



St John's Cathedral,
Portsmouth

CATHEDRAL NEWSLETTER

17 Dec 2017— THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Year B)

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IT'S
NOT
WHAT'S
UNDER THE TREE
THAT'S IMPORTANT,
IT'S THE PEOPLE
AROUND IT THAT MATTERS
MOST.

AMID ADVENT'S RISING TASKS

We're over halfway through Advent. Is your Christmas shopping all done? Mine almost is. There's still lots to do though which suggests now is a good time to share with you this little gem. It's a parody of that well known part of St Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, the part often read at weddings. I came across it a few years ago and offer it in the hope it will help keep us focussed on what Advent is preparing us for: the love made visible in the Word made flesh.

If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family or friends I am just another decorator. If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of mince pies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautiful table but do not show love to my family or friends, I'm just another cook. If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, friends and everyone I meet, it profits me nothing. If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing all the carols but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child. Love sets aside the decorating to kiss my loved ones. Love is kind, though harried and tired. Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens. Love doesn't yell at the kids to keep out of the way, but is thankful they are there to be in the way. Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. Computer games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but when I give love I give what God gave in the first Christmas present: Jesus his Son, love made visible.

Canon Dominic



OUR CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Christmas Eve (4th Sun of Advent) : 8 am, 10am, 12 noon;

Vigil Mass, 6pm: 10pm (*replaces midnight Mass*)

Christmas Day: 8am (*Latin, Extra Ordinary Form*)

10am only (*i.e., no Noon or 6pm Mass*)

Boxing Day (Feast of St Stephen): 1215

THIS WEEK

GAUDETE SUNDAY: Certain Sundays throughout the liturgical year take their names from the first word in Latin of the entrance antiphon at Mass. Today the antiphon -if we were to use it— would be taken from Philippians 4:4,5: "Gaudete in Domino semper" ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). Gaudete Sunday, serves as a mid-point break inviting us to rejoice in the nearness of Jesus's return. Today the priest's vestments like the third candle on our Advent wreath are rose in colour to encourage us to continue our spiritual preparations for Christmas.



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS: we welcome your donations of poinsettias in memory of a deceased loved one for use in helping to decorate the church. Please hand them in anytime.

CAKE SALE: Matthew Galbraith will be hosting another cake sale after today's 1000 and 1200 Masses to fundraise for his charitable expedition to Botswana.

CATHEDRAL DISCOVERY CENTRE (CDC): Tue-Sat 1100-1430 and Sun 0930-1300.

SUNDAY NIGHT EXTRA YOUTH: will meet today from 1900-2045 in the CDC when we will also include our Christmas party. You are invited to share in some Praise and Worship, Liturgy, refreshments and time to socialise. Come and join us for some fun!

InSIGHT—PARISH MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT GROUP: meets this Tues 1030 -1300 in the CDC for those who feel isolated or experience mental ill health.

CAROL SERVICES: St Edmund's Catholic Secondary will host theirs here this Monday (18th) at 6pm. St John's Cathedral Catholic Primary will hold theirs here this Friday (22nd) at 10am.

ADVENT SUNG VESPERS with Benediction this Fri (22nd) at 6pm

CONFESSIONS: next Saturday from 1000-1200 noon.

COLLECTIONS: Thank you for last Sunday's offertory of £2,138.26 (incl SO) Gift aid 43%.

NEXT WEEK & BEYOND

CHRISTMAS OFFERING: The collections taken at our Christmas Masses are by custom given to our priests and form a major part of their annual income. If you can gift aid yours there are envelopes available for this purpose.

ALTAR SERVERS: will celebrate their patron St Stephen at the 1215 Mass on Boxing Day with medals for those who have completed one year's serving.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH: you've still time to volunteer to drive the elderly to our annual Christmas Day lunch here at the Cathedral Centre. If you can help call Bobbie Cozens on 02392 814678.

THE CHURCHES HOMELESS ACTION GROUP: thanks to everyone for their generous response to the Christmas Vouchers appeal of recent weeks. The vouchers have been handed over to various local churches and group agencies supporting the homeless over the Christmas season. A chance for us to share a 'gift' with others. How much did we raise? Over £1000!



NATIVITY SCENE ART COMPETITION

open to all children at three different age groups: those under 5 years, 6-8 years and 9-11 years. Those who wish to enter are asked to draw or paint a picture of the nativity scene. All paintings to be judged by the Cathedral clergy with winners picked from every age group and the winning entries will feature in our Christmas newsletter and also by our crib. A prize will be awarded to each winner. All entries to the Parish Office by this Monday



Add your voice

(20th)

CATHEDRAL CHOIR: are looking to recruit new members so if you've ever thought of singing in our choir please introduce yourself to the organist after Mass.

JAN-FEB-MAR 2018 ROTAS: The new ministry rotas for Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist, Readers, Ushers, Offertory Procession, Welcomers and Sunday morning teas and coffees are now available online at the parish website. Hard copies are in a white folder in the sacristy. All on the rota are asked to take a copy home.

CHRISTMAS MASSES? Do you know when ours are? They're on the front

CATHOLIC EDUCATION: The Bishop has written to ask that we make our voice heard regarding a critical decision which the government will soon be making on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents some schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. By her own admission, the Secretary of State has said the rule has been ineffective and adversely affects Catholic families. By forcing Catholic schools to turn away Catholic children on the basis of their faith, the very principle of a Catholic parent's right to choose a Catholic education is under threat. Please send an online message to the Secretary of State by visiting: <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap>.

LAS POSADAS: The Advent Crib is continuing its journey around the homes of the parish returning to the Cathedral on Christmas Eve. Every night it's looked after by a different home. Thanks to all who have made the Crib welcome.



MARY'S MEALS BLUE MUGS: available in the sacristy for those who wish to continue supporting the cause we raised so much for this Lent. Don't forget

that all donations to them made before 31st December are doubled by two generous donors. Mary's Meals reckon it costs £13.90 to feed a child for a year. With 'Double the love' that means two children! Currently over 1,230,000 children are fed by them every day in schools worldwide.

CATHEDRAL MASS TIMETABLE,

week beginning 17 Dec 2017

Sun: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

see Parish Mass Book, p 87

1800 (Sat) Chris Gunning Int

0800 Kathleen O'Malley Int (Extra-Ordinary Form)

1000 Diana and Michael Finlason Int

1200 Mr & Mrs Mariyanayagam RIP

1800 People of the Parish

Mon: 'O Adonai'

0730 Betty Fitzpatrick RIP

1215 Private Intention

Tue: 'O Root of Jesse'

1215 Rosa and Bill Galliver RIP FM

Wed: 'O Key of David'

0730 Adela Brown RIP

1215 Paul and Kate Coghlan RIP

Thu: 'O Morning Star'

1215 The Cronin Family RIP

Fri: 'O King of the Nations'

0730 Jack Finch RIP FM

1215 James F Casey RIP

Sat: 'O Emmanuel'

1215 Angela Meyer RIP

"Create
in me a
clean heart,
O God,
and put a
new and right
spirit
within me."
Psalm 51:10

CONFESSIONS: from 10am to Noon next Saturday (23rd) and again from 5-5.45pm and on Sundays for 30mins before Mass when a priest is available.



ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT: Friday from 0800-1800. If you'd like to join the list of Adorers contact the parish office.

ROSARY: Monday—Friday after 1215 Mass.

SAINT FOR THE WEEK

St Damasus I 305-384 Born in Rome to Spanish parents he was elected Pope in 366. This was an age of factions and even violence in the Church. Damasus opposed the Arian heresy (which says Jesus is only a man). This made him an object of opposition. He remained steadfast. He established which books formed part of the Bible, and appointed St Jerome the great Bible scholar his secretary.



◆ The Pope asks us to pray for the elderly, that they will be helped by our church communities and families, and that they will be able to pass on their wisdom to the new generation.

◆ For all the sick and elderly of our parishes, at home, in hospital and in care homes.

CONTACT DETAILS

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