

Advent Saints

6 December St Nicholas

In his youth **Nicholas** made a pilgrimage to Egypt and the Palestine area. Shortly after his return he became Bishop of Myra in Lycia (now in Turkey) where he died in the middle of the fourth century. He was cast into prison during the persecution of Diocletian but released after the accession of Constantine. He was present at the Council of Nicaea. Because of the many miracles attributed to his intercession, he is also known as **Nikolaos the Wonderworker** (Νικόλαος ὁ Θαυματουργός, *Nikólaos ho Thaumaturgós*). **St Nicholas** is the patron saint of sailors, merchants, archers, repentant thieves, children, brewers, pawnbrokers and students in various cities and countries around Europe. His reputation evolved among the faithful, as was common for early Christian saints, and his legendary habit of secret gift-giving gave rise to the traditional model of **Santa Claus** ("Saint Nick") through *Sinterklaas*. According to Western Christian tradition, Italian merchants took his body to Italy in 1087 and, from that point on, **St Nicholas** has been honoured throughout the Church.

7 December St Ambrose

Born at Trier in about 340 AD of a Roman family, **Ambrose** studied law at Rome, entered public service and then, whilst living in Milan, was chosen unexpectedly to be the Bishop. He was ordained on 7 December 374. He proved to be a remarkable bishop, a teacher, a hymn writer, a shepherd and a dispenser of charity. He was resolute in defending the faith against the Arians (whose beliefs about Christ fell short of orthodoxy). He died on 4 April 397, which was Holy Saturday.

8 December Immaculate Conception

Not to be confused with the Virgin Birth of Jesus, the **Immaculate Conception** is the conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the womb of St Anne, her mother. She was free from original sin by virtue of the foreseen merits of her son Jesus Christ. Mary was conceived by normal biological means but God's grace prevented her from inherited sin or any propensity to sin because of her unique role in giving birth to the Saviour of the World. Although the belief has been widely held since late antiquity, the dogma was not defined until 1854, when Pope Pius IX issued the papal bull *Ineffabilis Deus*. In many Catholic countries 8 December is a holy day of obligation and in some a national public holiday.



St Edmund Campion Deanery, Old Berkshire-
Thames ISIS Pastoral Area
www.thamesisis.org.uk
EAST HENDRED CATHOLIC PARISH
St Mary's Church, East Hendred
St Patrick's Church, East Ilsley

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Parish Priest: The Revd Mgr Andrew Burnham
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Sunday 3rd December	ADVENT SUNDAY Confessions: 8.45am St Mary's Mass: 9.30am St Mary's, East Hendred Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's, East Ilsley	Year B: Psalter Week 1 [PURPLE] Pro populo Pro populo
Monday 4th December	<i>Of Advent Week 1</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary's	[purple] Private Intention
Tuesday 5th December	<i>Of Advent Week 1</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary's	[purple] FM John Beary 1999
Wednesday 6th December	<i>St Nicholas, Bishop</i> Adoration: 11.15am St Mary's Mass: 12.15pm St Mary's	[white] FM Frank Mullins 1999
Thursday 7th December	St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church Mass: 9.15am St Mary's	[white] FM Bridget Farrelly 1999
Friday 8th December	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY Adoration: 7pm St Patrick's Mass: 7.30pm St Patrick's Mass: 8.30am Hendred House School Mass: 11.15am St Mary's Adoration: 3pm Hendred House	Holy Souls
Saturday 9th December	<i>Of Advent Week 1</i> Confessions: 8.45am St Mary's Mass: 9.30am St Mary's [Latin]	[purple] FM Nancy Farrelly 1999
Sunday 10th December	SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Confessions: 8.45am St Mary's Mass: 9.30am St Mary's, East Hendred Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's, East Ilsley	Year B: Psalter Week 2 [PURPLE] Pro populo Pro populo
Confessions: as advertised or by appointment www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk		

THIS WEEK

THE BIG GIVE

The Passage, a Christian Charity, is raising funds through the Big Give from 12pm (midday) Tuesday 28th November to **12pm Tuesday (5th December)** to support its work with homeless people this winter. **Double your Donation, Double your impact.** This is a matched giving scheme for online donations. For more information ring Andrew Hollingsworth 020 7592 1855 or email andrew.h@passage.org.uk

GATHERING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

At our next meeting on Tuesday (**December 5th**), we shall continue the second book of Samuel, chapters 9 to 12 but will concentrate on chapters 11 and 12. We read, discuss and pray together; come and join us. The meeting after that will be on Tuesday, January 9th. We start with coffee and biscuits in the parish rooms at about 7.15 pm for a 7.30 pm start; the normal finishing time is about 8.30 - 45.

ADVENT VIGIL AT ST PATRICK'S

On **Thursday (7th December)** there will be Adoration and quiet reflection from 7pm followed by the vigil Mass of the Immaculate Conception at 7.30pm.

ACT IN SUPPORT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION

Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents new Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. The Prime Minister has acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and had promised previously to abandon it. Now the Government may decide to keep this discriminatory policy in place instead of removing it. We need you to tell the Government not to discriminate against Catholics and to remove the admissions cap on new faith-based schools. Please visit catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

ARE YOU NEW TO OUR PARISH?

If you have recently joined our parish, please complete the registration form (yellow or green sheets at the back of the church). The information you provide is strictly confidential and of great help to Fr Andrew's ministry.

PARISH COLLECTION

Last Sunday's collection raised a total of £1011.27 of which 83% was Gift Aided.

FORTHCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

Mill Hill Appeal: 11th February; Clergy Assistance Fund: 11th March

NEWSLETTER | Please send all notices for next week's Newsletter to Maria at hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk by **Wednesday 10 am**



Find us on

WE REMEMBER IN OUR PRAYERS



BAPTISM AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

Kathleen Doyle, Sr Catherine, Mary Wallace, Brenda Paddon, Alfie Bartlam, Jadvyga Adasko, Angus Clark and Ann McCarthy. Names remain for four weeks.

THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

Those who have died recently and those with anniversaries at this time: *Rebecca Smith, Thomas Champ, Winnifred Elphick, Kathleen Ellaway, Francis Leo Stibbs, Hilda Balcombe, Catherine Couling and Peter Gibson*

HOLY FATHER'S DECEMBER INTENTION - The Elderly

That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to spreading the faith and forming the new generations.

PARISH GROUPS

GATHERING TOGETHER IN CHRIST

Meets on the first **Tuesday** of the month at St Mary's Parish rooms. Starting at 7.15pm (coffee)

MUMS ON THE RUN

Meets at 8.15pm on the third **Monday** of the month at St Mary's Holy Family room.

ST MARY'S YOUTH GROUP

As advertised.

YOUTH EVENT

There will be an Epiphany Mass at 5pm on **Saturday 6th January** at St Edmund's and Our Lady in Abingdon, followed by a talk by Heather Abel about her pilgrimage along the Camino to Santiago de Compostela from 6 -7:30pm.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS

A fun and meaningful way to give gifts to the people you love, and make a difference to some of the poorest communities around the world at the same time. Each gift comes with a Christmas gift card and you can choose to send a goat, build a business or help a refugee child. You can order gifts online at cafod.org.uk/world_gifts or call 0808 1400014 or from the catalogues available in church.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

Don't plan your own Christmas hospitality until you have planned a gift to those less fortunate. A good local charity is Crisis at Christmas. For £22.29 you can reserve a place for a homeless person this Christmas. For online gifts go to www.crisis.org.uk/redbauble.