

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.
Nor let my enemies exult over me;
and let none who hope in you be put to shame.

COLLECT

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God, the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at his coming, so that, gathered at his right hand, they may be worthy to possess the heavenly Kingdom.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1.3-8

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.
You, Lord, yourself are our Father,
Our Redeemer is your ancient name.
Why, Lord, leave us to stray from your ways
and harden our hearts against fearing you?
Return, for the sake of your servants,
the tribes of your inheritance.
Oh, that you would tear the heavens open
and come down
– at your Presence the mountains would melt.
No ear has heard,
no eye has seen
any god but you act like this
for those who trust him.
You guide those who act with integrity
and keep your ways in mind.
You were angry when we were sinners;
we had long been rebels against you.
We were all like men unclean,
all that integrity of ours like filthy clothing.
We have all withered like leaves
and our sins blew us away like the wind.
No one invoked your name
or roused himself to catch hold of you.
For you hid your face from us
and gave us up to the power of our sins.
And yet, Lord, you are our Father;
we the clay, you the potter,
we are all the work of your hand.
The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 79

Response:

**God of hosts, bring us back;
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.**

- O shepherd of Israel, hear us,
shine forth from your cherubim throne.
O Lord, rouse up your might,
O Lord, come to our help. (R.)
- God of hosts, turn again, we implore,
look down from heaven and see.
Visit this vine and protect it,
the vine your right hand has planted. (R.)
- May your hand be on the man you have chosen,
the man you have given your strength.
And we shall never forsake you again:
give us life that we may call upon your name. (R.)

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

May God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ send you grace and peace.

I never stop thanking God for all the graces you have received through Jesus Christ. I thank him that you have been enriched in so many ways, especially in your teachers and preachers; the witness to Christ has indeed been strong among you so that you will not be without any of the gifts of the Spirit while you are waiting for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed; and he will keep you steady and without blame until the last day, the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, because God by calling you has joined you to his Son, Jesus Christ; and God is faithful.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy
and give us your saving help.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL Mark 13:33-37

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

Jesus said to his disciples: "Be on your guard, stay awake, because you never know when the time will come. It is like a man travelling abroad: he has gone from home, and left his servants in charge, each with his own task; and he has told the doorkeeper to stay awake. So stay awake, because you do not know when the master of the house is coming, evening, midnight, cockcrow, dawn; if he comes unexpectedly, he must not find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake!"

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.**

**I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,**

(all bow during the next three lines)

**and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.**

**I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

Accept, we pray, O Lord, these offerings we make,
gathered from among your gifts to us,
and may what you grant us to celebrate
devoutly here below
gain for us the prize of eternal redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

**The Lord will bestow his bounty,
and our earth shall yield its increase.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May these mysteries, O Lord,
in which we have participated,
profit us, we pray,
for even now, as we walk amid passing
things,
you teach us by them to love the things of
heaven
and hold fast to what endures.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

If the Word truly became flesh, then God had not only a mother, but also a grandmother, cousins, great-aunts, and weird uncles. If the Word truly dwelt among us, then he was part of a family that, like most, was fairly dysfunctional, a mix of the good and bad, the saintly and the sinful, the glorious and the not so glorious. And this is such good news for us.

Bishop Robert Barron



A NEW CHURCH YEAR!

(MARK 13:33-37)

The imminent coming of the kingdom of God forms the basis of the preaching of John the Baptist and of Jesus. Our new cycle of Sunday readings opens with a similar message, delivered to the disciples at the end of Jesus' public ministry.

The extract for today comprises the concluding verses of Jesus' long discourse to his disciples concerning the second coming and the events which will accompany it, beginning with the destruction of the Temple in Jerusalem. The final words are a warning: "Stay awake!" ■

SAY

**Awake from your slumber!
Arise from your sleep!
(Daniel L. Schutte)**

LEARN

The Roman night was divided into four watches: evening, midnight, cockcrow and dawn.

"Advent" means approach, arrival, coming.

The Gospel according to Mark begins with Jesus as an adult: there is no "infancy narrative" telling of events such as the annunciation to Mary or Joseph, or of the circumstances surrounding his birth.

DO

Set your alarm a little earlier than usual for the season of Advent: when it rings, think of Jesus' words "Stay awake!" and thank the Lord for a new day.

**REFLECT**

No one likes the sensation of being watched. We usually feel uncomfortable or uneasy if someone is looking over our shoulder and keeping an eye on us. Some people feel this way about God: the Lord is observing us, noting what we do right, or, more often, what we do wrong, and such individuals live with a guilt complex, that they are never in God's good books. Our Gospel reading today sets out a summary of the Christian ethical life: the master has left his servants with their different tasks, assigned according to their ability; the doorkeeper has been instructed to "stay awake", as the time for the master's return has not been announced, and so could happen at any time; if the servants are going about their duties, they have nothing to worry about, so the master's arrival is not something to fear.

We are beginning the season of Advent, when we think about the coming of Jesus in our human flesh and nature. It can be difficult to preserve this attitude of looking forward to Christmas when for so many people the feast has, to all intents and purposes, already arrived. Christmas carols and songs are to be heard everywhere, and carol services sometimes anticipate the day itself. But, as Christians, we are invited to prepare to celebrate this festival with prayer and penance: this means living these four weeks in the spirit of faith, and examining our lives in this light. We are being asked to think about how we would feel if the Master did arrive, how we are living up to our calling as disciples of Jesus. Are we awake and fulfilling our daily responsibilities calmly and thoroughly, or are we like the disciples in Gethsemane who fall asleep,

just when Jesus needs their support and presence? We are not being asked to work ourselves up into a frenzy of panic and guilt, but to look at ourselves honestly and remedy those compromises we may have fallen into, not out of ill will, but simply because of forgetfulness or tiredness or the like.

When we are expecting a guest, we see that everything is ready, not just out of courtesy for our guest, but also out of a sense of respect for ourselves. Advent is that time to prepare to celebrate the first coming of Jesus, but also a reminder that we should keep in mind that he will come again, and we do not know the day or the hour. ■

PARISH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE

Seamoor Road, Westbourne BH4 9AE

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. Registered charity 246871

NEWSLETTER 29th November 2020 First Sunday of Advent (B)

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Safeguarding Officer: Matthew French: mail@matthewfrench.net

Today is the First Sunday of Advent, the start of a new liturgical year (now Year B). Advent is a period of preparation, not just for the coming of the Lord at Christmas, but a time to focus our attention on our need for God and the place we give him in our lives. This year, our Advent preparation is set against, not the back-drop but the ‘front drop’ of the coronavirus where nothing is ‘normal’. Tensions and vulnerabilities may become more pronounced, and our need to find peace, hope and the promise of a brighter future will all feature in our spiritual journey over the next few weeks. But we are not alone: ‘Emmanuel’ is a key Advent word which means ‘God with us’. A very useful Advent companion and downloadable booklet, with prayers, readings and explanations can be found on the Diocesan website at: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/advent-project>

The Government has lifted the nationwide lockdown and our area will come under Tier 2 restrictions. Church services will be allowed in all Tiers but all previous restrictions relating to church services will apply with the added emphasis that those attending places of worship may not interact with anyone outside household or support bubble. As explained previously, each church will, of necessity, operate differently depending on local circumstances. At Our Lady Immaculate, we are very much restricted by the physical nature of our building, the demographic of our congregation and other administrative and logistical issues. These severely limit what we can safely do and very much restrict the numbers that can be accommodated at any one time. The principal concern governing any arrangements we make must, and will be, the safety of all and, as a parish, we will continue to proceed with caution. Notwithstanding the promising news about vaccines, it is clear that these restrictions will be in place for many months to come. The system we had in place before the lockdown for Mass by advanced reservation only was working well and will now resume.

Christmas. Now that the Government has made the various announcements, arrangements for how we can most equitably and fairly provide safe access to church services over the whole Christmas period (24th December - 1st January) can now be finalised and these will be announced in next week’s newsletter. Until then, no bookings will be accepted for the Christmas period.

Mass times and Church Opening

The public celebration of Mass - by advanced reservation only – will re-commence this coming Thursday, 3rd December. Sundays and weekdays (Tuesdays to Fridays inclusive), at 10.00 a.m. The church will remain open after Mass for individual visits from 10.30 – 11.00 a.m. and, on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week, will be open from 10.00 – 11.00 a.m.

All arrangements are, of course, subject to any local or government restrictions.

Attendance at Mass is by advanced reservation only. Preference for the Sunday Mass is to be given to those who cannot come during the week e.g. those working or families with children at school. Please do not attend without a reservation – you will not be admitted.

Parishioners attending mass with confirmed reservations only should queue outside the Church in a socially distanced manner. The door will be unlocked promptly ten minutes before Mass and will be closed five minutes before Mass starts after which there will be no entry, so please be punctual. Hands must be sanitised on entry and face masks must be worn at all times, except when receiving communion or for children under the age of eleven. Names & addresses will be kept for 21 days and if necessary, may be passed to *NHS Test & Trace*. The QR code is posted on the main notice board for those who have the NHS contact tracing App.

How to make a reservation to attend Mass:

Bookings need to be made in advance and you can request a reservation by one of the following methods (in order of preference): -

- 1) Send an email to oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
- 2) Leave a clear message on the parish office phone **01202 760640**
- 3) In writing, and placed in the letter box by the church door, or by post to *Our Lady Immaculate, Seamoor Road, Westbourne, BH4 9AE*

When making a booking, please give the following details and you will be contacted by phone or email to let you know which Mass you can be offered: -

Name(s) – including the ages of children under 18.

Phone number or email address:

Number of seats required:

Weekday mass or Sunday mass:

Would you like to be added to an ongoing rota? Yes/No

A Big ‘Thank you’ to Suzanne Quinn who, over the last five years, has served as Parish Administrator with great efficiency and dealt with many and varied issues with a friendly and sympathetic disposition. We wish Suzanne and all her family well for the future. There will be no new Parish Administrator as the reduced scale of our parish operations at the present time mean that things can be adequately managed.

First Communion. The time has come for applications for next year’s First Holy Communion programme. Full details, including an online application form, can be found on the parish website at <http://catholicwestbourne.org/fhc/> Closing date for applications is 18th December.

2021 Diaries and Sunday Missals. We will not be placing a bulk order this year for diaries and Sunday Missals, but the following links may be helpful to those who wish to order them direct:

St Paul Sunday Missal 2021 (Year B): email <https://stpauls.org.uk/st-paul-sunday-missal-2018.html> or call 0207 828 5582.

St Patrick's Missionary Diary 2021: phone 020 8979 1890 or email office@stpatricksuk.co.uk Cost £5.00.

Catholic Masses Online: The following is a helpful link to various masses that are available online.
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/online-mass-directory/>

Liturgical Calendar:

To request mass intentions, please email or phone the Parish Office or leave an envelope at the church.

Sunday 29 th November	First Sunday of Advent (B)	People of the Parish
Monday 30 th	St Andrew	-
Tuesday 1 st December	of 1 st Week of Advent	Francis Dorr RIP
Wednesday 2 nd	of 1 st Week of Advent	Catherine Sweeney RIP
Thursday 3 rd	St Francis Xavier	Thomas Joughin RIP
Friday 4 th	of 1 st Week of Advent	Liam & Gladys Campbell
Saturday 5 th	of 1 st Week of Advent	-
Sunday 6 th	Second Sunday of Advent (B)	People of the Parish

Prayer Corner: Please remember all the sick and housebound of our parish especially: Patricia Kowalewska, Win Sheridan, Patricia Plumb, Kathleen Wood, Peter Henry, Phillip Rockford, Germaine McAulay, and Geoffrey Dixon.

Finance. A 'Thank you' to those who are using the 'Donate' button on the website. The 'Donate' button has the facility of adding a reference and also the option to Gift Aid any donation. Any donation with no specific reference will be treated as ordinary offertory. The parish's bank details are set out below for those who may wish to take out a standing order or make a bank transfer.

Bank: Lloyds	Account Name: PRCDTR Bournemouth Our Lady Immaculate
Sort Code: 30-93-04	Account Number: 00875075