

**St Francis de Sales Church
and Parish Office**
**Warren Lodge, Warren Road, Wash
Common, Newbury RG14 6NH**

**Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Priory
Road, Hungerford, RG17 0AF**

Parish Priest: Revd Zbigniew Budyn
Parish Administrator: Judith Aylmer
**The Parish Office is open on Tuesday,
Thursday and Friday from 10am to 4pm.**
Telephone: 01635 40332
Email: washcommon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Web Site: www.stfrancisdesales.org.uk
Registered Charity Number 246871

Mass Times and Intentions St F - St Francis; OLOL - Our Lady of Lourdes
This Sunday: Welcome to our Mass, especially if you are a visitor or newcomer!

THIRTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - Year C - Psalter Week 3

<i>Date</i>	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Feast of the Day</i>	<i>Mass Intention</i>
Sat 16 Nov	10 am	St F	Sacrament of Reconciliation	
	6 pm	St F	33rd Sunday of Ordinary Time	Mary Carroll R.I.P.
Sun 17 Nov	9 am	OLOL		For the Parish
	11 am	St F		Private Intention
Tues 19 Nov	12 noon	St F	Feria	Joseph Carroll R.I.P.
Wed 20 Nov	9.30 am	OLOL	Adoration & Reconciliation	
	10 am	OLOL	Feria	
Thurs 21 Nov	9.30 am	St F	Presentation of Blessed Virgin Mary	In thanksgiving (St Anthony of Padua)
Half an hour	10 am	St F	Adoration & Reconciliation	
Sat 23 Nov	10 am	St F	MASS for Half day of reflection	
	6 pm	St F	Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe	Fr Bernard Medd R.I.P.
Sun 24 Nov	9 am	OLOL		For the Parish
	11 am	St F		Constantin Ludeseu R.I.P.

DIARY

If you would like to be included in the Parish Sick List, please contact the Parish Office. Please pray for **Courtney Andrews, Anton Barber, Olwyn Brian, Lily Brooke, Bronek (father of Anna Brooks), Christopher & Robert Brown, Tim Burke-Gaffney, Mary Craig, Lucy Curtis, Emma, Joe Emery, Maria Hall, Sam Hearn, June & Jo Howard, Clare Huckle, Bernard & Victoria Kilkenny, Evelyn Lavers, Noreen McCann, Shomila Malik, Joseph Marletta, Marie O'Sullivan, Daryl Pike, Mary Russell, Elizabeth Sage & Linda Verner** who ask for our prayers.

CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING AT ST FRANCIS - Please pick up copies of the reports that have come in and last year's minutes and read before the meeting - **NEXT SUNDAY, 24 Nov, at 12.15 pm.**
ALL WELCOME

17 Nov - World Day of the Poor
23 Nov - 10am to 12.30pm - St F - Half day of reflection for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion
24 Nov - 12.15 pm - St F - CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING
1 Dec - 12 noon to 3.15pm - St F - Day of Preparation for Advent for primary school children
15 Dec - 12 noon to 2pm - St F - J&P CHRISTMAS FAIR - All welcome

ST FRANCIS HYMNS FOR SUNDAY
Ent: 217 Psalm: The Lord comes to rule the peoples with fairness Off: 161
Mass Setting: Belmont (Mem Acc 2)
Comm: 557 Recess: 621

NEWS & FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Caritas "World Day of the Poor" event on Sunday 17th November 2019 from 1.00-5:30pm at St. Peters, Winchester. For further information contact Kevin Gallagher at caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 0738 899 4057.

Half day of reflection and renewal for all Eucharistic Ministers on Sat 23rd Nov at St F. Fr. Zbigniew will be leading this, commencing with Mass at 10.00 and finishing at 12.30. This will also be an opportunity to discuss several of the practical issues around this ministry. Others interested in this very important ministry will be most welcome.

Day of Preparation for Advent for all children of primary school age on Sun 1st Dec at St F after the 11 am Mass, finishing at 3.15 pm with a Christingle service for all the children with pre-school children welcome to the service. the service should end at about 3.45pm. There is a charge of £5 per family to help with the cost of materials. The children need to bring a packed lunch.

Justice & Peace Group Christmas Fair - 15 Dec at 12 noon till 2 pm - Cakes, toy and gift tombola, bottle stall, games, soup and refreshments - donations gratefully received in the box in the porch. Would you like to help? Contact Lucy on 35462.

Recent Collections CAFOD last month raised £601.12; Home Mission Sunday raised £211.04; World Mission Sunday raised £282.71 and Bamenda raised £836.44. Thank you all for your generosity.

Pope's Intention for November

That a spirit of dialogue, encounter, and reconciliation emerge in the Near East, where diverse religious communities share their lives together.

Bible Study and Prayer Group on Tuesdays after 9.30am Mass at The Church of Our Lady of the Assumption, 7 Bath Road, Thatcham, RG18 3AG. Duration 1hr. Enquiries: 01635 864416. All welcome.

West Berks Foodbank are looking to restock their 'store cupboard' boxes. Please donate Veg stock cubes, Tomato Puree, Garlic Puree, Sunflower Oil and Dried onion granules.

Newbury Chamber Choir Concert - Sun 1 Dec - 5pm - St John's Church - Heinrich Schutz - The Christmas Story - Edward Lambert - Brighter than the Sun - £15 on the door; £13.50 from newburychamberchoir.org

Contribute to our Website You can now request access to add content to our website. If interested, please fill in the simple form on the website to request access - <http://www.stfrancisdesales.org.uk/user/register>. Any queries, feel free to contact Andrew at andrewpolland@gmail.com

HAS YOUR CHILD BEEN BAPTISED LATELY? Please check for the Baptism discs as we now do not have a complete set for those waiting to prepare to receive the Sacrament. Please check your players and stacks of DVDs. Return to the porch in an envelope marked for Gill Hughes.

APPEAL TO THE PARISH: We need more people working in Ministries of the Parish. **BIDDING PRAYER WRITERS:** There is a small rota of people who individually write the bidding prayers for each weekend. There is training available. Please give it some thought as to whether you could write the prayers. **COLLECTION COUNTING:** Two people count the Collection after the 11.00 am Mass each Sunday. More people are required. Would you be willing to give up about an hour occasionally after Sunday Mass? **CHURCH CLEANING:** Again numbers have been decreasing. The cleaning takes approximately 1 hour and the more groups there are, the less often each group is required to do it. The group can arrange their own time as long as nothing else is going on in the Church. This also means that we do not need to rely on mainly retired people nor only on the women of the parish. **IF YOU ARE ABLE TO HELP WITH ANY OF THE ABOVE, PLEASE CONTACT ANGELA SPELLMAN ON 01635 253874**

READERS, WELCOMERS AND COUNTERS: Please can you sign the availability lists in the porch. This period includes Christmas so it is very important to sign the lists as more readers and welcomers are needed. There will be three Masses on December 24th & one on December 25th. Last chance this weekend. Thank you.

CTNA is organising a free Christmas Day Event for the Elderly in our town which will be held at St Georges Church in Wash Common from 10am-4pm. Guests will be picked up from their homes by volunteer Drivers at 10am. There will be lots of entertainment, drinks and snacks and a Christmas Dinner. On departure, each guest will get a goodie bag containing a gift item plus cakes and crisps for tea at home. Please contact Joanna on 07828244119 or email marinaoabrahams@gmail.com.

SUBSCRIBE TO OUR NEWSLETTER Go to the website www.stfrancisdesales.org.uk and scroll down to the bottom of the front page. Tick the box for Sunday newsletter and enter your email address. Click subscribe and you are there!

Do you get the Diocesan e-news? Weekly e-newsletter containing teachings and happenings as well as news from around the diocese. Subscribe at www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews

Bookings for St Francis Hall and Parish Rooms Please book the hall with Maureen for all events on 01635 30108 or email Maureen.hudd@btinternet.com

ROTAS AT ST FRANCIS

WELCOMING:

Sat 23 Nov: Sue Mangham

Sun 24 Nov: Dykes family

CLEANERS:

Fri 22 Nov: Clare Heald & Pauline Byrne

COUNTER:

Sun 17 Nov: Linda Verner & Paul Cobb

Minutes of Annual Meeting – Sunday 16th September 2018 – 11.30am

41 people were present for the Annual Parish Meeting.

Fr Bruce opened the meeting with a prayer.

Carl McPhail welcomed everyone, saying how nice it was to see such a good turnout.

Fr Bruce's Annual Report

Fr Bruce made his Annual Report, saying that it was mainly in the booklet already circulated. He thanked everyone who supported the parish in so many ways with special mention for their generosity. He is grateful for the new groups in the parish. There is a need for accountability. Each group helps in the overall evangelisation. The Finance Committee has produced a budget for next year and there is to be an appeal to raise £100,000. All offerings are appreciated, whether time, talents or treasure. It is important never to forget why we are here.

Financial annual Report

Graham Spellman made his report, also thanking everyone for their generosity. See the budget sheet. There appears to be more income in 2017/8 but this is because the Gift Aid money from the government was slightly behind so we have two years rather than one included in the figures so there is an extra £10,000 there and £9,000 was a specific donation for the streaming. It would be good for it to be going up – you can change a standing order at any time. We have made good use of the surplus with repairs, etc. there is still more to do and every figure changes every day. The surplus was about £20,000 hence the Appeal is only £100,000 although the work will cost more. It is a huge site, not new, and there is always more to do.

Question from the floor - How is the Diocesan Levy calculated? It used to be on the number of people but now is a percentage of income. The accounts are kept on the diocesan financial system.

We owe a debt of gratitude to Michael Boyle who has done a tremendous amount of work overseeing the repairs to the church and presbytery and keeping the site in good repair..

Written Reports

These were accepted although the comment was made that the font in the booklet could have been bigger.

Observations

Sonya commented on the lack of a report from the Social Committee. This occurred due to holiday commitments by the Social Committee Chair and the Parish Secretary and the need to prepare the booklet early for distribution.

Fr Bruce thanked the Social Committee for their hard work saying that the website will create the opportunity for more up-to-date information.

Francis Connolly said that the J&P Group needed special thanks for all their hard work.

Can more be done with Gift Aid? Always! Forms are available on the back of the appeal leaflet. You can Gift Aid special collections but you cannot give more than you would pay in tax. Graham Spellman was thanked for his work.

The possibility of lines in the car park was viewed with apprehension. We need to look at car parking as it is good but not adequate. Using the other land is to be considered but it is how people will get there. There is an obligation to protect people so we need to allow for ambulances. We also need to consider our neighbours. People need to drive a little slower as there are lots of children. Perhaps sleeping policemen and lines where not to park would work.

Thanks were given to the flower arrangers for all their work.

A.O.B

Photo Competition Winners

1st - £50 Vue Cinema Vouchers – Oluchi Akosa – Drum covers

2nd - £30 Vue Cinema vouchers – Bruno Carvalho – Exterior of the side of the church

3rd - £20 Vue Cinema vouchers – Patrick Middleton – Interior of the pews in the church

Website launch

Andrew Polland made a presentation showing how far the website had come. Someone asked for a more obvious link to the Contact details for the parish. Hopefully, the contact link will go on the front page.

Special Mass times will go above the regular times.

Carl McPhail asked for thanks to all involved, not least Andrew, for the work done on the new website.

The meeting closed at 12.20pm

REPORTS for the Parish Annual General Meeting at St Francis de Sales - November 2019

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY

We have 30 ministers ministering at the altar and to the 20 of our parishioners who are sick and housebound. This ministry also supports the weekly Eucharistic Adoration held on Thursdays.

During Lent, a further training course for new ministers was run for our pastoral area, led by Fr. Gervase Holdaway OSB from Douai Abbey and Fr. Bruce. This was open to existing ministers wishing to refresh and update their understanding of the ministry. Seventeen attended including several from Our Lady of Lourdes Hungerford. On the Feast of Corpus Christi six new ministers were commissioned and also existing ministers wishing to continue were recommissioned.

During Advent we had a half day of renewal event led by Fr. Bruce and this was open for all to attend.

We continue to seek to recruit and train further ministers. In particular, we wish to bring through younger Catholics in the parish to share in this ministry and to reflect the diversity of our community.

Ministers are asked to be alert for parishioners who may be missing from church and who might have become sick or housebound. We would also wish to encourage wider support for the weekly Eucharistic Adoration.

We continue to find ways of improving the organisation and smooth running of the ministry in liaison with other members of the Liturgy Group.

Dr. John Eaton and Francis Connolly

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)

Over the last four years several have joined this course and twelve have completed it and been received into full communion with our church at the Easter Vigil. This included two this Easter.

The course is open to anyone wishing to explore their faith, including full members of the church who wish to deepen their understanding of their faith. It starts in the autumn and meets regularly to study, explore and discuss our faith, and concludes at the Easter Vigil.

In addition, three young Buddhist members of the Vietnamese community were recently received into full communion with the assistance of St. Tram of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary from St. Gabriel's, Cold Ash.

The next course which we hope to develop in conjunction with Our Lady of Lourdes will start in the autumn we will be very pleased to explain further to anyone interested in this.

Francis Connolly

EVANGELISATION STRATEGY GROUP

Pope Francis and our own Bishop Philip have challenged us to be 'evangelisation communities' and for us all to become 'missionary disciples'. As a parish are we 'Caretakers, Undertakers or Risk Takers'? To respond to this call we clearly need to be Risk Takers.

This group is now in its second year has led us to progressively looking at and reviewing all our parish ministries and activities, foremost were new arrangements for preparation for baptism for our liturgy and music including altar servers and the provision of streaming to the hall to accommodate overspill at busy times. New initiatives have included our ministries to youth and outreach to the Vietnamese community which has continued with the monthly Sunday evening mass.

Future aims include arrangements for marriage preparation and the setting up of a bereavement group as well as continuing the reviews, development and strengthening of existing ministries and encouraging and facilitating new members' involvement in existing groups. We will seek to involve Our Lady of Lourdes, our sister parish with this.

Francis Connolly

FLOWER GROUP

There are 6 very faithful members of the Flower Group and we endeavour to enhance the beauty of our church each week, and for special occasions. It would be wonderful if other members of the congregation would give some thought as to whether they might be able to join our friendly group, even if it is on an occasional basis at times such as holidays, when we are very stretched to fill the rota. We are happy to give training for this "on the job". This is the way most of us have learned. Last Christmas we held a most successful wreath-making workshop which was well attended, and the proceeds went towards Parish funds. The instruction was given very ably by Nicola Gill, who has since stepped down from our Group due to family pressures. Any comments or suggestions would be most welcome.

Joan Connolly

HALL BOOKINGS

The Parish makes regular use of the facilities during the week for:

- * First Holy Communion meetings
- * Youth Club
- * RCIA
- * Eucharistic Minister training
- * Parish Pastoral Council
- * Liturgy Group
- * Finance Committee

and the Parish has 'first-call' on all accommodation.

We also welcome a number of groups during the week:

- * Two Rainbow Guide Units
- * Newbury Embroiderers
- * Market Square Quilters
- * Parkinson's Society (Chair Exercises)
- * Parkinson's Society (Speech Therapy)
- * Newbury Blind Club (Berkshire Vision)
- * U3A Gardening Group
- * U3A Science Group
- * U3A Computer Group
- * U3A Art Group
- * Newbury Nomads Theatre Group

and a varied assortment of occasional users for AGM's, committee meetings, presentations, birthday and anniversary parties, etc.

All the above non-Parish groups and occasional users pay a donation of £12 per hour for use of the Hall. The Upper Room is not usually let out to non-Parish users.

The Parish is fortunate to be able to offer our facilities to the community and particularly for smaller groups who find the high prices charged by some venues out of their reach.

As you will see from the foregoing the Parish facilities are in high demand so it is very important that anyone in the Parish who is setting up a meeting or activity should contact Maureen Hudd BEFORE they agree or publicise the date!

Thank you.

Maureen Hudd

LITURGY GROUP AGM REPORT

This was set up in the parish around 16 years ago as a means of co-ordinating the various Ministries in the parish who were particularly involved in any aspect of Liturgy. We meet with our Parish Priest on average three times a year and as well as the various representatives of the Ministries we are joined when possible by our Parish Secretary and the Chair of the Pastoral Council.

In September we review the past months in the Liturgy of the Parish then discuss the coming months with particular attention to the planning of our Advent and Christmas Liturgies.

In January to review the previous months, especially over the Advent and Christmas period and assess how we have succeeded or wish to alter or improve our practice.

This also the meeting when we look forward and plan any celebrations for January and February and particularly Lent and Easter.

In April we again review the past months and look at the summer in terms of Liturgical Celebrations.

The Ministries who are represented at these meetings are:

- Music, both the Choir and the Music Group
- Sacramental Celebrations of Baptism, First Communion and Confirmation
- Eucharistic Ministers
- Sacristy Assistance
- Welcoming
- Readers
- Bidding Prayer group
- Children's Liturgy

Sacristy Assistance: There is a rota of 10 parishioners willing to assist in tidying the church mainly after weekend masses and other celebrations, both the main body and the Sanctuary. If required, when we have a visiting priest for example, we will also prepare the altar for Mass and any other celebrations.

Baptism: We have two parishioners who assist Fr. Zbigniew with the Sacrament. The first contact is with Fr. Zbigniew to arrange a date and time and he will spend time with them discussing the nature of the Sacrament. We also visit the family before the celebration to offer them materials in the form of a set of DVD's from CAFÉ with accompanying booklets for the parents and godparents that explain the celebration itself and go through the practical details they need to know.

If the Baptism is to be at one of our Sunday masses, we offer the family the chance to share afterwards in a parish celebration of welcoming a new member to our parish family with wine and a customised cake at our normal coffee time.

Gill Hughes

CHILDREN'S LITURGY GROUP (CLG)

Children's Liturgy is a group for young children, mainly consisting of children who are age four up to First Communion age. It is held in the Church Hall on Sundays during term times. The CLG team is comprised primarily of Mums with young Children. We aim to bring the children back into Mass in time for the offertory. Special events like the monthly Music Group, Baptisms or Confirmations take precedence over the Children's Liturgy.

The key element of the CLG activity is the reading of the Gospel to the children followed by an interactive explanation at a child's level and Q&A with the children to enhance and cement their understanding of the Gospel and how they might bring it into action in their daily lives with their families, friends and in places such as school. We try to show at least one aspect of the Gospel which shows the Godhead of Jesus and one aspect that shows His humanity and to highlight the unfathomable, unquestionable eternal love that God has for each of us.

We have been blessed with high attendance, with numbers occasionally reaching over thirty. It is a wonderful blessing and privilege for all of us who are involved in the CLG to be able to act as a conduit for the Holy Spirit to take root in the hearts and souls of the children of the Parish and to see their faith revealed in these sessions.

It is our plan that all liturgists attend a children's liturgy training session within the year, we meet and have regular email contact, to plan for any events or activities, to deepen our spiritual commitment to the task in hand and nurture closer links across the team.

Caroline Lamb

BUILDING WORKS AND MAINTENANCE REPORT

2012 Quinquennial Report - I have reviewed the report. It is stated that generally the recommendations from the previous (2005) report had been addressed. The recommendations in this report appear to have been also generally complied with.

2018 Quinquennial Report - The recommendations in this report appear to have been generally complied with,

Significant works completed since Michael Boyle involved – mid 2017 include:-

Drains video inspected; Repairs to septic tanks; Most sash windows overhauled; Both hall WCs refurbished and redecorated; Bought antique chairs for meeting and dining rooms; Various internal decorations to Presbytery – organised by Fr Bruce; Cement base for new metal shed; New back door to house; New outside door to Sacristy; Refurbished meeting room; Gully brick surrounds replaced; Renewed four hall radiators; Treated wood worm to church roof timbers; Renewed some outside lighting; Electrical work in Parish Office; Installed carpark lighting; Major outside refurbishment, re-rendering and redecorating Presbytery (cost to be finalised); Renewed window to ground floor WC (near backdoor); Painted interior walls to hall and lobby; Installed new deer fencing; Fitted hatch to flat kitchen ceiling; Miscellaneous carpentry repairs and new hatch over 1st floor landing and tidy roof space; Tree felling and surgery as seen; Organised supply and fitting of new oven, dishwasher, washing machine and tumble dryer; Re-surface hall kitchen floor.

Numerous minor jobs carried out at no cost by Adrian Smith and/or Michael Boyle

There are a few minor items outstanding and which are in hand including warning sign and minor repairs to the basement stairs; Replace stained ceiling tiles to the hall kitchen; Fill small potholes to carpark and road – (delay re-surfacing until drainage re-run probably contingent upon adjoining re-development); Investigate possible leaking pipe behind church; Replace timber shed.

Also in hand are: New fan over en-suite shower; Various minor decorations (Tony); Change back door code lock and supply key press – (Adrian)

Michael Boyle

ALTAR SERVERS REPORT

Over the past year, the Altar Servers have supported the smooth running of the Christmas and Easter services, along with the weekly Sunday services. We have occasional volunteers for Saturday evening mass, but currently no dedicated support.

Our team of altar servers at St Francis has grown to around 20 servers now, with 6 new servers having joined this Autumn. We now have 3 MCs, although one is currently away. We will be seeking to up the number of MCs by one or more in the coming months. This will help ease pressure on covering the weekly Sunday mass, and help us to ensure we have suitable cover around the extra services at Christmas and Easter.

We have had one full team training session in the last year, but plan to make this more regular with shorter sessions in the near future. These sessions help to keep the standard of serving up and give servers a greater understanding of what they are doing in their roles.

We will soon be presenting 3 servers with their bronze Guild of St Stephen medals having regularly served for 1 year.

I would very much like to thank the whole serving team for all the great work they do and the efforts they constantly put in. I'd also extend that thanks to the parents who ensure servers attend when they are on the rota to serve, and get them to mass especially early when we have extra sessions.

Andrew Polland