

PARISH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE, WESTBOURNE  
 Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth: registered charity 246871  
 visit us at catholicwestbourne.org

**FR BILL WRITES:** Every second of every day is a moment of infinite mercy. Everything we are and have is a demonstration of the loving mercy of the living God. Without God's mercy we would simply cease to exist. The great thing is that God can't help himself *but* show us his mercy, which is just as well, given our general ingratitude, presumption and fecklessness! St Paul knew this all too well; 'The good I should do, I do not; that which I should not, I do. Who can save us from this wretchedness? Thanks be to God through our Lord, Jesus Christ!' The mercy of the Father is made manifest in the person of his Son, Jesus, who willingly stretched out his arms between heaven and earth as the perfect sign of that mercy. If only we could see it! Instead, we enslave ourselves in our own distorted models of 'mercy' that blasphemously make of God a tyrant and our fellow human beings rivals to a finite pot of so-called justice. Pope Francis wants us to try to remember and understand what God's mercy really means. He has called an *Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy* to begin on Tuesday. Tuesday is the *Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary*. The timing is deliberate: God's action in creating Mary free from Original Sin and its effects is the concrete beginning of the process that will make his mercy clear for the whole world to see on the cross. In his kindness, God had already prepared humanity for this through his Covenant with the Jewish people into which Mary, and so Jesus, would be born. God plays a long game! Mercy is a long game. The stakes, after all, could not be higher: the possibility of the eternal fulfilment of every single human person who



**CHRISTMAS SERVICE AND MASS TIMES**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

Children's Crib Service—3.00pm  
 Carols—7.30pm  
 Mass During the Night—8.00pm

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

Mass—9.00am and 11.00am

ever has, does, or will exist. Fr. Bill

**YEAR OF MERCY RESOURCES:**

Please accept a **free** prayer card and booklet today. There is also a book from *Magnificat* offering Scripture readings, prayers and reflections for every single day of the Jubilee Year. These are on special offer at only **£4.00 each**: well worth every penny.

**SPECIAL FEAST DAY CELEBRATION: Tuesday December 8th**

This year we are celebrating the Feast day of Our Lady Immaculate with something a little bit special for our church and our community. We are inviting Westbourne Traders and our family, neighbours and friends to join us at for Mass at 6.00pm. Following Mass we will celebrate together in a candlelit church hall with drinks & buffet...our own unique way of marking Pope Francis' Year of Mercy.

**HOLY HOUR FOR ADVENT:**

Advent is a time of preparation: yet preparing for all the seemingly endless tasks before Christmas can over-occupy our minds. So how can we prepare our hearts? How can Advent deepen our spiritual lives in preparation for the birth of Our Lord Jesus? Spending even just ten minutes a week in Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament gives the soul the space, the freedom it longs for: simply to live in the Presence of the Lord. Join us **each Monday of Advent between 4pm -5pm.**

**ICON OF OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR:**

The original icon with this title came into being about 1455. Very soon it gained a reputation as a tremendous source of solace and healing ('succour' means 'to console at the breast'). Pilgrims flocked to it in their thousands. Believed destroyed after Napoleon's soldiers looted Rome, it was rediscovered in 1886 in a monastery where it had been taken for safe keep-

<b>LITURGICAL CALENDAR, MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS</b>			
Prayer of the Church: <b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>			
Cycle of Prayer: For a deeper love of Holy Scripture (Bible Sunday)			
<b>TODAY</b>	<b>SECOND SUNDAY OF</b>	<b>9.00AM</b>	People of the Parish
<b>6TH DEC</b>	<b>ADVENT - YEAR C</b>	<b>11.00AM</b>	Thomas Bonaventure Quinn
Mon 7th	St Ambrose (Bishop)	No service	
Tues 8th	<b>Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	6.00pm	Mary Macqu
Wed 9th	St John Diego Cuahtlatotzin	11.00am	Mr Marcel
Thurs 10th	Of the 2nd week of Advent	11.00am	Lolo Bernard
Fri 11th	St Damasus I (Pope)	11.00am	<i>Communion Service</i>
Sat 12th	Our Lady of Guadalupe	No Service	
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>THIRD SUNDAY OF</b>	<b>9.00AM</b>	Bob Philipps
<b>13TH DEC</b>	<b>ADVENT - YEAR C</b>	<b>11.00AM</b>	People of the Parish

<b>PRAYER CORNER</b>
<b>THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND:</b> Rosemary Baker, Win Sheridan, Christopher Browne, Felicity Whitehead, Naiada Blunden, Margaret Barkway, John Leebody, Christopher Fordham-Hall, Louise Borber, Ian Dolman, Alan Franklin Barnes, Patricia Dewar, Joan Guyomارش, Lorretta Domanska, James Richards, Patricia Plumb, Ann Hogg, Dorothy Matthews and Regina Brady.
<b>THOSE WHO HAVE DIED:</b> All mentioned in our Book of Remembrance.
<b>REQUESTS:</b> in our visitor's book.

## PARISH CALENDAR

### DECEMBER

Sun	6	9 & 11am	Gift Aid Appeal (Rescheduled)	OLI Church
Tues	8	6.00pm	Festive Mass for Immaculate Conception	OLI Church & Hall
Fri	11	4.30pm	Wedding Rehearsal	OLI Church
Sat	12	12.30pm	Nuptial Mass for Diana and Ranil	OLI Church
Sun	13	4.00pm	Solemn Evening Prayer & Enthronement of Icon	OLI Church
Wed	16	2.00pm	PA Clergy Meeting	Sacred Heart
Sat	19	12.30pm	Parish Pre-Christmas Lunch	Miramar
Thurs	24	3.00pm	Children's Crib Service	OLI Church
		7.30pm	Carol Service	OLI Church
		8.00pm	Christmas Mass During the Night	OLI Church
Fri	25	9.00am	Christmas Morning Mass	OLI Church
		11.00am	Christmas Morning Mass	OLI Church
		12.30pm	Parish Christmas Lunch	OLI Hall

### JANUARY

Fri		Noon	Mass for Solemnity of Mary Mother of God	OLI Church
Sun	3	11.00am	Rite of Enrolment into Catechumenate	OLI Church

ing and forgotten about. It was restored to public veneration that same year in the Church of St. Alphonsus, Rome, where it remains to this day. It continues to be a source of great comfort for pilgrims from all parts of the world. Copies of the icon hang in many Catholic churches and homes in the UK. 2016 marks the 150th anniversary of the icon's return to public veneration. For the *Jubilee Year of Mercy*, Fr. Bill has felt gently prompted (somehow!) to give a copy of the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour a place in our beautiful church. He does not know why, but that is God's business. To that end, a lovely copy of the icon has been sourced from the Belarusian sisters who visited us earlier this year (was that a coincidence?). It will be enshrined in our Lady Chapel during Solemn Evening Prayer on **Sunday 13th December at 4.00pm**. At this service Fr. Bill will preach about the icon and fill us in on the promptings that have led him to give it a home among us. Please come.

**CHILDREN'S EPIPHANY PARTY – on Sunday January 3rd at 3pm.** Have you ever thought about the fact that the kings who followed the star to Bethlehem were astronomers? Our party will be filled with fun and games all about the stars and the planets! Maybe you too will want to be an astronomer by the end! Delicious refreshments also provided. There's a sign-up sheet at the back of the church.

**GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW:** Great prizes including signed 1966 World Cup photo, hamper, exquisite handmade throw, case of wine and much more. A first for OLI. Please take a stack of tickets and sell them to your family, friends ☺ and neighbours; we want their money, not yours! Tickets £1 each. Proceeds to parish funds and SVP South Sudan Project. Be ruthless!

**CHRISTMAS RAFFLES:** Prizes needed for our Christmas Raffles. If you are able to donate any prizes please hand them to Pam O'Neill, Phillip Rockford, or Suzanne during office hours. Tickets to be given to Fr. Bill and he will advise winners in the newsletter.

**PLANNED GIVING/GIFT AID:** Why not start making a regular contribution to the life and works of Our Lady Immaculate. Payments can be by either weekly envelopes or monthly direct debits. If you pay income tax this increases your gift to the church by 25%. Full details can be obtained from our Gift Aid Co-Ordinator Jerome O'Connor or Pam O'Neill after both Masses today.

**SECOND COLLECTION:** Christmas flowers.

### CAFOD NEWS

**ADVENT CALENDAR:** CAFOD have an Advent Calendar on their website which can be used for daily prayer and reflection as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. The link is [www.cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-Calendar](http://www.cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-Calendar)

### PASTORAL AREA AND BEYOND

**CHAPLET OF DIVINE MERCY:** Will be offered every Tuesday of the Year of Mercy at 3.00pm at St Edmund Campion Church, Castle Point, beginning 8th December. All welcome.

**MARRIAGE CARE:** is a national Catholic charity which seeks to promote healthy happy marriages. One aspect of their work is the provision of a professionally trained counselling service for couples experiencing difficulties. **Bournemouth and Poole Centre** is urgently seeking a volunteer counsellor to help them deliver this service. You need to be fully qualified, and willing to train further with Marriage Care in Emotionally Focused Couples Therapy. For further information please contact: Deacon Roger or Jackie Carr-Jones on 01202 428451, or email: [marriagecare@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:marriagecare@hotmail.co.uk). **Closing date for applications - Wednesday 16th December.**

### SVP

**SVP CHRISTMAS TEA:** Please join us **Tuesday 15th December, 2.00pm to 4.00pm at OLI Hall** for some Christmas fun with entertainment. Everyone welcome.

*Welcome to all our visitors today.*

*Dedicated bays for wheelchair and buggy users at the front and back.*

*Please remember: mobile phones off.*

*Just moved in? Please give us your details.*

*If you need any assistance, please ask one of our welcome team, who will be happy to help.*

*Church Cleaning alternate Mondays at 2:30pm.*

*SVP Society meets alternate Weds 11:30am in the Hall.*

*Rosary in church Wednesdays 10.15am*

*Benediction and Confessions: Fridays 11:30am.*

**Parish Administrator & hall bookings**  
**Suzanne Quinn**  
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**Parish Priest:**  
**Fr. Bill Wilson**  
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**website:**  
[catholicwestbourne.org](http://catholicwestbourne.org)

**GIFT AID**  
*Pay income tax? We can reclaim 25% of your offering today from the Government at no cost to you. Please use one of our special envelopes or ask for a form.*

**We are part of Bournemouth Pastoral Area.**