

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

FAMILY MASS

This Sunday, 3rd December, at 10.30am

HOLY HOUR

Monday 4th and Monday 11th December, 7pm—8pm

SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION WITH CONFESSION

Monday 18th December, 7pm

ADVENT SESSIONS ON PRAYER

At the Sacred Heart Catholic Church Vicarage Road
Henley on Thames

TUESDAYS 5TH DECEMBER AND 12TH DECEMBER

7.30PM—9.00PM

LECTURER: JEAN KHOURY FOUNDER OF THE SCHOOL OF MARY - **ALL WELCOME**

THE BIG CHURCH CLEAN

WE NEED ALL THAT CAN COME AT

**9.30AM ON SATURDAY 9TH DECEMBER TO HELP CLEAN THE
INSIDE OF THE CHURCH READY FOR CHRISTMAS.**

DUSTING, HOOVERING, WAXING THE BENCHES, MOVING FURNITURE AND
REMOVING COBWEBS

ALL WELCOME TO COME AND HELP—WE NEED YOU!

CHRISTMAS FLOWER WORKSHOP

Saturday, December 16th, in the Church Hall. Arrive 9.30 am for
a 10 am start until Midday. **This event is now full**

Thought for the Week The First Sunday of Advent 3rd December, 2023

The season of Advent is one of anticipation for the Church. For our family it is also a time of celebration as all my grandchildren have their birthdays between November 27th and January 2nd. Each child gets very excited as the big day approaches. They see the next birthday as a prize gained for their growth in stature and maturity since their last birthday. As their grandparent I find it more difficult to adopt the same approach.

The readings for this Sunday call on us to be watchful for the Lord's coming. This seems more difficult than preparing to celebrate Christmas since, unlike December 25th, we do not know the exact day.

Instead we must be in a constant state of readiness like the doorkeeper waiting for the return of the householder. We have our responsibilities, to maintain our own spiritual health, look after our families and friends and discharge our duties to the wider community, being aware of the needs of others.

Many major events in our lives are unexpected. Some, like a baby conceived after many years of waiting or meeting one's life-partner for the first time, are celebrated afterwards. Others, like accidents or bereavements are remembered but, not so fondly.

Advent can be a time for reinforcing our spiritual foundations so that we can be sustained and be ready for whatever lies ahead.



We ask you please, to pray for the following people who continue to ask for your prayers;

Please pray for Wayne the husband of Sarah Woodage (who cleans the presbytery and Church hall) He has been admitted to hospita with Sepsis.

Please pray for a successful outcome for Robert Brooks who is in hospital for a series of operations for Bile Duct Cancer.

Rosemary has asked for prayers as she prepares to undergo major surgery in the RBH later this month, for a safe and successful outcome.

Please pray for Kim, Paul and Joe Bunton (Joe has severe learning difficulties)

Please pray for Father Paul Rowan whose further recovery from cancer surgery is proving difficult.

Please pray for Peter Halter's sister Jean who has macular degeneration and for her great grandson Rogan who continues to need our prayers following his bone marrow transplant,

Please Pray for Jim Hardiman.

Please Pray for Maria McNamara's niece who is undergoing chemotherapy. Her name is Alison Flynn née McNamara.

Please pray for Reuben Muston aged 17 (Theresa and Mike Muston's grandson) who had his stem cell transplant to treat the Aplastic Anaemia. He still needs our prayers that he will continue to improve.

Please pray for Beth Selwood.

Please pray for Savanna Clark (aged 2 with eye trouble).

Please pray for Shirley Trollop.

Please pray for Isobel Messenger (Vera Bird's great granddaughter) she has now had her operation to improve her hearing.

Please pray for Simon Keen who is recovering from an operation.

Please pray for Mary Hagger.

Please pray for Vivien Kear (Krissie's friend) who has cancer

Vera Bird has asked for our prayers for her Great, Great Grandson Harry.

Prayers please for Antonita's nephew Peppin who has long covid.

Please pray for the residents and staff at St Lukes and Abbeycrest nursing homes

Please pray for the staff and pupils of our primary school St Martin's



Please remember in your prayers those whose anniversaries occur at this time including;

Madge Barnard Smith, Jane Mikhail,
Daniel Roughneen, Florrie Clifford, Mrs Mary Dowd,
Peter John Fay, Zemica Priscilla Fernandes,
David Bourne, Roger Carroll, Mr and Mrs Myers,
Joan Woodward.