

PSALM RESPONSES

22nd: Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory.
29th: O blessed are those who fear the Lord
and walk in his ways.



The Roman Catholic Parish of

**St James and St William of York
Reading**

22nd & 29th DECEMBER 2019
4th SUNDAY IN ADVENT & THE HOLY FAMILY



Fr John writes:-

JOSEPH THE DREAMER -

Today the Gospel presents to us the great figure of St Joseph—the one chosen by God to be the foster father of the incarnate Son of God, and to protect, care and love the Blessed Virgin Mary and the child Jesus. What an incredible mission!

He discovers that Mary is expecting a child. He is confused and does not understand. In a dream, God (via an angel) told Joseph “Do not be afraid, take Mary to your home.” This dream changes everything. Joseph now knows that the child that Mary is expecting is the Messiah, the Saviour of the World, the one promised in Isaiah “Emmanuel; God - is - with - us.” Joseph follows God’s call and takes Mary to his home.

How does God speak to you?
In what ways do you hear God’s Word?
When you hear God’s Word, what is your response?

Today we pray for those who face tough decisions and may have to choose a difficult path ahead.



Parish Liturgies for the week 22nd Dec	
Saturday	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SJ (Vigil Mass)	6.00pm Damiana Estroccio-Holy Souls
Sunday	4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SW	9.00am John Lavello RIP
SJ	11.00am Maria, Amelia, Alberto, Lourenco Aderito RIP
Monday	December, ‘O Emmanuel’
SJ	12.15pm Edna Felix RIP
Tuesday	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
SJ	6.00pm Nora & Dermot Finnerty RIP
SJ	11.30pm People of the parish
Wednesday	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
SW	9.00am People of the parish
SJ	11.00am William O’Neill RIP
Thursday	ST STEPHEN
SJ	12.15pm Needy souls
Friday	ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST
SJ	12.15pm People of the parish
Saturday	THE HOLY FAMILY
SJ (Vigil Mass)	6.00pm Ethan Estroccio-Holy Souls
Next Sunday	THE HOLY FAMILY
SW	9.00am John Lavello RIP
SJ	11.00am Lombardo & Bevilacqua Guiseppina RIP
Confessions	SJ - Saturday 5pm - 5.45pm
Rosary	SJ - after 12.15pm Mass
Exposition	SJ - Friday 11am to 12pm

Parish Liturgies for the week 29th Dec	
Saturday	THE HOLY FAMILY
SJ (Vigil Mass)	6.00pm Ethan Estroccio-Holy Souls
Sunday	THE HOLY FAMILY
SW	9.00am John Lavello RIP
SJ	11.00am Lombardo & Bevilacqua Guiseppina RIP
Monday	6th Day within Octave of Christmas
SJ	12.15pm Carlos Marques RIP
Tuesday	NO MASS
Wednesday	MARY, HOLY MOTHER OF GOD
SJ	12.15pm Marie Browning
Thursday	SS BASIL THE GREAT & GREGORY NAZIANEN
SJ	12.15pm Joseph O’Reilly RIP
Friday	Of Christmastide before Epiphany
SJ	12.15pm Sonia Zangmo int.
Saturday	EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
SJ (Vigil Mass)	6.00pm
Next Sunday	EPIPHANY OF THE LORD
SW	9.00am Sara & Michael Scanlon RIP
SJ	11.00am Micha Rodler int.
Confessions	SJ - Saturday 5pm - 5.45pm
Rosary	SJ - after 12.15pm Mass
Exposition	SJ - Friday 11am to 12pm

SCRIPTURE READINGS

SUN 29th Dec: Holy Family
1st R. Eccle. 3:2-6, 12-14
2nd R. Colo. 3:12-21
Gospel: Matt. 2:13-15, 19-23

SUN 5th Jan: Epiphany
1st R. Isaiah 60:1-6
2nd R. Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6
Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

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

PARISH PRIEST:

Parish Secretary:
Parish Safeguarding
Ministers:

Canon John O’Shea

Catherine Ledgard
Ginika Okoye (StJ)
Françoise Le Saux (StW)

✉ stjames@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

St James Presbytery,
Abbey Ruins, Forbury Road, Reading, RG1 3FD
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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



NEW FOR CHRISTMAS 2019

Fr John’s ‘Christmas Message’
which will be available at all Christmas Masses!



COMING SOON - ALPHA 2020

ALPHA will begin on Fri 10th Jan, 8 sessions 7-9pm. It will begin with a hot meal, a video exploring the life and message of Jesus Christ, ending with small group discussion. Please consider signing up. May I ask if you would talk, send an email, make a phone call to 4 or 5 people about ALPHA and invite them to join us. Imagine 10 -20 new people who are not members of the parish signing up for ALPHA—we are a parish in mission. It could transform the group discussion.

WHY NOT TRY ALPHA ?



FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY

On Sun 29th Dec we honour Jesus, Mary & Joseph & marvel at the simplicity of their lifestyle. We hear of how the young couple present their child in the temple forty days after the birth. Simeon declares this child will be ‘a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for the glory of the people of Israel’.



This Sunday 22nd Dec
Fourth Sunday of Advent.



We light the fourth candle in the Advent Wreath.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING envelopes to be distributed.

GOSPEL OF LUKE to be distributed. A free pocket-sized gift from Bishop Philip in this 'Year of The Word - The God Who Speaks'. We invite you to begin reading a little bit each day, we hope this will deepen your understanding, knowledge and love of the Bible, especially the Gospels.

MEETING after 11am Mass for Welcomers, hospitality and all those helping at the Christmas Masses.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED TO HELP TO DECORATE THE CHRISTMAS TREE & CHURCH today after 11am Mass. Decorations are provided.



INDIVIDUAL CONFESSIONS after the 12.15pm Masses Mon 23rd Dec.

CHRISTMAS MASSES

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.

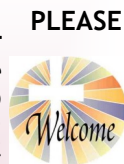
9AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS ST WILLIAMS

11AM CHRISTMAS DAY MASS ST JAMES

MINCE PIES, TEA AND COFFEE TO BE SERVED after all four Christmas Masses – please stay & say hello!!

CHRISTMAS MASSES

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 to all 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 the Friends of the Holy Land.



Next Sunday 29th Dec The Holy Family



THANK YOU to each and every one who volunteered their time and effort during the past year of 2019 in organising and helping out in different ways in the life of the parish. Our parish survives on our volunteers and we are blessed to have such a generous spirit in our two church communities. We couldn't manage without your support, so thank you all - *Fr John*

WELCOME to Fr David who will celebrate our 12.15 weekday Masses this week. (As normal no Mass on Tue)

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Following Sunday 5th Jan
The Epiphany of the Lord



NAME BADGE SUNDAY

THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

FEAST OF HOLY FAMILY Sun 29th Dec.



FEAST OF MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, Wed 1st Jan. We hear of the visit of the shepherds to the manger to adore Jesus as the long waited 'Saviour of the World'. Mary reflected on the nature of their visit. She was always willing to know and do God's will.



FEAST OF EPIPHANY Sunday, 5th Jan. We hear of the visit of the Magi, guided by a star. They came from the East bearing gifts. They had their hearts set on a royal palace in Jerusalem but they were led to a back street of Bethlehem.



FEAST OF BAPTISM OF THE LORD Sun 12th Jan. (This ends the Christmas season). We hear of another revelation and the beginning of Jesus' public ministry after he had been immersed in the water of the Jordan River by John the Baptist.



THANK YOU to all who helped prepare for our Christmas celebrations; singers, musicians, readers, ministers of holy communion, altar servers, welcomers, cleaners, flower arrangers, staplers and those who put up the crib, Christmas tree & church decorations and all who helped to make our Christmas liturgies so special - it is much appreciated. *Fr John*



PLANNING A BAPTISM ? Baptism Prep on Sat 22nd & 29th Feb at 10am-11.30pm book now. Phone Fr John to make an appointment: 01189 574171

PLANNING A WEDDING ? In the parish or abroad? Now is the time to see Fr John and make the arrangements, so please phone Fr John to make an appointment 0118 957 4171

JOURNEY IN FAITH (RCIA)

Are you considering becoming a Catholic? Are you seeking adult Confirmation? What it means to live as a Catholic? Could this be for you? Come to an info evening on:

**Thursday 16th Jan
at 7.30pm**

at St James Presbytery
or see Fr John.



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.

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

PRAYER FOR THE HOLY LAND:

Lord, ignite in us a passion for justice, a yearning to right all wrong, Strengthen us to work for peace in the land we call Holy. For peace among Jew, Christian and Muslim. For reconciliation between communities. For harmony among faiths, for blessed are the peacemakers. Amen



THANK YOU to all collecting milk-bottle tops for the Air Ambulance. Only actual milk-bottle tops, rinsed, can be used. If you have bigger/smaller bottle tops & coffee jar lids please take them down to LUSH in the Oracle as they recycle these.

LAUDATO SI ACTION GROUP

Here is our tip for the week:

'Real' Christmas tree recycling points will spring up around Reading, on Fri Jan 4th until Fri Jan 18th, to be used locally in parks & woodland areas. Check on-line for location details.

