



EAST HENDRED CATHOLIC PARISH

ST. MARY'S, EAST HENDRED

ST. PATRICK'S, EAST ILSLEY

hendredcatholicparish.org.uk

office@hendredcatholicparish.org.uk

1st WEEK OF ADVENT 3rd – 9th December 2023

SUNDAY	1ST OF ADVENT		
3rd Dec.	9.15am	'Children's Liturgy'	(parish rooms)
	9.30am	Parish Mass	<i>Karen Eskidžjan</i>
	11.15am	Holy Mass	(St. Patrick's)
	6pm	Holy Mass	<i>PRO POPULO</i>
Monday	S. John Damascene, Confessor & Doctor		
4th Dec.		<i>No public Mass</i>	
Tuesday	S. Birinus, Bishop & Confessor		
5th Dec.	9am	Holy Mass	<i>Louisa Goddard RIP</i>
Wednesday	S. Nicholas, Bishop & Confessor		
6th Dec.	9am	Holy Mass	
Thursday	S. Ambrose, Bishop Confessor & Doctor		
7th Dec.	9am	School Mass	<i>Private Intention</i>
Friday	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY		
8th Dec.	9am	School Mass	<i>S. Amand's School</i>
	3pm-4pm	Adoration (Hendred House Chapel)	
	7.30pm	Sung Mass	<i>PRO POPULO</i>
Saturday	Advent Feria		
9th Dec.	9am	Holy Mass	<i>Frances Eyston RIP</i>
	10am-11am	Adoration & Confessions	
	5pm-6pm	Adoration & Confessions	

Priest: Fr. Matthew Topham, 01235 835038 or 07901634731
mtopham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

ASPERGES

The 9.30 Mass during Advent begins with the ceremony called the 'Asperges'. Beginning at the altar, the Celebrant sprinkles the faithful with holy water, whilst the Antiphon *Asperges me*, the first line of Ps. 50, the *Miserere*, and the doxology *Gloria Patri* are sung.

But why?

Before we celebrate any sacrament in the Church, we prepare ourselves. For Mass, especially if we intend to receive Holy Communion, our preparation includes examining our consciences and going to confession, fasting for *at least* an hour, and prayer. The *Asperges*, like the incensing of the altar, is another form of preparation, raising our minds to God, inspiring us with Love, reminding us of our need for repentance, and for cleansing from our sins, driving away the powers of darkness, and making us, body and soul, fit for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

From the rite of blessing holy water:

"...graciously behold this creature of salt and water, and mercifully enlighten and sanctify it with the dew of thy loving-kindness; that, wheresoever it shall be sprinkled, all the snares of the unclean spirit may through the invocation of thy holy name be driven away, and the dread of the poisonous serpent be cast forth: and in all places let the presence of the Holy Ghost be vouchsafed unto us who call upon thy mercy."

Before the chief Sunday Mass churches usually have the Asperges, when the Priest sprinkles the people with Holy Water and prays that God will send His holy Angel to protect them.

The vessel in which the Holy Water is carried is a VAT or ASPERSORY, and the priest uses a SPRINKLER or ASPERGIL (which is either a brush or a short handle with a hollow knob on the end which holds the water) to shake the water over the people or over things that are being blessed.



An illustration from Enid Chadwick's charming book for children "Things we See in Church"

All these words beginning 'aspers-' or 'asperg-' are from the Latin for 'sprinkle'.

THE FOUR LAST THINGS

Traditionally, in Advent, Catholics meditate on the Four Last Things: DEATH, JUDGEMENT, HEAVEN, and HELL. We do this because, as we prepare to celebrate the Saviour's First Coming in meekness, we also look forward to His Second Coming in Majesty, "When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with Him."

The Four Last Things fit in perfectly with the four Sundays of Advent, even down to meditating on Heaven on the Third Sunday of Advent – *Gaudete!* or 'Rejoice!' Sunday – when we relax some of our Advent austerities for a day. Today, we begin with Death.

DEATH

"Man that is born of a woman hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery. He cometh up, and is cut down, like a flower; he fleeth as it were a shadow, and never continueth in one stay." Job 14:1

It is certain that our lives on this earth will end. In so ending, our lives take part with the whole material Creation, which is passing away. In our deaths, we complete our identity with Jesus Christ, Who became a man, like us, was born, like us, and died a death like ours for our sakes.

Many would rather avoid all thought of death: this is not the Christian way. We prepare ourselves for death throughout our lives, so that when it comes, we are not wholly unready, even though our end be sudden. We should think often of death, pray for a good death, provided with the Rites and Sacraments of Holy Church.

Even more, we should welcome death. S. Francis praises "Sister Bodily Death" in the *Canticle of the Sun*, because death is the gate which leads us to Jesus. S. Paul desired death, "to be dissolved and to be with Christ."

To welcome death, we must have lived well. To live well, we must repent of our sins and turn to Christ. Advent is the perfect time to begin, or to begin again.

"In the midst of life we are in death: of whom may we seek for succour, but of thee, O Lord, who for our sins art justly displeased?" Responsory Media Vita, (?14thC

NOTICES

STANDING

✠ **WELCOME** to Mass, especially to those who are new or visiting. Do join us for refreshments are served in the Parish Rooms after the 9.30 Mass (left at the church gate, first right after the bridge).

✠ **COFFEE** after Mass is an **important** part of our common life: more volunteers are needed. Speak to Francia if you can help.

✠ **VOLUNTEERS** are needed for Children's Liturgy. Speak to Veronica or Libby, or email safeguarding@hendredcatholicparish.org.uk.

✠ **CONFIRMATION** class continues at 4:30pm.

✠ **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION** classes continue on Saturdays at 3.30pm, in the Parish Rooms.

✠ **CONFESSIONS:** Saturdays, 10-11am and 5-6pm, in the Sacristy of the Church.

✠ **ST. MARY'S YOUTH GROUP** meets 2nd and 4th Tuesdays in the parish rooms during Term time. Years 7-13 (11-18 year-olds).

✠ **GIVING TO THE PARISH** by standing order or online:

CDP East Hendred, St Mary

Acc. No. 00877183

Sort Code: 30-93-04

NEWS

✠ **DURING ADVENT** there will be œcumenical Morning Prayer on Wednesdays at 8.30 in S. Mary's, and Evening prayer on Fridays at 5.30 in S. Augustine's.

✠ **FRIDAY** is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The eating of meat is permitted. Sung Mass at 7.30pm.

✠ **ADVENT CAROL SERVICE** (œcumenical) next Sunday in S. Mary's at 7pm.

✠ **'LATIN IN THE LITURGY'** an Advent study group looking at the Latin Ordinary of the Mass, Thursdays, 7pm, Parish Rooms.

✠ **GATHERING IN CHRIST**, an œcumenical group, meets Tues. 5th Dec., to study S. Matthew's Gospel, in the Parish Rooms. 7.20pm for 7.30. All welcome.

✠ **FOR YOUR PRAYERS:** Annie Furlong, Gwenda, Martha, Helen Lewis, John Castle, Daniel Cuevas, John Stringer, Louise Woodhouse, Brenda Paddon, Karen Greig, Mary McNichol, Des McNichol, Meg Clark, Madeline Brand, Mary Dorothy Ruple, Graham Titchener, Anne-Marie Kershaw.

✠ **YEAR'S MINDS:** William Flanagan, Albert Castle, Teresa Brown, Christine Buck, Mary Wiley.
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