

SACRED HEART PARISH

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
Reg. Charity No. 1199568



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT - Year A - 7 December 2025

Priest in Charge: Fr. John Chadwick
Parish Administrator: Mrs Jan Hughes **Office open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday mornings**
Phone: 01256 577007/07719 012955 **email:** office@sacredhearthook.org
Website: www.sacredhearthook.org **Facebook:** facebook.com/sacredhearthook
Safeguarding Minister: Mrs Maggie Wood **email:** safeguarding@sacredhearthook.org
PC Chairman: David Brown via the parish office or ppc@sacredhearthook.org

Sacred Heart Church, The Priests House, London Road, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9LA

St Vincent De Paul Society (SVP) now have a confidential mobile phone line to assist & help. 07434 773219.

Please note we now have CCTV Cameras around the premises for security purposes.

MASS TIMES

Mass in the Convent on Monday mornings at 9:30am

Daily Eucharistic Service at Maryfield Convent at 10:00am (Tues, Wed, Thurs, Fri & Sat)

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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|-----------|----------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sat 6 Dec | 6:00 pm | Mass | People of the Parish |
| Sun 7 Dec | 10:00 am | Mass | Richard Allen RIP |
| Mon 8 Dec | 9:30 am | Mass in the Convent | |

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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|------------|----------|---------------------|---|
| Sat 13 Dec | 6:00 pm | Mass | Moloney Family RIP |
| Sun 14 Dec | 10:00 am | Mass | Piers Godfrey RIP Brian Strong RIP |
| Mon 15 Dec | 9:30 am | Mass in the Convent | |

CONFESSIONS & SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

Father John will be available after Mass for Confessions and/or the Sacrament of the Sick.

MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like a Mass Intention, please contact Jan in the Parish Office on 01256 577007.

PARISH COLLECTION

Collection for the weekends of the 23 & 30 November amounted to £1,615.06 from Standing Orders, Direct Debits and Mass Collections.

Thank you for your generosity.

PARISH FINANCE

Dona Plates Contactless giving made easy (with Gift Aid optional) - See the machine at the back of the church
Standing Orders Please contact the Parish Office for more details.

BACS Transfer

Our bank details are: CDP Hook Sacred Heart (Lloyds Bank) : Sort Code 30-93-04 Account 00880117


Cheques Payable to 'CDP Hook Sacred Heart'

Gift Aid payers are encouraged to contact the office at: office@sacredhearthook.org

WELCOME

Welcome to Father Peter Codd who will be celebrating Mass with us this weekend whilst Father John is preparing for his operation.

PLEASE PRAY

Lord, have all those who are unable to be with us at Mass in Your safekeeping as we remember: 
Debbie Cavedon, Jacob Weston, Mike Murch,
Ken Musgrave, Sylvia Hosking, Fr Jean Patrice,
David Xavier, John Kidd, Anne Mitchell, Peter Ward,
Sheila Barlow, Andrew Henderson, Fr John Chadwick,
Tony & Jackie Hopgood

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Second Sunday of Advent



First Reading Isaiah 11: 1 - 10

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 71

**In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.**

Second Reading: Romans 15: 4 - 9

Gospel Acclamation

**Alleluia, alleluia!
Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!**

Gospel Matthew 3: 1 - 12

ADVENT WREATH HYMN

During the lighting of the advent candle this weekend, we will be singing the second verse of the Advent Wreath Hymn.

**Light the Advent candle two
Think of humble shepherds who
Filled with wonder at the sight
Of the Child on Christmas night**

***Candle, candle burning bright
Shining in the cold winter night
Candle, candle burning bright
Fill our hearts with Christmas light***

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

| | |
|------------|--|
| Sat 6 Dec | PC & Finance Meeting |
| Sun 7 Dec | Children's Advent Workshop |
| Sat 13 Dec | Advent Retreat Day with Father Fergal McGuire SSCC |

ADVENT

The season of Advent is a time of preparation before Christmas. The word Advent comes from the Latin *Adventus* which means coming. Here are some thoughts to help us to prepare for Christmas.



Consider ...

- ◆ A place to go to get away from all the adverts
- ◆ A day of silence to just be with the Mystery of the Incarnation
- ◆ A chance to be of service to the poor
- ◆ A little more time to be with Family and Friends
- ◆ Some time to meditate on the fact that Jesus was born

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION ON-LINE

The individual parish online donation pages for your Christmas Collections are now live on Give As You Live.

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/hook-sacred-heart-catholic-church-christmas-collection-2025>

Many thanks.

ILL AT HOME OR IN HOSPITAL

If you are ill and are unable to attend Mass, please let Sister Mary-Doris know, we can then arrange for communion to be brought to you. If you are in hospital or know that you are going to go in, let us know in the office by phone 01256 577007 and Sister Mary-Doris on 07899 653413

DECEMBER PRAYER INTENTION

During December, the Holy Father asks us to pray for Christians in areas of conflict. *Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.*

MARYFIELD CONVENT

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Divine Mercy chaplet followed by the Holy Rosary will take place in the Convent Chapel at 3pm on Fridays.
Everyone is welcome

FAITH SHARING PRAYER MEETING

First Tuesday of the month.
At 10:30am
in the tea room

TUESDAY UCM KNITTING AND CROCHET GROUP

2nd, 3rd & 4th Tuesday of the month
At 10:30 in the tea room

ADORATION FOR PEACE

Tuesday evenings 7:30—8:30pm

Parish of the Sacred Heart – Advent Day of Reflection
Date: Saturday, 13th December Time: 10:30am – 4:00pm

Dear Friends,

My name is Fr. Fergal Maguire SS.CC., and I am a member of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary. I come from Dublin, Ireland, and have had the privilege of ministering in Africa, Spain, the Americas, and within parish communities in the Southwark and Westminster dioceses. I have also served as chaplain at the Heathrow Detention Centre and currently have the blessing of serving as chaplain to the traveling communities for the Diocese of Westminster.

I am delighted to be invited to Sacred Heart Parish to lead your Advent Day of Reflection. I understand that the run-up to Christmas can be a busy time for us all, but I hope you will be able to join us for this special day. During the day, we will focus on themes such as “Finding Stillness in a Busy World,” “Meeting God in Solitude and Silence,” with talks titled “You Can’t Hurry Love.” And “The Naked Prophet”. Throughout the day we will pause, engage in reflective talks, and have opportunities for mindfulness and meditation, allowing time for personal prayer and reflection and have a shared lunch. This day aims to help us prepare our hearts for Christmas, embracing hope, peace, and renewal as we journey through Advent.

The day will begin at 10:30am in the parish hall, where tea and coffee will be available. For lunch we will be serving soup & a roll in the hall. The reflection will conclude mid-afternoon, allowing time for a break before the evening Mass. If it's more convenient, I will also celebrate **Mass on Sunday morning at 10:00am.**

I look forward to meeting as many parishioners as possible on Saturday, 13th December, or at the Masses over the weekend.

Warm regards,

Fr. Fergal Maguire SS.CC.

CHILDREN'S ADVENT WORKSHOP.

SUNDAY 7th DECEMBER 2025

A date for your diaries - we will be running an Advent Workshop for the children on Sunday 7th December, after Mass in the church - it will start fairly promptly after Mass and will be approximately one and a half hours duration.

We will have refreshments.

If your child is able to attend,
please let either Maggie, Gill or Jan know.

Many thanks.

REPOSITORY

Please check out our repository in the porch.

If there is anything you would like especially Advent and Christmas items please ask Cecile

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Penitential Service for our Pastoral Area

At St Joseph's Church, Friday 19 Dec 7.00 pm

Christmas Eve (Wednesday)

4:00pm Children's Christmas Service

8:00pm Carol Service

8:30pm Christmas Eve Mass

Christmas Day (Thursday)

| | |
|---------|---------------------|
| 10:00am | Mass During the Day |
|---------|---------------------|



CHRISTMAS TREE

This Christmas as we remember all our dearly departed Family and Friends, you are invited to help us dress this year's Christmas tree with the names of your loved ones. On the welcomers table and also to the side of the Nativity Scene you will find some silver and gold stars, please write the name of your loved ones on one of them and place the star in the basket provided. On Christmas Eve they will be placed on the tree.



Please contact the office if you are unable to come to church but would still like a star filled in.

Verbum Dei Retreat Centre on the Isle of Wight
New Year Retreat (31 Dec - 4 Jan) - "He is our

The retreats want to give space for us to be and contemplate the Peace that Christ wants to give us. If you are interested to join it or want to know more information about it, please contact us:

verbumdei.iow@gmail.com, www.uk.verbumdei.org

CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Many thanks to everyone who supported the Christmas

Fayre last Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

We will be in the hall this weekend with some items still

available if you were unable to join us last weekend.

We look forward to seeing you there.

First Sunday of Advent – Year A – 2025 – Hook

Are You Ready? I had just finished my Christmas dinner at a parishioner's house in Abingdon when my mobile phone went off. "Are you ready Fr John?" The caller was from another family who had invited me to have Christmas lunch with them months before. I had completely forgotten! "Sort of," was my reply. Fortunately, the second family was just around the corner. I had ten minutes to 'prepare' for another Christmas dinner! Today we begin the season of Advent heeding the Lord's advice to be ready. But what does readiness actually mean? When I hear the word 'ready' I always think of 'ready meals', quick, easy, conveniently packaged meals with minimum effort. Suffice to say, Jesus doesn't point us to quick and easy convenience. He points us in the opposite direction, to be thoughtfully and deliberately prepared to follow Him. For weeks now we have reflected on what and it means to live the life of blessedness, 'the how' of the Beatitudes. Today, the Lord shifts our attention to 'the when'. He warns us away from procrastination, putting off our discipleship to another day. No, the life of blessedness is lived every single day as if it were my last. We are to seize every opportunity to be Christ for others, instinctively, spontaneously. We hunger – another facet of what readiness means - for opportunities to allow God's Grace to move in and through us into the lives of others. Six days ago, I was called into Southampton General Hospital to baptise three days old Michael in the Neo-natal ICU department. It was the fastest baptism in the west, for understandable reasons. Having poured three drops of water on his head, I invited Mum and Dad to join me in praying the Our Father. When we started to pray, I began to notice all the staff on the ward also praying. It was a magical moment of Grace, heaven descending to earth, spontaneous, instinctive, discipleship. This week we pray that we will seize every opportunity to be ready **to love, without thinking, all of the time.**

Matthew 24: 37-44

Fr John C

ADVENT CANDLES

Week 1 Purple - Hope

Adam and Eve disobeyed God and lost heaven but God promised to send a redeemer.

We Hope and believe Jesus will come in Glory.

Week 2 Purple - Peace

God chose Mary to be the mother of His son. The angel Gabriel wanted Mary to feel God's Peace and he said to her 'Do not be afraid'.

Week 3 Pink - Joy

Joseph and Mary were filled with Joy as they travelled to Bethlehem. We are joyful as His birth draws near.

Week 4 Purple - Love

When Mary and Joseph came to Bethlehem there was no room at the inn. In this final week of Advent we ask God to help us prepare for this coming by listening to His words 'Love one another as I have loved you'.

Christmas White - Jesus

Jesus Christ Light of the World came to shine in the darkness. He is the Way, the Truth and the Light.

WALSINGHAM PILGRIMAGE 2026

We are delighted to announce our second annual ecumenical pilgrimage to Walsingham, taking place from 17th—21st August 2026, departing from Sacred Heart Hook.

This special journey offers time for prayer, reflection and fellowship with friends from different Christian traditions

A non-refundable deposit of £40 is required by mid December to secure your place.

If you are interested please put your name on the list at the back of the church

THE KNIGHTS OF ST COLUMBA

Please join the Basingstoke Knights of St Columba for their annual 'social' with a bring and share supper here at Sacred Heart Church on Thursday 11th December at 7pm and some carols in the hall. Please do feel free to come along.

PASTORAL AREA PENITENTIAL SERVICE

Our Pastoral Area Penitential Service is on Friday 19th December at 7pm and will take place in St Joseph's Church. All are most welcome to attend.