

Catholic Social Teaching

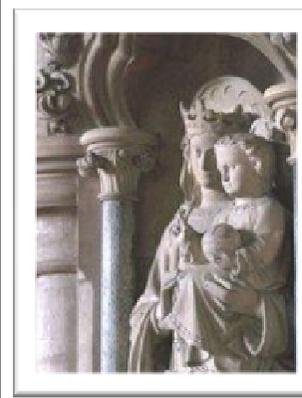
ONE OF the best-kept secrets in the Catholic Church is its body of social teaching. Politicians are fond of acknowledging their debt to Catholic social teaching. The foundation document, of course, is the Bible but, in more recent times, the much is traced back to an Encyclical Letter of Pope Leo XIII in 1891, *Rerum novarum*. In that letter, the Pope was critical of both capitalism and socialism, seeking to steer a ‘third way’, which is normally called ‘distributism’. Whatever the dominant political views in this country, few would embrace an unregulated capitalism, and few would go in for pure socialism, if after the failed experiments of the twentieth century there could be said to be such a thing. Unregulated capitalism assumes that those who make most money will naturally want to give it away to look after those without enough to live on. Naturally, in fact, we know that the rich are not inclined to do that. Pure socialism stifles enterprise and, on the evidence so far, doesn’t seem to generate enough wealth to help those in need.

British politics, in the last century or so, has always kept well away from both unregulated capitalism and pure socialism and it is interesting to see what will now happen with a British right-of-centre (‘capitalist’) government, a solid body of Scottish MPs with sentiments, if not ‘pure socialist’, then well left-of-centre, and a Labour Opposition, led from the left but comprising not a few social democrats.

The issue for Catholics is how much notice politicians take of Catholic social teaching. Politicians, if they want to be re-elected, do well to find a balance between, on the one hand, human liberty and private property and, on the other, concern for the weakest and poorest in society. It is that equilibrium which Catholic social teaching looks for, as it comments on social justice, poverty, wealth, representation, and the responsibilities of the state.

Having lived in Argentina under Peronism, Pope Francis has a particular set of experiences from which he has much to teach us. His predecessor, Pope Benedict XVI, said that the Church ‘has to play her part through rational argument and she has to reawaken the spiritual energy without which justice ... cannot prevail and prosper’. According to *his* predecessor, the philosopher-Pope, John Paul II, Catholic social teaching ‘rests on the threefold corner-stones of human dignity, solidarity and subsidiarity’. These concerns echo in turn take us back to the Jewish faith, with its fine tradition of care for the poor, and remind us of the teaching of Jesus in the New Testament, particularly his saying that ‘whatever you have done for one of these least brothers of mine, you have done for me.’

Fr Andrew



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
hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Priest: The Revd Mgr Andrew Burnham
01235 835038 or 07976 437979
aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Sunday 18 th February	Sundays: Year B, FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT Confessions: 8.45am St Mary’s Mass: 9.30am St Mary’s Mass: 11.15am St Patrick’s	Divine Office: Week 1 [PURPLE] <i>Pro populo</i> <i>Pro populo</i>
Monday 19 th February	<i>First Week of Lent</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary’s	[purple] <i>Sick & Housebound</i>
Tuesday 20 th February	<i>First Week of Lent</i> Mass: 9.15am St Mary’s	[purple]
Wednesday 21 st February	<i>First Week of Lent</i> Adoration: 11.45am St Mary’s Mass: 12.15pm St Mary’s	[purple]
Thursday 22 nd February	The Chair of St Peter Mass: 9.15am St Mary’s	[white]
Friday 23 rd February	<i>Commem. of St Polycarp</i> Mass: 8.30am Hendred House <i>Adoration: 3pm at Hendred House</i> Stations of the Cross: 5.30pm St Mary’s	[purple] <i>Holy Souls</i>
Saturday 24 th February	<i>First Week of Lent</i> Confessions: 8.45am St Mary’s Mass: 9.30am St Mary’s	[purple]
Sunday 25 th February	SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT Confessions: 8.45am St Mary’s Mass: 9.30am St Mary’s Mass: 11.15am St Patrick’s	Divine Office: Week 2 [PURPLE] <i>Pro populo</i> <i>Pro populo</i>
	Confessions: as advertised or by appointment www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk	

THIS WEEK AND LOOKING AHEAD

MUMS ON THE RUN

The next meeting is on **Monday (19th February)** at **8.15pm** in the Holy Family Room. If you are a mum raising children, who would like a bit of time to chat and reflect with other mothers, please come along to these meetings. Contact Gillian Groeger for more information at gilliangroeger@hotmail.com

LENTEN LUNCHES!

Soup, bread and interesting conversation at Monks Hollow, East Hendred, for 5 Tuesdays of Lent starting on **Tuesday (February 20th)** from 12.30 to 2pm. All welcome. If you'd like to come, please call Mary Harrison on 01235 833584 to be sure there's enough soup!

ESSENTIAL TRAINING FOR CATECHISTS DURING LENT

The Formation for Mission Team is offering 5 sessions of essential training for everyone involved in Catechesis and faith formation, sacramental preparation of children and adults, and Children's Liturgy of the Word. These 5 sessions will take place during Lent in Wantage, St John Vianney Church hall (OX12 8ER), every Friday from 7.30 to 9.00 pm, starting on Friday **23rd (February)** and finishing on Friday 23rd March.

CAFOD'S FAMILY FAST DAY

Lent is an opportunity to support our brothers and sisters who don't have enough to eat. On **Friday (23rd February)** family fast day can you give up a meal or eat simple meal and then put what you saved in the CAFOD family fast day envelope. This Lent your donation will make the double the difference.

YOUTH GROUP

Youth group meets again on **Friday, (23rd February)** for some fun and games, a God slot and refreshments. We will meet in the parish rooms from 7:30pm - 9pm. All children aged 10 - 16 welcome.

For more information please contact Veronica at veronicapaget@hotmail.com

PARISH COLLECTION

Last Sunday collection raised a total of £951.62 of which 83% was Gift Aided. The collection for Missio was £207.30 and £55.00 for Racial Justice.

COFFEE AFTER MASS

Join us for coffee after Mass in St Mary's Parish rooms.

FORTHCOMING SECOND COLLECTIONS

CAFOD: 25th 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

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: *James Norman, Patrick Barnes, Olive Gertrude Eyston, Charles John Eyston, Margaret Mary Bishop, Harry James Ballard, Joseph Purcell, Fanny Shanks and Charles Eyston.*

HOLY FATHER'S INTENTION - Universal: Say "No" to Corruption That those who have material, political or spiritual power may resist any lure of corruption.

MESSAGE OF THE HOLY FATHER FOR LENT 2018

"Because of the increase of iniquity, the love of many will grow cold" (Mt 24: 12)

Once again, the Pasch of the Lord draws near! In our preparation for Easter, God in His providence offers us each year the season of Lent as a "sacramental sign of our conversion". Lent summons us, and enables us, to come back to the Lord wholeheartedly and in every aspect of our life.

You can read the full message at www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews/issue171.php

YOUTH MINISTERS LUNCH

All adults involved in working with and forming young people in the Diocese are invited to an afternoon of formation at St Peter's Church, Winchester on **Sunday 4th March**. Anyone who would like to help run the Youth 2000 retreat should also attend this day. Lunch provided £5. To book a place please email youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CALLED AND GIFTED

It starts on **Saturday 10th March** 9am - 4pm in Abingdon. For more information please visit the diocese website www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/calledandgifted or ring Clare Simpson 01235 847804 to talk further or to book a place.

GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

The workshop will be on **Friday 30th March** from 10.30am to 12.30 pm in the Holy Family room or Parish rooms, depending on numbers attending. If you can help on the day please talk to Maria after Mass. Thank you!

KEEPING LENT

During Lent there is daily Mass, including Saturdays, with a short homily. This is a chance to add a weekday Mass to your schedule. Which day works? Mon., Tues. or Thurs. at 9.15am? Weds. at 12.15pm? Fri. at 8.30am or Sat. at 9.30am?