



EAST HENDRED CATHOLIC PARISH

ST. MARY'S, EAST HENDRED

ST. PATRICK'S, EAST ILSLEY

hendredcatholicparish.org.uk

office@hendredcatholicparish.org.uk

2nd WEEK OF ADVENT

10th – 16th December 2023

SUNDAY	2 ND OF ADVENT		
10 th Dec.	9.15am	'Children's Liturgy'	(parish rooms)
	9.30am	Parish Mass	<i>PRO POPULO</i>
	11.15am	Holy Mass	(St. Patrick's)
	6pm	Holy Mass	<i>Canon Raab RIP</i>
	7pm	Advent Carols	
Monday	S. Damasus I, Pope & Confessor		
11 th Dec.		<i>No public Mass</i>	
Tuesday	Our Lady of Guadalupe		
12 th Dec.	9am	Holy Mass	<i>Canon Raab RIP</i>
Wednesday	S. Lucy, Virgin & Martyr		
13 th Dec.	9am	School Mass	
Thursday	S. John of the Cross, Confessor & Doctor		
14 th Dec.	9am	Holy Mass	<i>Edward Woods RIP</i>
Friday	<i>Advent Feria</i>		
15 th Dec.	8.30am	Holy Mass	<i>Frances Eyston RIP</i>
	3pm-4pm	Adoration (Hendred House Chapel)	
Saturday	<i>Advent Feria</i>		
9 th Dec.	9am	Holy Mass	<i>Fanny Gorton RIP</i>
	10am-11am	Adoration & Confessions	
	5pm-6pm	Adoration & Confessions	

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

CHRISTMAS 2023 – MASS TIMES

SUNDAY 24TH DECEMBER

- 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
9.30am Parish Mass
11.15am Mass *at S. Patrick's*

CHRISTMAS EVE

- 4pm Vigil ('Crib') Mass
The first Mass of Christmas
- 8pm Mass during the Night

MONDAY 25TH DECEMBER

- CHRISTMAS DAY
9.30am Parish Mass
11.15am Mass *at S. Patrick's*

SUNDAY 31ST DECEMBER

- THE HOLY FAMILY
9.30am Parish Mass
11.15am Mass *at S. Patrick's*
6pm Mass & Te Deum
In thanksgiving for the past year

MONDAY 1ST JANUARY

- MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
9am Mass

THE CHRISTMAS OBLIGATION

All Catholics are bound to hear Mass every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation, if it is *possible* (not 'convenient') for them to do so. To miss Mass on a Sunday or Day of Obligation when one might have gone is a grave sin which should be confessed before receiving Holy Communion.

THIS YEAR, Christmas falls on a Monday, which means we have two obligations back-to-back: **first**, to hear Mass on **SUNDAY 24th**, and **second**, to hear Mass on **CHRISTMAS DAY, 25th**. We can fulfil these obligations in number of ways, but we *must* do so at separate masses.

The Sunday obligation can be fulfilled at mass from 4pm on Saturday 23rd until midnight on Sunday 24th, regardless of whether this is a Mass of the Sunday or not. The Christmas obligation can be fulfilled from 4pm on Sunday 24th until midnight on Christmas Day (this Mass will inevitably be a Mass of Christmas). But they must be two distinct masses!

Remember: the Church obliges us to hear Mass on certain days because it's good for us, and because she wants us to go to heaven!

THE FOUR LAST THINGS

Traditionally, in Advent, Catholics meditate on the Four Last Things: DEATH, JUDGEMENT, HEAVEN, and HELL. Today: Judgment

JUDGEMENT

“When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats” Matt. 25:31-33

“Who am I to judge” has become something of a commonplace in the Church these days, but there is One for Whom the answer is “The Son of Man,” “the judge of all the earth” (Gen. 18:25). That we, in our ignorance, should refrain from judging the eternal fate of others is right and proper, but this does not mean there will be no Judgment at all.

Our judgments are bound to be mistaken, in whole or in part, because we see so little. Christ, Who knows the secrets of our hearts, cannot err, and so His judgment will be true, a manifestation of *perfect* justice.

How shall we be judged? *“the hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment [/condemnation].”* (John 5:28-29). Is this ‘works religion’? No, because only Faith gives rise to works which are meritorious (that is, deserving reward), and that only because the faithful are united to Christ, to Whom all merit belongs.

In judging us, then, Christ judges not what we have done of ourselves, but how far we have allowed Him to work *in* and *through* us, how far we have cooperated with His grace working in us. As S. Augustine wrote, “He crowns you because He crowns His own gifts, not your merits.”

These gifts are given us through the Mercy of God. In strict *justice*, we all deserve condemnation. But ours is a *merciful* God, Who gave His only Son out of love for us, and so saves us whilst remaining *both* just *and* merciful. Praise be to Him for His merciful justice!

“Mercy and truth are met together. Righteousness and peace have kissed each other” Ps. 84:11 [85:10]

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).

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

✠ **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.

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

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

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

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

CDP East Hendred, St Mary

Acc. No. 00877183

Sort Code: 30-93-04

NEWS

✠ **ADVENT CAROL SERVICE** this evening in S. Mary's at 7pm.

✠ **DURING ADVENT,** œcumenical Morning Prayer, Wednesdays at 8.30 in S. Mary's, and Evening prayer, Fridays at 4.30 in S. Augustine's.

✠ **CHILDREN'S LITURGY** is on vacation from Sunday 17th Dec, restarting on Jan. 7th.

✠ **FR. TOPHAM** is in the process of moving house. Please forgive any delays responding to emails.

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

✠ **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:** Peter Cecil Cribson, Ann Collett, Robert Driscoll, William Brown, Kevin Peter Mulhern, Harru Wells, Charles Hunt, Margaret Ann Crossman. **R·I·P·**