

Psalm Response: Come, Lord, and save us.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

SUN 22nd Dec: 4th Advent
 1st R. Isaiah 7:10-14
 2nd R. Romans 1:1-7
 Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

Please read these readings at home and listen to them at next Sunday's Mass.

Offertory Collection £1,381.93
 (£345.48 Gift Aid)
 Gift aid envelopes £ 79.00
 Non gift aid loose £ 716.84

Thank you for your generous contributions. Your donations make the life and work of the parish possible.

A PRAYER FOR THE Third Sunday of Advent

Joy-filled giver of Life, let the anticipation of your birth fill us with overflowing joy. May our excitement and anticipation be a sign to the world that you are always near. Amen.



Royal Berkshire Hospital
 Chaplain:
 Mobile: 07391 896559
 RBH: 0118 322 7105
Sunday Mass 4.00pm
 Patients, staff & visitors welcome

Parish Liturgies for the week commencing 15th Dec

Saturday	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
SJ (Vigil Mass)	6.00pm	Deceased parishioners of St James
Sunday	3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
SW	9.00am	Holy souls (BDFS)
SJ	11.00am	Anne McGuire - good health
Monday	3rd Week of Advent	
SJ	12.15pm	Lazaro Mendonca RIP
	7.30pm	Advent Penitential Service
Tuesday	NO MASS	
Wednesday	December, 18, 'O Adonai'	
SJ	12.15pm	Thomas Fitzgerald RIP
SW	1.30pm	Funeral Mass: Michael Scanlon
Thursday	December 19, 'O Root of Jesus'	
SJ	12.15pm	Francisco D'Souza RIP
Friday	December 20, 'O Key of David'	
SJ	12.15pm	Fortunata Coccimiglio RIP
Saturday	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
SJ (Vigil Mass)	6.00pm	Damiana Estroccio-Holy Souls
Next Sunday	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT	
SW	9.00am	John Lavello RIP
	11.00am	Maria, Amelia, Alberto, Lourenco Aderito RIP
Confessions	SJ - Saturday 5pm - 5.45pm	
Rosary	SJ - after 12.15pm Mass	
Exposition	SJ - Friday 11am to 12pm	

PARISH PRIEST: Canon John O'Shea
 Parish Secretary: Catherine Ledgard
 Parish Safeguarding: Ginika Okoye (StJ)
 Ministers: Françoise Le Saux (StW)

✉ stjames@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
 St James Presbytery,
 Abbey Ruins, Forbury Road, Reading, RG1 3FD
 Tel: (0118) 957 4171

St James & St William of York Reading
 Website: www.jameswilliam-reading.org.uk

This parish is a part of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No: 246871



The Roman Catholic Parish of St James and St William of York Reading

15th DECEMBER 2019
 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT



Fr John writes:-

GAUDETE SUNDAY - "REJOICE THE LORD IS NEAR"

Today is a day of joy in the midst of our preparations for Christmas. We are invited to rejoice as the coming of Our Saviour draws near. We sing with joyful expectation:

"Rejoice in the Lord always the Lord is near".

In the Gospel we meet John the Baptist in his prison cell, time is running out for him. Once more he points towards Jesus. He prepares his disciples to meet Christ and to follow him.

We too are called to lead people to meet and to follow Jesus.



COMING SOON - ALPHA 2020

The next **ALPHA** course will begin soon on Fri 10th Jan, 8 sessions 7-9pm ending Fri 13th March. I would like to ask you today to consider joining us for these **ALPHA** sessions. Each evening will begin with a hot meal, followed by a thought provoking video exploring the life and message of Jesus Christ, and ending with a discussion in small groups. Today at the end of Mass, Rory Moore will share his amazing experience of **ALPHA** and the changes it has brought to his life.

Would you like the chance to grow in your love of Jesus Christ ?

Is this for you ?

WHY NOT TRY ALPHA ?

Registration forms at the back of the church



CELEBRATING GOD'S FORGIVENESS

MONDAY, 16th DECEMBER 2018, at 7.30pm at ST JAMES

Please come and join us at our parish **Advent Reconciliation Service** at **St James on Monday at 7.30pm**. Eight priests or more will be available, 'to unbind and let us go free'. Don't miss it. The procedure is very simple, made easier by lots of people - all of us going forward to celebrate God's forgiveness, the singing and music is very special and appropriate. We should be at peace with God and one another before we celebrate Christmas. Come and join in, be healed, be freed, be reconciled with God and with one another:

God's great gift to us this Christmas.



This Sunday 15th Dec
Third Sunday of Advent.

ADVENT WREATH We light
the pink candle.

SECOND COLLECTION
Christmas flowers.



MANCHESTER CAROLS by Parenthesis
Choir at The Abbey School, RG1 5DZ on
Sun 15th Dec at 4.30pm. Tickets £10
from tickets@parenthesis.co.uk raising
funds for Christian Community Action.

MUSIC & REFLECTIONS at Douai Abbey
on Sun 15th Dec at 3.30pm. All
welcome.

THE WEEKDAYS OF ADVENT 17 - 23
Dec. The Readings & prayers at week-
day Masses shift from expectation to
the excitement at the birth of Christ.

FOLDING & STAPLING OF CHRISTMAS
MASS LEAFLETS: Volunteers needed
Mon 16th & Tue 17th Dec at 9.30am.
Just turn up if you can help.

INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS after the
12.15pm Masses Mon & Thu, before
Mass Wed & Fri or make a
appointment with Fr John for
confession, please phone: 9574171.

"SIMBANG GABI" MASS, Traditional
Filipino Christmas Mass on Tue 17th Dec
led by Fr Jimmy Lindero at St Joseph's
Tilehurst at 6.30pm.

CHRISTMAS CHOIR PRACTICE on
Tue 17th Dec at 7.30pm at St
James.



RECENTLY DIED Michael Scanlon of
Melrose Ave, a parishioner at St
Williams. The Funeral Mass is on Wed
18th Dec at St Williams at
1.30pm. Our sympathy to Jane &
Lucy, his mother and family at
this sad time. May he rest in
peace.



ADVENT CAROL CONCERT led by
Blessed Hugh Faringdon School at
English Martyrs Church on Wed 18th Dec
at 7pm. All welcome.

UCM - Christmas meal after Mass on
Thu 19th Dec at Toby Carvery.

WEDDING BELLS Congratulations to
Cynthia Joachimpillai and Tony Thomas
to be married with Nuptial Mass on Fri
20th Dec in St James at 1.30pm. Every
blessing to them.

Next Sunday 22nd Dec
Forth Sunday of Advent.

We light the forth candle in
the Advent Wreath.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING envelopes to be
distributed.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED TO
HELP TO DECORATE THE
CHRISTMAS TREE & CHURCH on
Sun 22nd Dec after 11am Mass.
Decorations are provided.
Please remain on after Mass to help.



THANK YOU FROM CHORATE CHOIR
to all those who attended their
Christmas concert last Friday evening
at St Williams. A fantastic
£900 was donated to the
charity Crohn's &
Colitis UK. Thank you all.



APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR CHRISTMAS MASSES

WELCOMING, READING, MINISTERS
OF HOLY COMMUNION and
REFRESHMENTS please let us know if
you can help us at our Christmas
Masses. Even if you haven't
welcomed before, could you or your
family help with welcoming or
hospitality this Christmas? **SIGN UP**
SHEETS AT BACK OF CHURCH or
email or phone the parish office.

Meeting after Mass next
Sunday 22nd
for those helping at the
Christmas Masses



CHRISTMAS 2019



6PM CHRISTMAS FAMILY MASS

Children's Nativity Play — a
Christmas story. This short drama on
the Christmas story will follow the
Gospel.



11.30PM CHRISTMAS NIGHT MASS

Starts at 11.30pm - not 12 midnight. We
extend the Liturgy of the Word with extra
readings and Christmas Carols.

9AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS ST WILLIAMS

11AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS ST JAMES

'COME HOME FOR CHRISTMAS' A message
of welcome to all as we celebrate the birth
of Christ.

MINCE PIES, TEA AND COFFEE TO BE
SERVED after all four Christmas Masses— a
sign of our welcome to all & especially to
those visiting or may be returning and
joining our parish community.

REGULAR PARISHIONERS PLEASE WELCOME
VISITORS AT CHRISTMAS MASS Can we be
different to the inn keeper who had no room
for the Holy Family? Please reach out,
welcome and speak to our visitors at Mass
this Christmas.

WELCOME BACK AT CHRISTMAS

to all who are here to celebrate
Christmas with us - students,
those working away, visitors to
Reading. May our Christmas
Masses gladden your hearts.



CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS The collection at all
the Christmas Masses is for the support of
our priest, Fr John. In our diocese it forms
the most substantial part of a priest's yearly
income. Please be generous in the amount
you give to our parish priest at the
collection at our Christmas Masses.

CRIB OFFERINGS will go to
Friends of the Holy Land.



PARKING IN FORBURY RETAIL PARK

Is now ANPR. for a max 3 hour stay.
Over this you will get a ticket which
we cannot appeal & you will have to
pay. You no longer need the parking
permit. Please respect this new
arrangement.

ALTAR SERVERS please collect the
letter for your parents to volunteer for
the Christmas Masses from the Sacristy.

BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON
CATHOLIC SCHOOL for Year 7
Admissions Sep 2020. The
Supplementary Information Form
must be returned to the school office
by 31st Dec. Queries to Mrs Maura
Farrelly, on 01189574730.

FOUNDATION GOVERNOR wanted at
Blessed Hugh Faringdon school. Email
s.cook@hughfaringdon.org for
details.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES LEAFLET is
available from the back of the church
now - please take a copy.

HOLY COMMUNION for the
sick and housebound at
Christmas. Please contact
Fr John or the Parish Office
to make arrangements



JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA) are you
considering becoming a Catholic?
Seeking adult Confirmation? What it
means to live as a Catholic? Could
this be for you? Come to
an info evening on Thu
16th Jan at 7.30pm at St
James Presbytery or see
Fr John.



LAUDATO SI ACTION GROUP

Here is our tip for the week:

Choose products and gifts made of
fabric, wood, metal, paper,
card, glass, tin, wicker,
wool, stone, ceramic and
other natural fibres as they
are all recyclable.

