

*South East Hampshire Pastoral Area*  
*Jesus Prince of Peace*  
*St Michael and All Angels Catholic Church, Leigh Park*

**Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth** charity number 1199568

**Parochial Administrator: Rev. Fr. James Lewis**

**Assistant Priest: Rev. Fr. Tom Hiney**

**Parish telephone number: 023 9248 4323**

**Deacon** Rev. Nick O'Neill [noneill@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:noneill@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary** Ellen McCarthy [office@stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk)

**Safeguarding Ministry: 023 9248 4323** [safeguarding@stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk)

**BACS details Lloyds Bank** CDP Leigh Park St Michael 30-93-04 Account number: 00882004

**Our Website:** <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/st-michael-and-all-angels-leigh-park/>

**Fourth Sunday of Advent – Year A**

**Parish Mass Book page 90**

**Scripture Readings at Mass**

**Isaiha 7:10-14** 'Behold the virgin shall conceive.'

**Roman 1:1-7** 'Jesus Christ, descended from David, Son of God.'

**Matthew 1:18-24** 'Jesus was born of Mary, who was betrothed to Joseph, son of David.'

**20 DECEMBER – 2 JANUARY**

**Fr. Tom writes...**

Arriving in Bethlehem

God, in His inestimable genius, has ordained that this season should end with us pacing like an expectant father, up and down the liturgical maternity ward, willing a child to be born. There can hardly be a comparable experience of waiting, especially for a firstborn. Something other than impatience is going on here, as it surely was for Joseph too. He knew his life would never be the same again, whatever happened. Not long ago it was just him. Then this extraordinary bride came into his life and home. Then the two of them raced down to Bethlehem, despite her condition, in order to satisfy the law of the occupying Romans. And now a child is going to be born that will dominate both their lives. Indeed, a child that Isaiah prophesied would dominate the thoughts of the whole world.

Each of us, at some moment in our life within this story, and perhaps continuously thereafter, have to make a choice. Either we stick within our own little world of aches and pains and disputes and promises – our personality and all that encompasses it – or to allow that world to be blown open by the Child who is coming, to see reality itself through the eyes of this Emmanuel.

Jesus' cousin John the Baptist said it like this: "I must decrease so that he may increase". That was beautiful in its humility, but the truth was even better. For it turns out that we increase as He increases within our hearts. As we become configured into Christ, we inherit His eternal life and His glory. When we reach the manger this year, let us whisper from the depths of our hearts: "Jesus, let me lose myself in You."

**Next Steps for our Young People on the Confirmation Programme 2026**

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January all parents and young people are to meet @ 3.30pm in the parish centre. Please bring evidence of your child's baptismal certificate, as this is required for official Church documentation. Young people need to have written a handwritten letter to Fr. James, sharing why they would like to be confirmed and what they feel would be helpful to them during the course, both in their practical daily lives and in their relationship with God. Please ensure these letters arrive at the Presbytery, 356a London Road, Waterlooville PO7 7SR no later than Wednesday 7 January 2026.

Please contact Ellen at [office@stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk](mailto:office@stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk) if you have any queries.

**Parish Office**

The Parish Office will be closed from Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December until Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2026.

Calls will be monitored.

## **Our Liturgies this week**

*Reconciliation; in the half hour prior to Mass*

### **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December**

*Liturgy of the Day*

*['O Key of David']*

12 noon Mass

Bridge Bell RIP

### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December**

*Fourth Sunday of Advent*

9.30 am Mass

Colin and Marie Cooper INT

### **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December, Feria**

### **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December, Feria**

### **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> December**

4.30pm Carols

5pm Mass for Parish Families

### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> December**

*The Nativity of the Lord*

9.30am Mass for Peace in our World

### **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> December**

*St Stephen, the First Martyr, Feast*

### **Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> December**

*St John, Apostle, Evangelist, Feast*

12 noon Mass

Michael Dixon RIP

### **Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> December**

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph*

9.30 am Mass

Susan Shaw RIP

### **Monday 29<sup>th</sup> December**

*St Thomas of Canterbury, Feast*

### **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> December**

*Liturgy of the Day*

*[Sixth Day within Octave]*

### **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> December**

10.15 am Mass

Holy Souls

### **Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> January**

*Mary, The Holy Mother of God, Solemnity*

### **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> January**

*Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church, memorial*

### **Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

*St John, Apostle, Evangelist, Feast*

12 noon Mass

For Parish Families

### **Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January**

*The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph*

9.30 am Mass

Eileen Trodd INT

**Christmas Collection** - We are grateful for your donations given over Christmas. Every penny specifically donated over this weekend (together with any Gift Aid on qualifying donations) will be used to support your local priest.

Please use the link below if you would like to donate online: [Christmas Collection](#)

**Think & Drink** - Faith, fellowship and fun for young adults (18+). Gathering in the Narthex at Sacred Heart Church after the 5.30pm Mass on the first Sunday of every month and walking across to the Woodpecker Pub on London Road. Next meeting on Sunday 4 January 2026.

**St Michael's Christmas raffle** - Raffle tickets will be on sale this weekend. If you are able to donate a raffle prize, we would be grateful.

**Carols and festive songs** - Our choir will be visiting Malmesbury Lawn Care Home on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> December to sing carols and festive songs. Everyone is warmly invited to join us. Please meet at 1.30pm at Malmesbury Lawn, Woolston Road, Havant, ready for a 2 pm start.

**St Michael's Christmas party** - December 20<sup>th</sup> 5pm – 11 pm. Please bring food to share. See out noticeboard for more information.

### **Calling all singers from our Church Communities**

If you would like to join a 'scratch' choir to praise God, this Christmas, at our Midnight Mass at St Edmund's, Horndean, please email Marijke Miles at [music.hay@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:music.hay@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

There will be a rehearsal on Monday 22 December @ 6pm at St. Edmund Church.

**Bambinelli Sunday** last weekend at St Michael's

where parish families bought in their nativity scenes for a blessing during Mass.



### **Meeting with Bishop Philip about The Priesthood**

Bishop Philip is inviting any man in our Diocese, aged 17 or older, who is not married and who would like to know more about being a diocesan priest, to contact him and to come to a short meeting at the Cathedral on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> January at 3pm (finishes at 5pm). Please scan the QR code to register.



The Rosary group will meet on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> in Church.

## **Christmas Eve & Christmas Day – Masses around Jesus Prince of Peace**

### **Christmas Eve:**

4pm Children's Nativity & Mass Sacred Heart, Waterlooville

5pm Family Mass (Carols from 4.30pm) St. Michael & All Angels, Leigh Park

5.30pm Vigil Mass (Carols from 5pm) St. Thomas', Emsworth

6pm Family Mass St. Patrick, Hayling Island

6pm Mass Our Lady of the Nativity & St. Paul, Paulsgrove

8pm Mass Sacred Heart, Waterlooville

11pm Polish Carols & Vigil Mass St. Joseph, Emsworth

11.30pm Midnight Mass St. Patrick, Hayling Island

Midnight Mass (Carols from 11.30pm) St. Edmund, Horndean

Midnight Mass (Carols from 11.30pm) St. Colman, Cosham

### **Christmas Day:**

8am Dawn Mass Sacred Heart, Waterlooville

9am Mass (Carols from 8.40am) St. Thomas, Emsworth

9.30am Mass St. Edmund, Horndean

9.30am Mass St. Michael & All Angels, Leigh Park

10am Mass St. Colman, Cosham

10am Mass St. Patrick, Hayling Island

11am Mass ` St. Joseph, Havant

11am Mass Sacred Heart, Waterlooville

1pm Polish Mass St. Joseph, Havant

4pm Mass QA Hospital, Cosham