

CATHOLIC PORTSMOUTH

Catholic Parishes and Schools in Partnership in the City of Portsmouth

St John's Cathedral, Bishop's House, Bishop Crispian Way, PO1 3HG – tel. 02392 826170

Canon David Hopgood dean@portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk

Fr Phillip Harris priest@portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk

Pastoral Assistant: Sister Rita, FMDM tel. 023 9296 0376 – Parish Secretary: Mrs Lily Peach – Office Hours: 0900-1300 Mon-Fri

19 February 2012 – Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time Year B

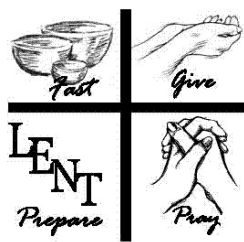
We hear today of the healing of a paralytic man who is carried by four men to see Jesus so that he might be healed. Our Lord was attracting large crowds, so much so that the four men carrying the sick man couldn't get near him. Their ingenious solution of removing the tiles from the roof and lowering the paralytic, stretcher and all, is audacious and effective: the man is lowered directly in front of Jesus who, seeing the great faith of his friends, heals the man, recognising his need - firstly of spiritual healing: "My child, your sins are forgiven" and then, physical, "...get up, pick up your stretcher, and go off home."



The role of this man's four friends is crucial: without them he could never have been brought to an encounter with the Lord. It is a reminder to us that, as people of faith, we can bring others to the Lord. One of the most practical ways we do this is through prayer. How many times do people ask us to pray for them or how often do we hear of someone who is sick or suffering?

This week, we are printing Bishop Crispian's Pastoral Letter to the diocese on page 2 of this newsletter. Many, many people across the diocese have been bringing him before the Lord, just like those four men seeking the healing of their friend. Bishop Crispian now shares with us the journey he has been on, from illness to healing. It is a journey that many people have to embark on in their lives. Let us all give thanks for the healing that he has received and continue to bring all those who are in need of healing, both spiritual and physical, to the Lord in prayer.

Fr Phillip Harris



PENITENTIAL SERVICES FOR LENT

10 March - St Paul's Church 1000

17 March - Corpus Christi Church 1000

24 March - St Swithun's Church 1000

31 March - St John's Cathedral 1100

Hymns: 1800: 846 772 813 807 1000: 644 813 694 1200: 807 772 858 852 1800: 846 772 813 807

Corpus Christi Gladys Avenue, North End, PO2 9AZ – **St Joseph** Tangier Road, Copnor, PO3 6JH

Fr Steven Restori tel 023 9266 0927 – ccsj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Sister: Sr Mary Gleavey FMDM tel. 07586 801868- St Joseph Hall Bookings: Mrs Mary Vale 023 9267 0726

Our Lady of Lourdes Bransbury Road, Eastney, PO4 9JY - **St Swithun** 105 Waverley Road, Southsea, PO5 2PL – tel. 02392 828305

Fr Simon Thomson- southseaparish@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk – Pastoral Assistant: Sr Marie Elise Tel. 0774 7728 734

Parish Secretary: Mrs Clare Shore – Office Hours: 0900 – 1500 Tue-Wed-Thu

St Colman St Colman's Avenue, Cosham, PO6 2JJ – **St Paul** Allaway Avenue, PO6 4DG– tel. 02392 376151

Fr Joe McNerney- scsp@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Mrs Tess Pritchard Office Hours: 0900-1500 Tu-Fri

PARISHES: Corpus Christi & St Joseph • Our Lady of Lourdes with St Swithun • St Colman & St Paul • St John's Cathedral

SCHOOLS: Primary: Corpus Christi • St John's Cathedral • St Paul's • St Swithun's • Secondary: St Edmund's



"See, I am doing a new deed"

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

In the course of the last year – since Ash Wednesday of last year - I've had many rich and wonderful and demanding experiences because this has been an extraordinary year for me. Not only has my resignation been accepted, though I am still awaiting the naming and appointment of my successor, but also I have had to undergo two major operations for cancer. To say that this has changed my life and my outlook on life is a massive understatement. From being an active leader in good health and giving support and encouragement to others, I suddenly have become one of those needing support; for the first time in my life, I have received the Sacrament of the Sick and have become one of those listed in parish newsletters as being sick and in need of prayers. And yet, all the time the loving face of Christ has been there for strength and comfort.

I have been struggling to try to understand what Isaiah describes as the Lord doing a new deed in me. I know that I have been given a gift from the Lord which was not of my choosing, and a great part of my journey of faith in recent months has been taken up with trying to come to terms with this gift and the giftedness of illness. I don't know where it will take me, but I have been graced enough to see God's hand in it all as I find myself on the threshold of a new way of life as I approach retirement. "No need", says the Lord, "to recall the past, no need to think about what was done before. See, I am doing a new deed...I am making a road in the wilderness, paths in the wild."

Many will think me crazy for describing my cancer as a moment of grace but that is precisely how I am beginning to see it. Already, through talking and praying and sharing my experience with others, I am discovering new ways of being the shepherd of the flock. Instead of being in control, I have become vulnerable and needy and I have had to be carried by the love and prayers of so many of you. It's meant being brought before the Lord, rather in the way that the paralytic is in today's Gospel. Your love and prayer have brought me into His healing presence – and He has healed me physically and, I hope, spiritually.

I don't know what lies ahead and I don't know, as yet, when I will be able to retire, but in a curious way, that doesn't matter any longer. I have a strong sense that whatever lies ahead will be extraordinary and transforming and certainly not in my control. I feel very peaceful about the future. I have been given the opportunity of a much needed moment of conversion and transformation of my whole life and I have been given the grace of time in which to achieve what God wants of me.

My illness has been a gift to me – I really believe that with all my heart. It has brought me into solidarity with so many who suffer and the Lord has enabled me to witness, even in suffering, to His loving and gentle care. I believe that in my sickness I have been able to touch many – or so I have been told.

Of course, there have been times when this gift has seemed much more of a burden than a blessing, bringing its own weariness, but then, in those moments I can see quite clearly that the Lord is leading me in His ways, not mine. He is leading me to new pastures, to live positively, with patience, optimism and hope, for my own sake but for the sake of others too. This is His way and all I hear Him saying to me now is "Follow me" and all that I can say to that is "Amen...Your kingdom come in me; Your will be done in me."

Next Saturday, many of us will gather in the Cathedral with those who are publicly seeking to be baptised or received into full communion with the Church at Easter and we will have the opportunity of being alongside them in their joy, and in the struggles of their journeys of faith. For my part, I will bring a new consciousness of having been gifted by the God of surprises with an illness that I never sought and it is leading me into a new vision and way of life. This has become my journey of faith. I don't know where it will end but I am confident that the Lord is doing all the leading and choosing. I am content that it should be so because, at the end of the journey, there is, for sure, Easter, Resurrection and new life. The Lord says "See, I am doing a new deed" and all we need to do is to hear His word, which calls us to follow Him, and then, allow Him to do that new deed in us.

May the Lord bless you all and bring you all safely to the joy of Easter. Pray for me at this time, sisters and brothers, as I pray for you, and let's pray together that our new bishop, when he is appointed, may be an ardent and gentle shepherd for us all.

Thomson

Pastoral Area Notices

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

This event will run from 27 February -11 March. As a Fairtrade church we are committed to give our support on the various events and initiatives here and in the city. Please visit the Fairtrade page on the diocesan website.

CONFIRMATION 2012

If you are in school year 8 or above and would like to prepare for Confirmation please collect an application form from your church after Mass today and return it to the priest upon completion. Then come to the Introductory Evening for Parents and Candidates on Friday 23 March at 1900 in the Cathedral Discovery Centre. Preparation for candidates will begin immediately after Easter.

CAFOD LENT FAST DAY

Please support CAFOD's Lent Fast Day on Friday 2 March. The theme is water and sanitation. This year, under the UK Aid Match scheme, the UK government will be matching pound for pound all donations made to CAFOD's Lenten appeal from 17 February until 17 May - which will include the Fast Day collection. This is a unique and unmissable opportunity to help thousands of people living in poverty throughout the world, so please support the appeal if you can. Thank you very much for your support and prayers.

MASS IN EXTRAORDINARY FORM

Mass in Extraordinary Form will be celebrated on Tuesday 21 February at 1900 in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of St John's Cathedral. All welcome.

GIFT AID

Please consider Gift Aid for your Sunday offerings. It is of tremendous financial aid to the Parish. Take home a handout on display at the back of the Church.

UNIVERSITY OF PORTSMOUTH STUDENTS

The Catholic Society invites you to join them in celebrating Shrove Tuesday with pancakes at 1830 in 24 Lion House, Lion Terrace (Angela's flat). Further information Angela.ODonoghue@port.ac.uk

DIVINE MERCY DAY OF PRAYER

A warm invitation is extended to all parishioners in surrounding parishes to a Day of Prayer on Saturday 17 March in St John's Cathedral led by Marian Fathers.

- 1030 Praise and Worship
- 1100 Talk
- 1200 Holy Mass
- 1300 Lunch (packed lunch)
- 1400 Talk
- 1500 Holy Hour, Exposition, Chaplet to the Divine Mercy, Benediction, Veneration of St Faustina's Relics

Further information info@divinemercy.org.uk

LENT QUIET DAY

FINDING GOD IN THE DESERT

Following the pattern of Christ's preparation in the wilderness for His Life's Ministry, you are invited to spend time in being still and quiet in the presence of your God. This is a day for reflection and an opportunity to be inwardly nourished. Contact Wisdom House Centre Romsey SO51 8EL. Tel 01794 830 206 email: reception@wisdomhouseromsey.co.uk website: www.wisdomhouseromsey.co.uk

QUIET SPACE

Time is set aside in St Paul's Church on a Friday afternoon from 1400 onwards for prayer and quiet meditation. Please do come along and spend some time with the Lord.

CATHOLICS - THE SERIES

A new three part BBC Four series on Catholic lives starts on Thursday 23 February at 2100. 3 x 60 minutes for BBC Four
www.catholicnews.org.uk/bbc4-catholics

PRAYING WITH OTHERS

Following the success of recent Healing Masses, Fr Ronnie Mitchell has offered to run a training programme for anyone wishing to learn more about 'praying with others'. This will be at St Joseph's, Lyndhurst Road, Ashurst, SO40 &DU for three consecutive Tuesdays beginning on 21 February at 1930. A group of 9 or 10 people is needed.

CAFOD GOLF DAY

As part of CAFOD's 50th year celebrations, a Golf Day is being organised at Royal Winchester Golf Club, Sarum Road, Winchester SO22 5QE, on Tuesday 29 May 2012. The competition is for teams of four persons. Please support CAFOD by entering this event. Full details and applications forms can be obtained from CAFOD Portsmouth, 01252 329385 or portsmouth@cafod.org.uk.

VACANCY AT OAKLANDS CATHOLIC SCHOOL

A full time teacher of Religious Education is required for Sept 2012. For information pack please contact Mrs Kay Hopkins 023 9224 8043 or headteacher@oaklands.hants.sch.uk

CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING

There are new training dates listed on church notice boards for all volunteers involved with children and/or vulnerable adults. It is obligatory to attend a session in order to perform your role as part of our safeguarding work in the Church:

- 3 March Safeguarding Children
- 10 March Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

Both sessions are to be held from 1000-1230 at St Colman's Church, Cosham PO6 2JJ. To book a place please contact Soraya on 023 9281 6396.

Cathedral Parish Notices

RITE OF ELECTION

This will take place on Saturday 25 Feb at 1100. *There will be no 1215 Mass that day.* All those being baptised and received into the Church throughout the diocese will be gathering in the Cathedral to be presented to the Bishop in preparation for their reception at Easter.

ST JOHN'S CATHEDRAL PRIMARY SCHOOL

If your child will be three years old by 31 August 2012 and you would like them to start Nursery in September please contact the School as soon as possible for an application form. We will be allocating places shortly.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

This will take place from 27 February to 11 March. Please visit the Fairtrade webpage on the Cathedral website at portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During the season of Lent there will be Stations of the Cross every Friday following 1215 Mass at 1245 and 1800 followed by Exposition, Evening Prayers and Benediction. Copies of Bishop Crispian's Meditations on the Way of the Cross are available from the Bookshop.

GATHERING OF FRIENDS OF THE CATHEDRAL

Bishop Crispian will join the annual Gathering of the Friends of the Cathedral on Saturday 3 March for a combined reflection on Lent. The Society of Friends of the Cathedral is always looking to welcome new members. Support of the Cathedral and other projects is the Society's main aim. For further information please contact the Membership Secretary: gsomorjay1@btinternet.com

NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH

Mill Hill Community prepares for the Feast of St Joseph and extends an invitation to all parishioners with a special novena of Masses and prayers from 10-18 March 2012.

For a free Novena booklet to enable you to join them from home please write to: Fr Denis Treacy, MHM Suite 7, Queensgate House, 18 Cookham Road Maidenhead SL6 8AJ.

DIVINE MERCY DAY OF PRAYER

A Day of Prayer on Divine Mercy will be held on Saturday 17 March in the Cathedral Discovery Centre for the Pastoral Area:

- 1030 Praise and Worship
- 1100 Talk 1
- 1200 Holy Mass
- 1300 Lunch (bring packed lunch)
- 1400 Talk 2
- Benediction, Veneration of Relics, etc.

If you can help on the day please put your name on the list in the Cathedral Centre.

ADORATION OF BLESSED SACRAMENT

You are invited to make a commitment to Jesus to spend an hour in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament every Friday between 0800-1800.

COFFEE AFTER 1000 MASS

We urgently need some helpers to go on a rota to provide refreshments after this Mass. If you can help please speak to one of the priests or to Adolf who will be in the kitchen after Mass on Sunday.

CATHEDRAL SUMMER FAYRE HELP NEEDED!

A small group of volunteers is needed to organise and run this year's Summer Fayre. If you would like to be involved please speak to Father David.

CATHEDRAL CHOIR

Our choir, which leads the music at the 1000 Mass each Sunday, as well as at other feasts and festivals throughout the year, is looking for new members to join its ranks, particularly sopranos and basses.

We rehearse each Thursday evening from 1900 to 2030 in the Cathedral, and meet each Sunday morning at 0915 before Mass at 1000. If you would like to join us then please speak to one of the organists after Mass. If you would like a taster, why not come along to one of the Thursday evening rehearsals?

Liturgy Calendar and Mass Times

SATURDAY 18 FEBRUARY FIRST MASS OF SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME	1800	St Joseph	Edward & Mary Splain P
		Our Lady of Lourdes	People of the Parish
		St Colman	Special Intentions (FD)
		St John's Cathedral	People of the Parish
SUNDAY 19 FEBRUARY SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME Isaiah 43:18-19, 21-22, 24-25 2 Corinthians 1:18-22 Mark 2:1-12	0830	St Swithun	Ubong Essien Effiong's Welfare
	0900	St Joseph	Mary Hussey P
	0915	St Colman	Fr Sean's 50th Birthday (HW)
	1000	St John's Cathedral	Terry Butler INT (80th Birthday)
	1015	St Swithun	Tom and Kathleen Kinoulty RIP (Kinoulty)
	1100	Corpus Christi	People of the Parish
	1100	St Paul	Holy Souls (CC)
	1200	St John's Cathedral	Godfrey Walkley RIP
	1600	QA Hospital	
	1800	St John's Cathedral	Daniel & Jerry Matthews RIP
MONDAY 20 FEBRUARY Feria	0915	St Joseph	Service of the Word & Holy Communion
	1215	St Colman	May & Fred Coombs RIP (FM)
	1215	St John's Cathedral	Kathleen Pellatt RIP
TUESDAY 21 FEBRUARY St Peter Damian , Religious, Bishop & Doctor of the Church, optional memorial or Feria	0900	St Colman	Funeral of Florise Elliott RIP
	1215	St John's Cathedral	Cyril and Ethel Patricia Knott F
	1900	St John's Cathedral	Mass in Extraordinary Form
	1900	St Swithun	Lawrence Ellul RIP F
WEDNESDAY 22 FEBRUARY ASH WEDNESDAY Day of Fasting & Abstinence	0730	St John's Cathedral	Arthur Christmas RIP F
	0830	St Colman	James Hall RIP (FM)
	1130	St Swithun	Mike O'Connor's Welfare (Eilish Cregan)
	1200	QA Hospital	
	1200	Corpus Christi	Jack Sartain F
	1215	St John's Cathedral	Johanna Butler RIP
	1800	St Joseph's	RCIA Candidates
	1900	Our Lady of Lourdes	Jane McShane RIP P
	1930	St John's Cathedral	Halina Kurowska RIP
	THURSDAY 23 FEBRUARY after Ash Wednesday	0930	St Joseph
1200		Our Lady of Lourdes	Francis George Alexander Tovey RIP F
1215		St John's Cathedral	Joseph Salerno RIP
1900		St Paul	Liturgy of the Word and Communion Service
FRIDAY 24 FEBRUARY after Ash Wednesday	0730	St John's Cathedral	Rose & Joseph Farrugia RIP
	0930	Corpus Christi	Jack Sartain F
	1130	St Swithun	Dorothy Mabel Blockley RIP F
	1215	St Colman	Ray Smith RIP (FM)
	1215	St John's Cathedral	Lillian & Vincent Martin INT (In Thanksgiving)
	1800	St John's Cathedral	Stations of the Cross
SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY after Ash Wednesday	0900	Corpus Christi	Forde Family P
	0900	St Swithun	
	1100	St John's Cathedral	Rite of Elections (No 1215 Mass today)
SATURDAY 25 FEBRUARY First Mass of 1st Sunday of Lent	1800	St Joseph	Thomas Doyle P
		St Colman	Phyllis Searls RIP (FM)
		Our Lady of Lourdes	People of the Parish
		St John's Cathedral	Private Intention
SUNDAY 26 FEBRUARY FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT Genesis 9:9-15 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:12-15	0830	St Swithun	John Bernard Bullock RIP
	0900	St Joseph	Margaret Barrett P
	0915	St Colman	Joan Hudson RIP (BH)
	1000	St John's Cathedral	People of the Parish
	1015	St Swithun	Maurice Marshall Phillipson RIP F
	1100	Corpus Christi	People of the Parish
	1100	St Paul	Mary Ann White (CC)
	1200	St John's Cathedral	Paddy Hynes RIP
	1600	QA Hospital	Holy Souls (CC)
	1800	St Swithun	Mass in Polish
1800	St John's Cathedral	Cicy Zacharias INT (In Thanksgiving)	

F: Foundation – P: Perpetual

	Reconciliation	Rosary	Eucharistic Adoration	Stations of the Cross followed by Evening Prayers and Benediction
St John's Cathedral	Saturday 1100 – 1200; 1630 – 1730	Tuesday & Thurs (following Mass 1215)	Friday 0800 – 1800 Saturday 1100 – 1200	Every Friday in Lent 1245 and 1800
St Swithun	Saturday 1130 – 1200	First Saturday (following 1100 Mass)	Friday 1200 – 1500	-
Our Lady of Lourdes	Saturday 1730 – 1755	-	-	-
Corpus Christi	Saturday 1000	Sunday (following 1100 Mass)	Wednesday 1130 – 1155	-
St Joseph	Saturday (Before 1800 Mass)	Thursday (before 0930 Mass)	Saturday 1730 – 1755	-
St Colman	Saturday 1700 – 1730	Monday – Sunday 1900	Holy Hour with Adoration times as advertised	-

