



EAST HENDRED CATHOLIC PARISH

ST. MARY'S, EAST HENDRED

ST. PATRICK'S, EAST ILSLEY

hendredcatholicparish.org.uk

office@hendredcatholicparish.org.uk

2ND WEEK OF LENT

25th February – 2nd March 2024

SUNDAY	1ST OF LENT		
25 th Feb.	9.15am	Children's Liturgy	(Parish Rooms)
	9.30am	Parish Mass & Baptism	<i>PRO POPULO</i>
	11.15am	Holy Mass	(St. Patrick's)
	6pm	Holy Mass	<i>Jeremiah Hickey, RIP</i>
Monday	<i>Feria</i>		
26 th Feb.		<i>No public Mass</i>	
Tuesday	<i>Feria</i>		
27 th Feb.	9am	Holy Mass	<i>John Beary, RIP</i>
Wednesday	<i>Feria</i>		
28 th Feb.	9am	Holy Mass	<i>Helen Goodfriend, RIP</i>
Thursday	<i>Feria</i>		
29 th Feb.	9am	School Mass	<i>Our School</i>
Friday	S. DAVID, Bishop & Confessor		
1 st Mar.	8.30am	Holy Mass	(Hendred House Chapel)
	3pm-4pm	Adoration	(Hendred House Chapel)
Saturday	<i>Feria</i>		
2 nd Mar.	9am	Holy Mass	<i>Annie Furlong's Intention</i>
	10-11am	Adoration & Confessions	
	5-6pm	Adoration & Confessions	

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

THE LITANY OF S. JOSEPH

March is the Month of S. Joseph, and to mark this fact, the Litany of S. Joseph will be recited after Mass during the week, at least until Holy Week, when our minds wish to dwell only on the Passion of Our Lord. The Litany is comparatively unknown: in the spirit of the scribe trained for the Kingdom, bringing from his *thesaurus* or treasury things old and things new (*cf. Matt. 13:52*) that these reflections are offered as an aid to devotion.

Proles David Inclyta | Renowned offspring of David

One of the purposes of the great genealogy from Abraham to Jesus with which S. Matthew opens his Gospel is to prove S. Joseph's descent from King David, a descent which Jesus shares through His 'adoption' by Joseph, who, in naming Jesus (*cf. Matt. 1:25*), accepts Him as his son, such that people refer to Our Lord as the "Son of Joseph" (*John 6:42*). Jesus also derives His Davidic descent through His Mother, herself descended from the kingly line. 'Renowned' is an interesting description: Joseph was, if not as poor as some would have us believe, of modest means, not by any stretch of the imagination comparable in worldly Renown to Solomon, or even the later Davidic Kings. Rather, S. Joseph's renown comes from his Foster-Son, Jesus, and his obedience to God's call: the true scale of values by which our nobility and greatness will be measured.

Lumen Patriarcharum | Light of the Patriarchs

S. Joseph is often spoken about as the last of the Patriarchs, the Fathers of the Hebrew people to whom God spoke, and made known His Will, and who lived before the coming of Christ. Standing in the Davidic Line, receiving commands from God by angels (*cf. Matt. 1:20, 2:13*), Joseph clearly stands in that august pedigree. We do not know whether he lived to see his adopted son's public ministry, and Tradition holds that he was dead by the time of the Crucifixion, and he therefore belongs, in one sense, to the Old Covenant, fulfilled (*Matt. 5:7*) and surpassed (*Heb. 8:6*) in Christ. He, however, has seen Jesus Christ in the flesh, unlike those who walked in darkness; has seen the "great light" (*Isa. 9:2*). In his turn, then, he is the 'Light of the Patriarchs', having seen in a measure the Vision of God.

Dei Genetricis Sponse | Spouse of the Mother of God

S. Matthew tells us that S. Joseph "took his wife, but knew her not until she had born a son" (*Matt. 1:24-25*). Mary is truly his wife, according to the scriptures. Yet the united witness of the Fathers and Saints of the

Church is that Mary remained ever-Virgin, and therefore the marriage between Our Lady and S. Joseph was never consummated. This is a doctrine with which many have difficulty, not least in understanding how they could be said to be married if the marital act was excluded. The answer is in the community of love – charity – which existed between them, and of which earthly marriage is a sign and school. Their union was based on the highest love, and therefore is a true, spiritual, marriage.

Custos Pudice Virginis | Chaste Guardian of the Virgin

Because of what we said above, S. Joseph is very often described as ‘chaste’, and is resorted to especially by those who struggle with purity of the flesh, himself remaining continent whilst married to the Virgin Mary. There exist, however, traditions that Joseph may have had other children by a previous marriage, his wife having died by the time of his betrothal to Our Lady. This helps us to understand the true meaning of ‘chastity’, which is not ‘continence’ (refraining from the marital act), but rather, the right use of the sexual faculties, whether in holy wedlock for the begetting of children and the deepening of love, or in continence. Everyone, no matter their state in life, is called to chastity, even though not everyone is called to continence. S. Joseph is, therefore, an apt patron for all of us, especially in our age which disdains and even ridicules the virtue of chastity as practised by Christians.

Filii Dei Nutricie | Foster Father of the Son of God

Some people find the language Scripture uses about the relationship between Jesus and S. Joseph confusing. After all, Our Lady herself calls S. Joseph Jesus’ “Father” (*Luke 2:48*), and, as we have seen, it is a frequent source of confusion for the Jews who know of Our Lord’s family. And yet the Scripture is also clear that Jesus is the Son of God, and that this sonship is the true sonship. S. Luke says of Him that He was “the son (as was supposed) of Joseph” (*Luke 3:23*). What’s happening here is divine irony: of everyone called ‘son of God’ (*cf. Job 1:6, 2 Sam. 7:14*) the title is metaphorical, and their earthly parentage is their ‘true’ descent. Of Jesus, this is reversed: He is “truly the Son of God” (*cf. Matt 27:54*), and His supposed father, S. Joseph, is only so metaphorically. This does not prevent him, however, from fulfilling – and to a perfect degree – all the duties of a true father to Our Lord, and so he is worthy to be called ‘the Foster-Father of the Son of God’.

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).

✠ **LENT** is upon us. Keep up the Lenten Penances & Disciplines, and make the most of this holy season of prayer and fasting.

✠ Lent is an excellent time for **CONFESSION**: heard in S. Mary's on Saturdays, 10-11am, 5-6pm. Confessions can be heard at S. Patrick's after the Sunday Mass.

✠ Spend some time with the Lord in **ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT** in S. Mary's on Saturdays 10-11am, 5-6pm, concluding with **BENEDICTION**.

✠ **VOLUNTEERS** are needed for Children's Liturgy. Speak to Veronica or Libby if you can help.

✠ Diocesan **VACANCIES**:
<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/other/jobs>

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

**CDP East Hendred, St Mary
Acc. No. 00877183**

Sort Code: 30-93-04

Or via the **DONA MACHINE** by the door.

NEWS

✠ **THIS MORNING** we welcome Jo Lewry to speak about the work of CAFOD.

✠ **THE ŒCUMENICAL LENTEN LUNCH** group continues this Wednesday at 12.30, with short talks on 'Why I am a Catholic/Anglican?' All welcome to S. Mary's Parish Rooms.

✠ A **CATHOLIC MOTHERS** group meets to 'Pray and Play' on first Wednesdays of each month.. 9:45-11am. Next meeting is March 6th.

✠ **THE VESTMENT DRIVE** is already yielding fruit! Many thanks to the generous sponsors of the Green Set, and full steam ahead for White, up next, and part-funded.

✠ **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, Madeline Brand, Mary Dorothy Ruple, Graham Titchener, Anne-Marie Kershaw, Roy Kemp.

✠ **YEAR'S MINDS**: Donato Giacoma, Arthur Robert Langley, Agnes Winifred Yardley, Mary Rush, Matthew Castle, Thomas Regan, Patrick Barnes. **R·I·P·**