



The Catholic Church in Park Gate St Margaret Mary

www.stmargaretmary.co.uk



Gaudete Sunday: The Third Sunday in Advent

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ('Gaudete') (Psalter Week 3)

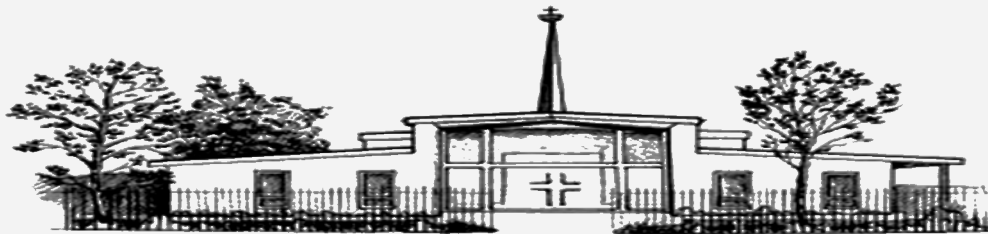
Sunday 14th	8.30am	Danny Morgan RIP
	10.30am	People of the Parish
	3pm	Carol Service at ST, Philp Howard Church Led by singers from the Solent Pastoral Area. Refreshemnts and raffle in hall afterwards.
Monday 15th	6.30pm	Fr James Boyle RIP
	9.30am	Newham Family Intention
	7pm	Adoration
Tues 16th	9.30am	Clare & George Grima RIP
Thurs 18th	9.30am	End of Term Advent Mass at St.Anthony's School Parishioners welcome to attend, please park in Primate Road and report to school office on arrival.
Friday 19th	7pm	Annie & Gregory Bonavia RIP
	9.30am	Holy Souls

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Psalter Week 4)

Sunday 21st	8.30am	Sydney & Christiana Munnery RIP
	10.30am	People of the Parish
	6.30pm	Mike Bryne RIP

Please join us in the Parish Hall after 10.30am Mass on the 14th for the Christmas Party.

2025



Fr Ansel's day off is Wednesday, so unavailable on this day. For any urgent matters on this day, please call Fr John Cooke at Fareham on 01329 318869. The Church will open for anyone to come for private prayer from 9am-1.30pm on this day.

Advance notice: Fr Ansel will be away from 1st January to 8th, returning to the Parish on the 9th January.

The Catholic Bishop conference of England and Wales have released a Pilgrim Prayer book which can be downloaded from the Diocese Jubilee year website. <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/jubilee-year-2025>

Christmas Collection for Fr Ansel

The Christmas and Easter collections are a good way for parishioners to thank Fr Ansel for his ministry at St. Margaret Mary. These collections form a significant part of his income and I know you will want to be generous in your support for him. There are three easy ways you can make your Christmas offering.

1. There is a dedicated page on Give as you Live which enable online donations and our dedicated Christmas collection page is: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/park-gate-st-margaret-mary-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2025>

2. Between now and the Feast of Epiphany, you can donate using the Dona machine at the entrance to Church.

3. The collection at Mass on Christmas Day.

If you use option one or two, you can gift aid your offering and this will also go to Fr Ansel.

Thank you from the Finance Committee.

Gaudete Sunday, celebrated on the third Sunday of Advent, holds a significant place in the liturgical calendar, marking a joyful midpoint in the season of anticipation before Christmas. The term "Gaudete" is derived from the Latin word for "rejoice," taken from the entrance antiphon for the day, which begins with the words "Gaudete in Domino semper" or "Rejoice in the Lord always."

The history of Gaudete Sunday is deeply rooted in Christian tradition. The observance dates back to the medieval period when the church recognized the need to balance the penitential nature of Advent with moments of joy and hope. The third Sunday of Advent serves as a brief respite from the more sombre aspects of the season, allowing believers to rejoice in the imminent arrival of the Christ child.

The liturgical colour for Gaudete Sunday is rose or pink, symbolizing joy and a departure from the traditional purple associated with penance and preparation. This distinctive colour choice is a visual cue to the faithful that a shift toward celebration and gladness is underway.

Gaudete Sunday is also marked by the lighting of the third candle on the Advent wreath, often known as the "Gaudete Candle" or the "Candle of Joy." This candle represents the joy that Christians experience as they draw closer to the celebration of the birth of Jesus.

In essence, Gaudete Sunday encapsulates the dual nature of Advent – a time for reflection and repentance, balanced with anticipation and rejoicing in the promise of redemption. It serves as a reminder that, even in the midst of our preparations, there is joy to be found in the expectation of the Savior's arrival.

Mass Intentions. To book a Mass intention/s please contact the Parish office by phone, email or in person. If you leave an envelope outside office hours, please put all your details on envelope. The most important thing is that the sacrifice of Mass is offered, but we cannot guarantee the date. If you make a donation via BACS, please include reference of 'Mass Int'. There are some Mass/Sympathy cards available to purchase in the main office, cash only please.

Standing Orders and Gift Aid

Thank you for all you do to support your parish in many different ways.

If you haven't already done so, please consider donating via a standing order, and sign up for gift aid, in order to provide a more stable, and 25% extra, parish income. Forms available on the website, at the back of the church and from the Parish Office.

Contactless Giving—Available at the back of the Church.

Do you need our bank details?

CDP PARK GATE ST MARG MARY

Sort Code: 30-93-04 Account Number: 00883663



You can also scan this QR code to donate online.

Park Gate Noticeboard For more information on all our activities, have a look on our web site:

www.stmargaretmary.co.uk

Please see separate note on noticeboard regarding Parish office opening hours over Christmas/New year and publishing of Parish newsletter. The last newsletter for this year will be published on the 19th December. The next newsletter will be issued on Friday 9th January. Please bear this in mind if you need something advertised for early in the new year.

Padre Pio Prayer Group

The next meetings are: Sunday 14th December and Sunday 25th January 2026 @ 7.45pm

You are all most welcome. For more information, please contact David Walford: walford101@hotmail.com



St Vincent
de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

We are here to help. If you need help in any way, or are interested in volunteering some time to help, give us a call, in confidence, between 9am and 6pm on 07935 941686.

Donation cheques to be made out to : B170413 SVP St Margaret Mary Park Gate

Friday Coffee Morning - The next coffee morning will be on Friday 19th and then not until Friday 9th January.

DIACONATE ORDINATION—JACK RYAN

Saturday 20th December at 3pm, ST.Johns's Cathedral, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth.

All are invited to the ordination of Jack Ryan from the Solent Pastoral area—ST. Margaret Mary, Park Gate.

Through the solemn Laying on of Hands he will be ordained a Deacon for us, and God willing, a Priest next year.

Do come and support and pray for Jack. All are very welcome.

Sunday 21st December at 10.30am mass, all are invited as Jack will deacon his first Mass and we will celebrate with a reception in the hall afterwards.

Shop (Repository) — Please call in and see the range of Christian gifts and Christmas stock now available.

Poinsettia's to decorate Church this Christmas. As in previous years, to help decorate the Church we are asking if anyone would like to donate a poinsettia? It would be greatly appreciated. If you can help, please bring any donations to Mass on Sunday 21st December. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES.

Christmas Eve	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 5.30pm—Vigil Mass 8.30pm—Midnight Mass—Mass and Carols
Christmas Day	THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD 9.30am
Friday 26th	ST STEPHENS DAY 9.30am—Morning Mass

A separate notice is on the noticeboard and our website giving Mass times over the Christmas/New year period.

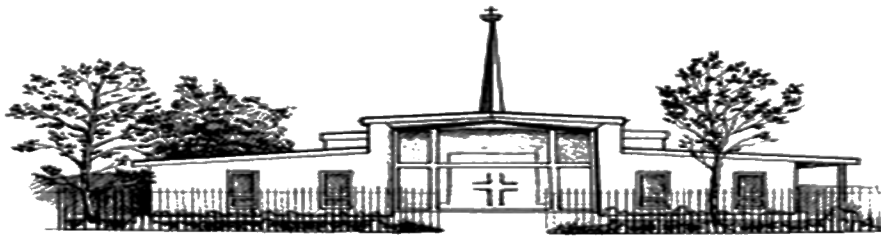
Buckfast Abbey —You will find some leaflets in information racks detailing Guided retreats and a Catholic Marriage retreat being held throughout 2026. Please refer to this poster for more details and how to book if you are interested.

Crib Offering 2025 — This years Crib offering will be for: Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (Latin: Ordo Equestris Sancti Sepulchri Hierosolymitani, OESSH), also called the Order of the Holy Sepulchre or Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, is a Catholic order of knighthood under the protection of the Holy See. The pope is the sovereign of the order. The order creates canons as well as knights, with the primary mission to "support the Christian presence in the Holy Land"

Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 08th March 2026. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight from Heathrow or Luton, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Full use of leisure facilities. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock Shrine, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre & Kylemore Abbey. Irish music nightly. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email.knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Starting School in September 2026? If you have a child who will be 4-years old between 1st Sep 2025 and 31st Aug 2026, the 'application for schools' website is now open www.hants.gov.uk/admissions The closing date for applications is Thursday 15th January 2026. If you are applying to St. Antony's, you will need to fill in a supplementary information form as well as the online form. For more details or to arrange a school tour, please call 01489 579100.



If you are unwell and would like a Eucharist Ministry team member to bring Holy Communion to you at home.
Please contact Nick Sadler on 07834 923585

If you are going in to hospital, please contact the relevant chaplaincy service:
Southampton General 02381 208517
QA Portsmouth 02392 286408

Second Collections

There is a list on the noticeboard of all the Diocesan and other collections that we have taken this year.
Thank you for your giving and generosity to so many charities.

Contact Details: St Margaret Mary, Middle Road, Park Gate, Hants SO31 7GH

Parish Priest: Fr Ansel D'Mello

Tel: 01489 572797

Parish Administrator: Heather Skittlethorpe

Parish Office hours:

Monday to Wednesday 9.30am to 2pm Friday: 9.30am to 2pm

Out of hours please get in touch as below

Email: office@stmargaretmary.co.uk Tel: 01489 572797

Parish Gift Aid: Milton Hewins Email: accounts@stmargaretmary.co.uk

Safeguarding Co-ordinators: Contact: safeguarding@stmargaretmary.co.uk

Anita Fitzpatrick: 07743 481363 or Fran Slater: 07899 691094

Hall Bookings:

Email: hall@stmargaretmary.co.uk

Maintenance:

Email: facilities@stmargaretmary.co.uk

Repository (Greeting Cards, Books, Gifts and more)

Enquires: office@stmargaretmary.co.uk (please see www.cbcdistributors.co.uk for items you can order)

Portsmouth Diocese Safeguarding Coordinator: Ruth Attfield 023 9421 6486

Email: rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

St Anthony's Catholic Primary and Pre-School Headteacher:

Katrina Straker, Primate Road, Titchfield Common, PO14 4RP 01489 579100

Email: office@saint-anthonysfareham.co.uk www.saint-anthonysfareham.co.uk

Portsmouth e-News.

Sign up to receive this diocesan weekly Publication. News from Parishes, the Bishop, the Diocese & the Vatican.

www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews



St Margaret Mary website

stmargaretmary.co.uk/

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth (reg. charity no. 1199568)
"Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through his Church"