

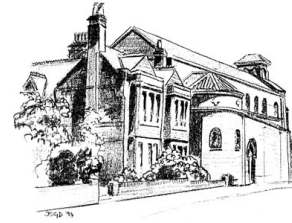
# LITURGY FOR THE WEEK SEVENTH WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME

<b>Saturday</b> 4.00 pm 4.45 pm	<b>18th Feb</b> St Mary's St Mary's	<b>Our Lady on Saturday</b> Rosary 1st Mass of Sunday ( <i>The George family RIP</i> )
<i>Retiring Collection this weekend for the Cabrini Society who work with vulnerable children and young people.</i>		
<b>Sunday</b> 10.30 am	<b>19th Feb</b> St Joseph's	<b>Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time</b> Mass ( <i>Patrick Lafferty RIP</i> ) Pray for Dominic Arthur's intention.
<b>Monday</b> 9.30 am	<b>20th Feb</b> St Joseph's	<b>in 7th week of Ordinary Time</b> Mass ( <i>The Parish</i> ) <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after Mass until 12 noon</i>
<b>Tuesday</b> 9.00 am 9.30 am	<b>21st Feb</b> St Joseph's St Joseph's	<b>St Peter Damian, religious, bishop.</b> Stations of the Cross. <b>doctor of the Church</b> Mass
<b>Wednesday</b> 9.30 am 7.00 pm	<b>22nd Feb</b> St Joseph's St Joseph's	<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b> Mass with Blessing of Ashes ( <i>Sheila Jones RIP</i> ) Mass with Blessing of Ashes ( <i>Anne Garrod RIP</i> ) <i>There is Blessing of Ashes for children, students and staff, during the day, at St Joseph's and All Hallows' schools</i>
<b>Thursday</b> 9.30 am 7.00 pm	<b>23rd Feb</b> St Joseph's St Joseph's	<b>Weekday in Lent</b> Mass ( <i>The Parish</i> ) Rosary <i>Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament after morning Mass, until 12 noon</i>
<b>Friday</b> 6.00 pm 6.30 pm	<b>24th Feb</b> St Mary's St Mary's	<b>Weekday in Lent</b> Stations of the Cross Mass ( <i>Agnes Curran RIP</i> )
<b>Saturday</b> 4.00 pm 4.45 pm	<b>25th Feb</b> St Mary's St Mary's	<b>Weekday in Lent</b> Rosary 1st Mass of Sunday ( <i>George family RIP</i> ) <i>There will be a retiring collection on the weekend 25/26th Feb towards the cost of a forthcoming Away Weekend for our Confirmation candidates and for catechetical materials for young people.</i>
<b>Sunday</b> 10.30 am	<b>26th Feb</b> St Joseph's	<b>1st Sunday of Lent</b> Mass ( <i>Patrick Lafferty RIP</i> )

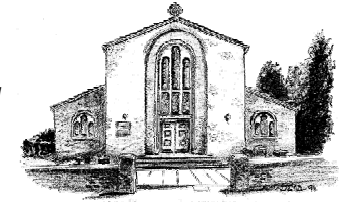
**ON SUNDAY EVENINGS: THERE IS MASS AT OUR LADY & ST DOMINIC,  
HIGH VIEW ROAD, FARNBOROUGH, AT 5.30 PM**

**(Sacrament of Reconciliation with individual confession)**

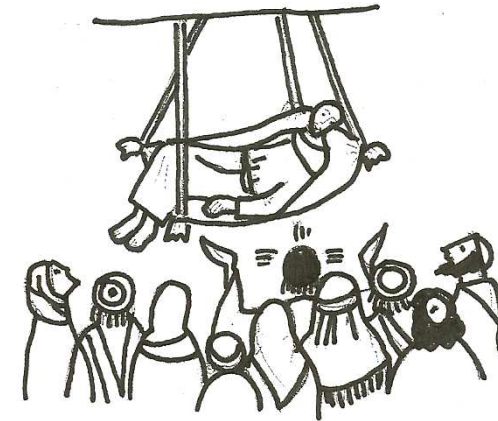
Please see page 7 for special times and locations during Lent.



Portsmouth Catholic Diocese  
Registered Charity No. 246781



## THE ALDERSHOT CATHOLIC SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B) 18th/19th February 2012



***Jesus says to a paralysed man: "Your sins are forgiven",  
and heals him.***

## THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION DURING LENT - CONFESSION TIMES:

My dear friends,

A paralysed man was brought before Jesus to be healed. Jesus said to him: "My child, your sins are forgiven". The scribes were angry, saying: "Only God can forgive sins". How could Jesus be so certain the man's sins were forgiven? For two reasons:

First, because the paralysed man and his friends, in coming to Jesus, had shown their faith. They believed that God is loving and forgiving. Second, they believed that Jesus spoke with the authority of God, who forgives all who turn back to him. Forgiveness happens when it is accepted, and here was a man who accepted what Jesus had to offer.

Having declared the man's sins to be forgiven, Jesus, almost as an afterthought, says to the scribes: "to prove to you that the Son of Man has authority to forgive sins" and, to the paralytic: "Get up, pick up your stretcher, and go off home". Which the man does!

Wouldn't it be wonderful to experience God's forgiveness as that paralysed man did! Yes, it would, and it is. God is still loving and forgiving, still offers healing to his people. It may be some time since we were at confession; perhaps it would help to think in terms of celebrating our acceptance of the forgiveness that God holds out to us. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is not a hurdle to be overcome. It is a celebration of belonging to a reconciling community. As Christians we ourselves are called to be forgiving and loving. The priest in confession is a minister of God's forgiveness, but so are we all in our daily lives. We have good news for anyone who responds and who comes before the Lord in faith. The good news, which each one of us has authority to proclaim, is: "Your sins are forgiven". Go, and announce the Good News!

David Mahy

**ASH WEDNESDAY, 22nd February** begins the season of Lent, our time of preparation, through Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving, for Holy Week and Easter.

**PRAYER:** giving more time in my day to God, who has given me life itself.  
**FASTING:** by being less self-centred in what I consume:  
**ALMSGIVING:** sharing with those in need some of the good things I have.

On Ash Wednesday the Church asks healthy adults to abstain from eating meat (not difficult for vegetarians!) and to reduce the amount of food we would normally eat. We are also invited, on the weekdays of Lent, to make some small sacrifice, in time or in kind, regularly during Lent, as a token of our commitment to following Jesus our Lord.

**Saturday 25th February:** 11.45 am to 12.30 pm at St Joseph's  
3.45 pm to 4.30 pm at St Mary's.

**Saturday 3rd March:** 3.45 pm to 4.30 pm at St Mary's  
(Fr David will be at the Cathedral in Portsmouth earlier in the day)

**Saturday 10th March:** 11.45 am to 12.30 pm at St Joseph's  
3.45 pm to 4.30 pm at St Mary's.

**Saturdays 17th, 24th & 31st, March & 7th April:**  
11.45am to 1.00 pm at St Joseph's  
3.45pm to 4.30 pm at St Mary's.

**Reconciliation Services, with several priests hearing confessions,  
at churches in our pastoral area, all at 7.30 pm.:**

**Mar 26:** Our Lady Help of Christians, Farnborough.  
**Mar 27:** Our Lady & St Dominic, Cove  
**Mar 28:** Our Lady, Fleet  
**Mar 29:** St Swithun, Yateley  
**Mar 30:** St Joseph, Aldershot

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**Diocese of Portsmouth**

**North East Hampshire Pastoral Area**

**ALDERSHOT CATHOLIC PARISH**

St JOSEPH'S CHURCH Queens Road & St MARY'S CHURCH Belle Vue Road  
The Presbytery, Queens Road, Aldershot, Hampshire GU11 3JB  
Tel: (01252) 320956 Fax: (01252) 323030  
[www.aldershot-catholics.org.uk](http://www.aldershot-catholics.org.uk)

Canon DAVID MAHY Parish Priest, Co-ordinating Pastor for North East Hampshire  
email: [dmahy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:dmahy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Rev ANTONIO D'MELLO tel 07534017715 email: [DeaconA-dmello@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:DeaconA-dmello@hotmail.co.uk)

Parish Child Protection & Vulnerable Adults Co-ordinator: Mrs ALICE NIXON

Chair of Aldershot Parish Pastoral Committee: Mr PAUL BRYANHILL:  
tel:07500447621 email [paul,bryanhill@sky.com](mailto:paul,bryanhill@sky.com)

Chair of North East Hampshire Area Pastoral Council Mr GRAHAM CHALKLEY:  
tel 07917834430 Email [graham.chalkley@awe.co.uk](mailto:graham.chalkley@awe.co.uk)

Parish Hon Treasurer: Mrs ALISON McLAREN  
Parish Secretary: Mrs ALISON COOKSON

The office is normally open weekday mornings from 9 am to 12 midday. Outside office hours, messages concerning administration can be left at the presbytery, on the answerphone, or on Fr David's e-mail

# **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

## **HARVESTERS MEN'S GROUP**

**Sunday 19th February at 8 pm** Johann Diaz writes: Our next meeting is on the subject of "Overcoming Self-Centredness". At St Swithun's Church Hall, Firgrove Road, Yateley, GU46 6NH. All men welcome - refreshments provided. 07713 157997 for information.

## **BAPTISM PREPARATION**

Parents wishing to have their first child baptised are asked to meet with Fr David and book a place on the preparation session led by our baptism catechists. The next one will be on **Saturday 19th March**.

## **CONFIRMATION 2012**

The first preparation session, for those young people in school Year 9 who have enrolled, will be in the Presbytery at St Joseph's Church on **Sunday 19th February at 5.00 pm**.

## **LENT COURSE - CHRIST AND THE CHOCOLATERIE**

We are going to have a Lent course based on the film 'Chocolat' for 5 weekly sessions from **Tuesday 28th February** 7.30 - 9.30pm at 23 Cranmore Lane, Aldershot. Each session includes extracts from the film and discussion with related Bible passages. Come along and join us exploring our Faith, everybody is welcome. For more details please contact Mr Jose Garmendia 0771 640 8476.

## **LENTEN RETREAT WEEKEND**

**26th, 27th & 28th February** at St Swithun's Church, Yateley. Led by Sister Judith Russi. For information telephone 01252 872732.

## **RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS**

The next Session, for those adults for Baptism and/or admission to Full Communion with the Catholic Church, will be in the Presbytery on **Thursday 1st March**.

## **THE FIRST HOLY COMMUNION COURSE**

continues, for those children who are already enrolled on the programme, on **Saturday 3rd March at 10.30 am in St Joseph's Church**.

## **PARISH FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

Meeting on **Monday 19th March at 7.30 pm** in the Presbytery.

## **ALL HALLOWS CATHOLIC SCHOOL ANNIVERSARY BALL, 2012**

This Reunion event will be on **Thursday 29th March 2012** at Northbrook Park, Bentley. Please contact Linda Jones for ticket sales or more information on [l.jones@allhallows.net](mailto:l.jones@allhallows.net), 01252 319211, [www.allhallows.net](http://www.allhallows.net)

# **SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (YEAR B)**

A paralysed man was brought by his friends to be healed by Jesus, who responded to their faith by declaring the man's sins forgiven, and by healing his affliction. We gather in faith in the presence of Jesus, and we, in our turn, ask him to forgive and heal us.

## **The Prayer**

That God will make us more like Christ, his Son.

## **First reading**

The prophet speaks of God's readiness to forgive the faults of his people and to heal them. (*Isaiah 43:18-19.21-22.24- 25*)

## **Psalm response**

Heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.

## **Second reading**

St Paul writes that God is always true to his promises and that we are called to be true to Christ, saying "Yes" to the will of his Father. (*2 Corinthians 1:18-22*)

## **Gospel acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God. Alleluia!

## **Gospel**

The compassion of Jesus overcomes the restrictions of the law, as he heals a leper. (*Mark 1:40-45*)

## **The Intercessions**

Pray for all who are burdened with guilt. May they learn to trust in the loving forgiveness of God...

Pray that we may be aware of those who suffer in mind or body, and that we may do what we can to ease their load...

Pray for the men and women who are preparing for baptism, and for reception into full communion with the Catholic Church...

Pray for the young people who will be beginning to prepare for Confirmation, for their families and for all who will support them in their journey of faith...

We pray for the members of our parish, and of our community, who are ill, or housebound, and who cannot be with us today. May the Lord heal them, and may he bless those who care for them...

# NEWS AND EVENTS

**THE RITE OF ELECTION (i.e. being "CHOSEN") and Call to Continuing Conversion.** At the Cathedral in Portsmouth on **Saturday 25th February** Bishop Crispian will greet adults from all over the Diocese those known as "catechumens" who are to be baptised in their parishes at Easter. He will also welcome those, already baptised, who are candidates to join the Catholic Church. From our own congregation Daniel Koenigsberger is a catechumen; his wife Julia, with Jimmy Chung and Rosie White are candidates. Our prayers are with them through the season of Lent and we look forward their celebrating Easter as confirmed members of the Church.

## **OUR YOUNG CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES**

Today begin their preparation to be confirmed in May 2012. On **Sunday 26th February** at 10.30 Mass we will celebrate their enrolment. On the weekend 2nd to 4th March some of them will spend what we hope an enjoyable weekend together with candidates from neighbouring parishes, at the Franciscan Centre at Coldash in Berkshire.

## **CABRINI CHILDREN'S SOCIETY**

This weekend the Annual Collection for Cabrini Children's Society is held as we leave Mass. Cabrini provides support and care to some of the most vulnerable children and young people in our community. This includes providing extended school clubs; nursery care; counselling in schools; residential care for adults with learning disabilities and catechetical programmes for children and young people with special needs. 2012 is Cabrini's 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary so help Cabrini to continue its fantastic work in your diocese for a further 125 years by supporting this appeal.

## **ADORE (Alton Day of Renewal)**

**Saturday 25th February 2012.** St Lucy's Convent, Medstead Manor, Medstead, GU34 5LL. The theme for this year is **The New Evangelization**. The topic is **Centred on Christ** with speaker David Matthews. Starting with Rosary at 11 am— Mass or Service at 11.30 am followed by Exposition of the blessed Sacrament and Prayer for Healing. Shared lunch at 1.00 pm. Praise and Worship at 2.00pm. Tea is around 3.45 pm and close. For more information, ring Deacon John Foley 01189 333420

## **FLAME: A Happening for young Catholics**

At Wembley Arena on **24th March 2012**, from 11am to 6 pm. This will be the largest Catholic Youth event **ever** in England and Wales, with prayer, drama, dance, music and inspiring talks. Tickets are £14. Transport is being organised and all young people from confirmation age to 30 are invited to join. Visit <http://cymfed.org/congress/flame/>

## **FATHER DAVID'S 75th BIRTHDAY PARTY**

March 1st is the day, and we will have a party to celebrate on **Sunday 4th March** after 10.30am Mass in St Joseph's Hall. All are welcome. Please bring a dish of food to share.

## **CAFOD LENT FAST DAY**

Please support CAFOD's Lent Fast Day on **Friday 2 March**. Envelopes will be available next weekend for you to take home to make your contribution. The theme of the Fast Day 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<sup>th</sup> February until 17<sup>th</sup> 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. CAFOD thank you very much for your support and prayers.

## **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2012** 10.30 am and 7.30 pm at St Augustine's Church, Holly Road.

Women's World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical movement of informed prayer and prayerful action. Its logo of kneeling figures in a circle represents Christian women worldwide. On the first Friday in March every year, they call the faithful of all ages and both sexes for a common day of prayer. During this time, we learn from the experience of our sisters and their families in the country that has prepared the service; this year, it is Malaysia. The service is organised by a committee of representatives from churches in Aldershot. The speaker in the evening is Revd Nancy Ford, Priest Vicar at Guildford Cathedral. We invite everyone to join us for one of the services, and to meet members of other churches over refreshments. For more information, contact Branch Secretary Alison Blenkinsop on 01252 337189 or [aliblenk@hotmail.com](mailto:aliblenk@hotmail.com). Theme: **'Let Justice Prevail'** prepared by Christian women of Malaysia. All welcome!

## **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 29th May 2012**. The competition is for teams of 4 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](mailto:portsmouth@cafod.org.uk).

## **A SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY?**

**On Saturday 16th June 2012** there will be a special Mass at St Bede's, Basingstoke, for couples celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th, 60th during 2012, or any anniversary over 60 years. If you let Father David know, he will arrange for the Bishop to send you an invitation, as numbers are limited.

## **MEDJUGORJE PILIMAGE**

On the **17th July 2012** for seven nights staying with a visionary. Cost £470 half board including flights and transfers in Medjugorje. If interest please contact Deacon Tony D'Mello 07534 017715 asap.