730

**Devotions**

**Midday Prayer**

Monday - Saturday 1200

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** Friday & Saturday 1100 -1215

**Rosary** after 1215 Mass Tuesday and Thursday

**We acknowledge with thanks:**

Last weekend's collection, including Standing Orders, amounted to £1,731.45 of which £938.60 (54%) was gift-aided.

Catholic Children's Society: £580.52