

CATHOLIC PARISH OF WESTBOURNE NEWSLETTER



10 DECEMBER 2023

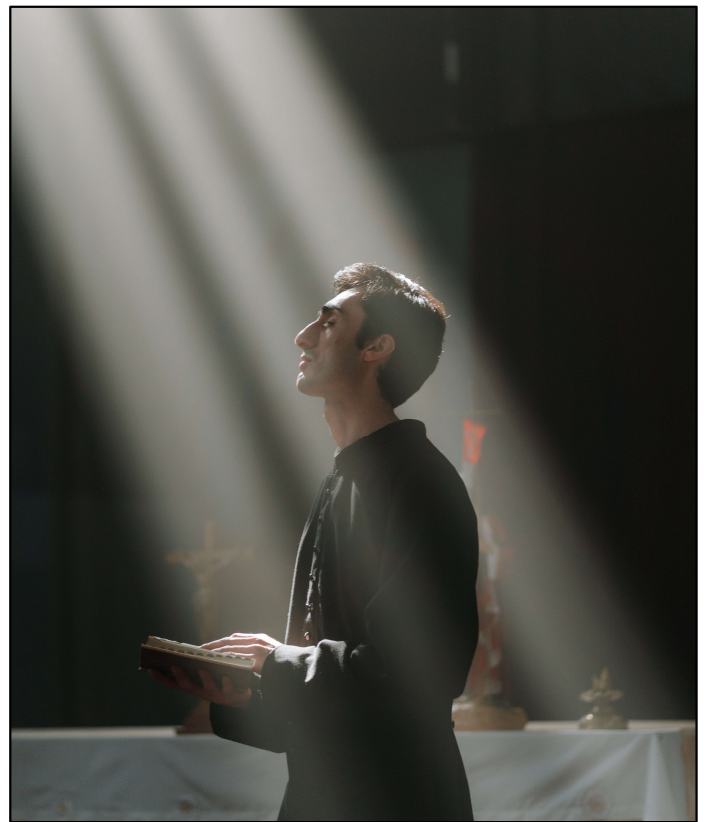
2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Awaken our hearts

In Palestine, Christians gather today in Jerusalem for the celebration of Holy Mass. In Rome, they proceed to the stational church "Holy Cross at Jerusalem," which serves to give the atmosphere of the Holy City.

Why Jerusalem? Excavations of ancient sites often reveal a number of strata. When enemies destroyed a city, a new one would rise up from the same location, so that today there are several layers of remains, one city, as it were, above the other. Our Jerusalem likewise has four strata. The bottommost layer is the Jerusalem of the Jews, that venerable land where the Lord Jesus began His mission of redemption where He suffered and died. This is the historical Jerusalem so dear to us Christians. Anyone making a pilgrimage to the Holy Land enters that ancient city with holy awe. That Jerusalem, however, lies buried deep.

For us another has been built upon it, the Jerusalem of Christians, God's kingdom on earth, the holy Church. This city still stands; it is the one which the divine King will enter at Christmas. Now we understand why we will hear so much about Jerusalem during the coming week. We should now clean and adorn our city, improving its streets and avenues through which the saviour will make His entrance. As a motto we should take the words of the precursor, St. John the Baptist: *"Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight His paths; let every valley be filled, every hill be levelled."* Holy Mother Church's message today is that the saviour is coming to the Jerusalem of



the Christians, to the Church.

Above the second stratum there arises a third, the heavenly Jerusalem at the end of time. Already now the Church sings of this Jerusalem. For during Advent we await the saviour who will appear on the Last Day to take all into *"the new Jerusalem coming down from heaven."*

Finally, there may be recognized a fourth Jerusalem, our souls in sanctifying grace. This city too must be adorned and prepared, (**SEE PAGE 2**)

Visit our website: www.catholicwestbourne.org

MASS TIMES

Sunday 10 December - 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.00am
11.00am

Tuesday 12 December - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

10.00am

Wednesday 13 December - ST. LUCY

10.00am

Thursday 14 December - ST. JOHN THE CROSS

10.00am

Friday 15 December - 2ND WEEK OF ADVENT

10.00am. Mass is followed by Adoration.

Saturday 16 December - 2ND WEEK OF ADVENT

10.00am
6.00pm - Filipino Mass

Sunday 17 December - 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

9.00am
11.00am

OUR PARISH

OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH
SEAMOR ROAD, WESTBOURNE,
BOURNEMOUTH, BH4 9AE

Parish Priest: Fr. Leslie Adams

Telephone: 01202 764027

Email: ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

*(Baptism, Marriages, Sick Visits,
Funerals and Confessions)*

Parish Administrator: Peter Murdock-Saint
General enquires and hall bookings

Telephone: 01202 760640

Email: oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Officers: Dee and Edward
safeguarding.boush@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Donations: CDP Bournemouth

Our Lady Immaculate

Sort code: 309304 **Account:** 00875075

SUNDAY MASS READINGS

Entrance Antiphon - Cf. Is 30: 19, 30

*O people of Sion, behold, the Lord will come to
save the nations, and the Lord will make the
glory of his voice heard in the joy of your heart.*

Gospel Acclamation - Lk3:4,6

*Alleluia, alleluia! Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight, and all mankind
shall see the salvation of God. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon - Bar 5: 5; 4: 36

*Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the
heights, and behold the joy which comes to
you from God.*

AWAKEN OUR HEARTS (FROM PAGE 1) for the King will want to enter. That is our present task. On Epiphany, the climax to the current season, the Church will cry out: "*Arise, shine, O Jerusalem, for the glory of the Lord has risen upon thee.*" That is the goal. Today we must prepare for the great King's visit to our city. The whole coming week must be devoted to it. The Church prays: "*Awaken our hearts to prepare the way for Your only begotten Son that we may serve Him with purified hearts.*"

Excerpt from The Church's Year of Grace by Pius Parsch.

GETTING MARRIED? Congratulations! Please note that you need to give 12 months' notice. If you or your partner are not confirmed, you will need to attend a 'Journey Into Faith' course. Contact Father Leslie for further details.

BLESSING OF AN ADVENT WREATH. Lord our God, we praise you for your Son, Jesus Christ: He is the Emmanuel, the hope of the peoples, He is the wisdom that teaches and guides us, He is the Saviour of every nation. Lord, let your blessing come upon us as we light the 1st / 2nd / 3rd / 4th candle of this wreath. May the wreath and its light be a sign of Christ's promise to bring us salvation; may He come quickly and not delay. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THANK YOU for your continued support.

PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

MARIA HARRIS RIP. Maria passed away peacefully at the age of 97 years, having received the final sacraments, on Thursday 30 November at Lindsay Road Care Home. Her Requiem Mass will be held here on Tuesday 19 December at 12.00pm. This will be followed by an internment at North Cemetery at 1.30pm. Please keep Maria, Rosemary, Belinda and all her family in your prayers.

CHARISMATIC PRAYER GROUP. The newly formed Charismatic Prayer Group meet every fortnight on a Tuesday in the Father Vella Church Hall from 7.00pm - 8.00pm. The next meeting is on Tuesday 12 December. Please see the noticeboard for further details.

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL. Thursday 21 December, 1.15pm - 3.30pm in the hall. Enjoy a fun-packed afternoon hosted by the SVP, who will be providing traditional festive food and tea/coffee, along with entertainment and Christmas songs/hymns. There will also be an optional raffle. Do come along; it is an opportunity for companionship and making new friends.

CAFOD ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN CRISIS APPEAL. Your donation will provide urgent humanitarian aid to those affected and in need. Call 0303 303 3030 or visit the website: cafod.org.uk/ipc.

THE CAFOD CHRISTMAS WORLD GIFTS. If you want to give someone a gift for Christmas, which will also benefit others, then visit the CAFOD website for some inspiration. For example, purchasing the Winter Survival Kit this Christmas can support communities experiencing the impact of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as the weather gets colder. Go to: worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/collections/frontpage.

ROSARY. Join us for the Rosary each Wednesday at 9.30am before the 10.00am Mass.

VOLUNTEERING. If you could help us in any way, please speak to Father Leslie Adams. Thanking you in anticipation.

CHRISTMAS FOOD BANK COLLECTION. We will be arranging a collection of Christmas treats to donate to Bournemouth food bank and Hope For Food between now and next Sunday. Please leave any donations in the designated box.

Non-perishable packaged items such as sweet or savoury biscuits, chocolates, mince pies, Christmas puddings, selection boxes, savoury snacks, tinned cream and instant hot chocolate drink are welcome. Unopened toiletries such as shampoo and shower gel would also be appreciated.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR DECEMBER. *For persons with disabilities.* We pray that people living with disabilities may be at the centre of attention in society and that institutions may offer inclusive programs which value their active participation.

DURING ADVENT. Our Bishop's Pastoral Letter renews his call for each of us to "*change ourselves by deepening and renewing our faith*", so that Jesus Christ is truly the centre of our life", calling us again to embrace the SIX HOLY HABITS.

- To keep Sunday special, a family day, by attending Mass.
- To spend five minutes a day in prayer using the scriptures.
- To do penance on Fridays (abstinence from meat) & serve the poor & needy.
- Every fortnight to make a Holy Half Hour before the Blessed Sacrament,
- To go to Confession once a month, and
- To join a small group for formation, prayer, and fellowship.

COULD YOU HELP DECORATE THE CHURCH for Christmas? If you are able to spare some time to support us, please speak to Father Leslie.

PLEASE REMEMBER all the sick and housebound of our parish: *Mairead Holbrook, Cecilia Agnes Grimston, Geoffrey Dixon, Christopher Browne, Teresa Wraith, Elizabeth Lubrow and Win Sheridan.*

Visit our website: www.catholicwestbourne.org

'Prepare a way for the Lord'

The beginning of the Good News about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is written in the book of the prophet Isaiah:

'Look, I am going to send my messenger before you; he will prepare your way. A voice cries in the wilderness:

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. and so it was that John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. All Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem made their way to him, and as they were baptised by him in the river Jordan they confessed their sins. John wore a garment of camel-skin, and he lived on locusts and wild honey. In the course of his preaching he said, 'Someone is following me, someone who is more powerful than I am, and I am not fit to kneel down and undo the strap of his sandals. I have baptised you with water, but he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.'

FROM CARITAS PORTSMOUTH. In Laudate Deum, Pope Francis describes how some of the big changes we need to happen to slow the rate of climate change must come from the actions of governments. Let us pray for those leaders at COP28 that they can listen to those already affected by climate change and have courage to act.

- Join other Christians groups in prayer and fasting on the 1st of each month. Find out more at <https://prayandfastfortheclimate.org.uk>
- Use the prayer and intercessions from CAFOD including links to share the Pope's message with your MP.
- Sign up to the daily reflections during COP28 at Green Christian.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE. Please submit any articles for publication by 9.00am on Wednesday.



SATURDAY MASS. From Saturday 3 December, we will celebrate Mass at 10.00am, which will enable us to have a Votive Mass in honour of Our Lady, in Ordinary Time, when permitted. This will not be a Vigil Mass for Sunday.

MISSIO YEAR END - 31 DECEMBER 2023. Please can all Red Box holders bring their boxes to church so these can be emptied. Please ring Ron Millington on 07970 663492 if this gives you a problem. Many thanks for your continuing support.

MASS INTENTIONS. Please speak to Father Leslie if you would like a Mass to be celebrated for a loved one.