

**ST. JOSEPH'S HAVANT WITH SS. THOMAS'S EMSWORTH**

St. Joseph's Church, 134 West Street, Havant, Hants PO9 1LP Tel: (023) 9248 4520

Ss. Thomas's Church, New Brighton Road, Emsworth, Hants, PO10 7QP

Parish Priest: Fr. Leslie Adams. Email: ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Regi Miesle. Office email: havant@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

St Joseph Hall Bookings: st.joseph.havant@hotmail.com Parish Website: [www.rchavant.com](http://www.rchavant.com)

Gift Aid: Laurie Rutter. [laurie953@gmail.com](mailto:laurie953@gmail.com) or 07817265522.

St. Thomas More's School: (023) 9247 5909 [www.st-thomasmores.hants.sch.uk](http://www.st-thomasmores.hants.sch.uk)

Please could all items for the newsletter arrive at the parish office by Thursday at the latest. Thank you.

**Mass Times**

Date	Mass Time	Location	Intention
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Ss. Thomas's, Emsworth</b>	<i>Tony Burns</i>
<b>December 10th</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>St. Joseph's, Havant</b>	<i>Joseph &amp; Sarah West RIP</i>
<b>THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Ss. Thomas's Emsworth</b>	<i>For the Parish</i>
Monday December 11th	9.30am <i>Followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament</i>	St. Joseph's, Havant	<i>Josephine Belfrage</i>
Wednesday December 13th	9.30am	St. Joseph's, Havant	<i>Catherine Bulbeck RIP</i>
<b>St. Lucy</b>			
Thursday December 14th	10am	Ss. Thomas's, Emsworth	<i>Nell Jones's intentions</i>
<b>St. John of the Cross</b>			
Friday December 15th	7pm <i>Followed by Adoration / Night Prayer / Benediction</i>	St. Joseph's, Havant	<i>Sydney and Marie Harmer and their families and deceased relatives of the Beautista, Harmer, Riddell and Tees families</i>
Saturday December 16th	10.30am	Ss. Thomas's, Emsworth	<i>Richard &amp; Elizabeth Knapp (Jnr) &amp; Family RIP</i>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>9am</b>	<b>Ss. Thomas's, Emsworth</b>	
<b>December 17th</b>	<b>11am</b>	<b>St. Joseph's, Havant</b>	
<b>THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	<b>6pm</b>	<b>Ss. Thomas's, Emsworth</b>	<i>Josephine Belfrage</i>

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

**Saturday: After 10.30am Mass, Ss. Thomas's Emsworth**

**Sunday: After 11am Mass, St Joseph's, or by appointment.**

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. Registered Charity Number 246871.  
Bishop Philip Egan

**Please remember in your prayers the sick and housebound of our community:** Irene Harry. Pamela Pleydell-Bouviere. Hilda McElwee. Stella Adams. Solange Holland. Cecily Hennessy. Hilda Day. Pam Stevens. Teresa Boyle. Sylvia Windiebank. Guillemette Sadler. Martin Nee. Marie Pitman. Anne Hennessy. Jean Page. (Please let me know if there are names you would like added to this list-Fr.Leslie).

**For your diary**

**13th December—HPP Fashion show** After the success of the Fashion show we held earlier in the year we have arranged another at the Edinburgh Woollen Shop in Waterlooville at 7pm. Tickets cost £5 to include a drink and nibbles. Contact jackychong@btinternet.com 01243 371074 for tickets.

**14th December—Rosary Group** will meet on Thursday, 14th December at 2pm in the Small Hall at St. Joseph's.

**15th December— Rowans Hospice Lake of Lights Remembrance Service** Canoe Lake, Southsea, 5 – 7 pm. This yearly event, is open to everyone in the local community who wishes to place an LED candle on Canoe Lake in memory of a loved one.

**17th December—Mince Pies and Tea after Mass** There will be mince pies coffee & tea after 9am Mass in Emsworth Anyone who can help out with serving please see Vivienne, Richard or Veronica.

**19th December—Pastoral Area Advent Penitential Service** 6.30pm. St. Edmund's, Horndean. Mass and Reconciliation.

**The Parish Office and Newsletter** The Parish Office will be open on Monday and Wednesday this week. Please ensure that any newsletter items are in by Wednesday morning. Also, there will be a joint newsletter for Christmas / New Year weekends, so please be aware if you want something advertised before 7 January.

**CONSULTATION- ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS SEPTEMBER 2019**

As required by regulations the Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust Company operating as the Local Governing Body of Oaklands Catholic School and Sixth Form College, Waterlooville will be conducting a consultation on its proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2019–2020. The consultation period runs for a minimum period of 6 weeks from 1 October 2017 until 31 January 2018.

Copies of the proposed arrangements can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school website [www.oaklandscatholicsschool.org](http://www.oaklandscatholicsschool.org). Comments on the arrangements should be sent to the Clerk to the Governing Body by 31 January 2018. Email [C.Colley@oaklandscatholicsschool.org](mailto:C.Colley@oaklandscatholicsschool.org) The Governing Body will consider all comments received before determining its admission arrangements by 28 February 2018.

**4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT, CHRISTMAS EVE AND CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES**

**24th December**

9am Mass at Ss. Thomas, Emsworth for 4th Sunday of Advent

**No 11am Mass**

6.00pm Vigil Mass with Carols, Ss. Thomas's, Emsworth (children encouraged to wear Nativity costumes)

11.30pm Carols then Midnight Mass, St. Joseph's, Havant

**25th December**

9.00am Mass at Ss. Thomas's, Emsworth

11.00am Mass, St. Joseph's, Havant

**No evening Mass**

**Details of other Pastoral Area Masses available at the back of the church.**

## Other notices

**Eucharistic Adoration** finishes at the end of Monday 11th December 2017, and recommences at the usual time on Monday 15th January 2018.

**The Portsmouth Catenians** collected £1250 for the Apostleship of the Sea, which was the nominated charity for this past year. A number of members are from our parish. The door is always open for new members!

**First Holy Communion** Could parents interested in First Holy Communion for their children please contact Fr. Leslie or Kim, our candidate for the Diaconate, via the parish office.

**HPP** Last year we had sheep lost in the shops in Emsworth, this year there is a heavenly choir of knitted Angels! It is again a competition this time to spot the angels. Competition sheets are on sale after Mass, 50p each. There are lots of prizes to be won!

**HPP Calendar** This year we have had a calendar printed professionally, it is very good quality and will serve as a reminder of 'Jesus in the Park' for the coming year. They cost £5 and can be obtained after Mass or by contacting jackychong@btinternet.com 01243 371074

**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Thomas' Emsworth** is starting soon.

**If you are new to the parish**, or think we may not have your current contact information, please could you complete a Parish Information Form and return it to the office (details at top of 2nd page). Thank you.

**Alone this Christmas in the Emsworth Area?** This Christmas in the Emsworth area, you do not have to be alone. Emsworth Community Christmas is hosting Christmas lunch at the Hewitt centre in Emsworth so that no-one has to spend Christmas day on their own. They would also welcome help on the day, donations, raffle prizes, food/wine and anything you can spare to make the day really special. Emsworth Community Christmas is run by a team of remarkable volunteers and this is its fourth year. If you would like to attend or to help, contact the team on [emsworthcommunitychristmas@yahoo.com](mailto:emsworthcommunitychristmas@yahoo.com) or 07955375103

**Missio Red Boxes** Could members who wish to have their boxes emptied, please bring them along to Mass next week and leave them in the Repository for collection. Many thanks, Cathy Graham.

**World Youth Day** Portsmouth Diocese is sending a group of 18-30s to World Youth Day, Panama in January 2019 (21st-27th). Anyone who would like to go should express their interest by emailing [youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) no later than 15th January. The cost is in the region of £1800, and support will be given for seeking sponsorship and fundraising.

**Have you signed up for Bishop Philip's weekly e-News?** Bishop Philip invites you to sign up for his FREE weekly e-Newsletter to keep in touch with the latest news and forthcoming events around the diocese. Visit [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews) to sign up.

### Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them?

Then we need you to make your voice heard.

The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics.

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

### Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; the voice of one crying out in the desert: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'"

John the baptizer appeared in the desert, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

# SUNDAY PLUS

Wait! .....



## What is your legacy?

Bishop Joseph Dupont, one of the first missionaries to Mashitolo.

by Sr Janet Feams FMDM

Let me guess. You have never heard of Mashitolo. Even Googling the small Zambian village draws a blank. Yet villagers point to a large tree, growing alongside Lake Chifunabuli (which does appear on Google). "That's where they landed and camped overnight." "They" were Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers). In the late nineteenth century, they braved the vastness of Lake Bangweulu and

the crocodile-infested waters of Lake Chifunabuli, becoming the first foreigners to visit Mashitolo and the 'Ngumbo people.

More than a century later, in the annual Kwanga ceremony, the local 'Ngumbo chiefs and their villagers celebrate the coming of Christianity to the area through the work of the future Bishop Joseph Dupont and his companions.

In today's Gospel we read of John the Baptist urging

his listeners to "prepare a way for the Lord". His was a risky business. People were familiar with itinerant preachers. Baptism as a symbol of cleansing was nothing particularly new. They expected the long-awaited Messiah – but tomorrow and not today. Today's demands were heavier than they wanted – especially for Herod. In becoming a voice in the wilderness, John literally took his life in his hands.

Making changes demands readiness to take risks and waiting for results which might not be seen in your lifetime. The first missionaries to Mashitolo stepped into the unknown. Wild animals and endemic malaria were only two potential hazards. Their courage left a legacy – and so did John the Baptist's. What is your legacy to those who follow you?

Sr Janet Feams is a Franciscan Missionary of the Divine Motherhood.

## A saint who waited

by Daniel Kearney

"Same day deliveries", "click and collect", "instant credit": the siren slogans and distinguishing features of modern life, which many believe to be essential to their well-being and domestic happiness. We seldom, if ever, have to wait too long these days for whatever we want. Patience, once considered a virtue, something to pray for and to strive for is, in our increasingly secularised society, an unnecessary burden, a remnant of a bygone age.

But good things can also come to those who wait. Think of Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, and her years of longing for a child, enduring her barren humiliation with faith and patience, resisting the temptations to fill the void within her, as we often do, with distractions and false hopes. Suddenly, miraculously

she conceives, for nothing is impossible to God. Perhaps her example of waiting patiently for what we need might work for us too.

Daniel Kearney is a former headmaster and teacher of Religious Studies.

Living Lord, I am not very good at waiting for good things to happen. I'd prefer to see instant results. Instead, you tell me to be patient. Lord, help me with my impatience. Amen.



## Patience is a virtue...?

by Katie Knight

Have you ever seen people who are hungry – really hungry? They sit in patient silence. They don't care where they sit – or lie – provided they don't have to use what little energy they have to complain, search for food or even to cry. If hungry people are also thirsty, the blinding headache of dehydration steadily increases until the slightest movement becomes unbearable. Babies and children eventually stop crying, silenced by hunger, thirst and helplessness.

Starving people wait because they have no alternative: sooner or later, there may be food and drink. Their patience is not a virtue: it is a desperate act of hope for an end to suffering.

We talk about "hungering" for the birth of Jesus, how truly hungry are we? Is ours the emptiness which is

easily satisfied by a tasty snack or a meal? Is ours the enforced helpless patience of the starving, whose waiting can mean the difference between life and death?

How urgently do we need Jesus?

Katie Knight is a freelance Catholic writer.

“The Virgin Mary is the 'Way' that God prepared in order to come into the world. Let us entrust to her the salvation and peace awaited by all men and women of our time.

Pope Francis

Today: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11; 2 Peter 3:8-14; Mark 1:1-8

Monday: Isaiah 35:1-10; Luke 5:17-26

Tuesday: Isaiah 40:1-11; Matthew 1:8:12-14

Wednesday: Isaiah 40:25-31; Matthew 1:1:28-30

Thursday: Isaiah 4:1:13-20; Matthew 1:1:1-15

Friday: Isaiah 40:17-19; Matthew 11:1:6-19

Saturday: Ecclesiastes 40:1-4, 9-11; Matthew 17:10-13

Next Sunday: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24; John 1:6-8, 19-28