

**THE POWER OF DIPLOMACY** The terrible suffering of the people of Gaza, coupled with the trauma experienced by Israeli families who have lost loved ones or who await news of those taken hostage, continues to dominate our TV screens and newspapers. Behind the scenes, much work is being done to negotiate and bring a stop to this suffering. Diplomats in Qatar, the USA and other countries – as well as at the United Nations in New York – work their contacts to move things forward towards a peace. Most of us have little idea what Ambassadors and Diplomats spend their time doing, spread around the globe. It can appear that a lot of their time is spent at Receptions and meetings. In fact, what they do to smooth relationships, to represent their countries to others and to step in when anyone runs into trouble whilst abroad, requires painstaking attention to detail. Not least, the language used is vitally important so that feathers are not ruffled or obstacles put where they do not need to be.

The Vatican has Ambassadors – know as Papal Nuncios – in many countries and again the work done to protect religious freedoms and to support the local Bishops in their work is crucial but largely hidden. The Papal Nuncio tends to emerge into the spotlight at certain functions but he is also responsible for processing the appointment of Bishops to dioceses. He is a personal representative of the Pope to a particular civil jurisdiction, in our country to the Court of St James. Due to the world-wide nature of the Catholic Church, the Vatican's Ambassadors can act as honest brokers when especially difficult situations arise. They are part of the way that the tiny Vatican State has influence in the political world.

This weekend we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King. But his kingship is not about temporal, or worldly, power. Instead, he comes as a Servant King, setting himself the task of healing and restoring people to wholeness in body, mind and spirit. He preaches a message of hope, justice and peace. There are times when Jesus speaks to crowds but there are many other instances when he quietly engages with individuals. Today, in an age when people seek publicity, where social media offers a running commentary on the lives of so many, where leading figures too often speak without careful thought of the consequences, the art of quiet, subtle diplomacy is needed. Even in our own lives, we know that a personal word with someone can often be more effective than voicing our opinions publicly. One definition of being 'diplomatic' is: 'being tactful; being adroit in personal relations.' That's food for thought. **Father John** 

**POPE FRANCIS INVITES US TO PRAY FOR PEACE** "This is not war; this is terrorism." With those words, Pope Francis described the Israel-Hamas war that is ravaging the Holy Land, as he addressed the faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square for his Wednesday General Audience. The Pope prayed for everyone suffering due to various wars, especially in Ukraine, Israel, and Palestine. "They suffer so much. I heard how they both suffer," said the Pope, adding that "wars do that". "But here we have gone beyond wars", the Pope stressed. "This is not war; this is terrorism." The Pope invited everyone to "**pray for peace; pray always for peace.**" *Source: Vaticannews.va* 

<u>ADVENT IS COMING... 'MY DAY BY DAY' ADVENT</u> booklet 2023 for adults — is now available at the back of Church for only £1.00 *Please put money in the pamphlet slot.* 

FREE ADVENT GIFT from the PARISH to OUR CHILDREN Please pick up "My Day by Day Junior or Infant booklet. Happy Advent!

**CONFIRMATION** Bishop Philip's policy is to have a Confirmation Programme run in each parish every two years. Here at Corpus Christi, we have had one in both of the past two years. As there have only been three enquiries, it has been decided to wait until the autumn of 2024 to begin the next Confirmation programme. Fr John

ACI FAMILY (Links of Love) Meeting Monday 27 Nov at 11.00am in the Memorial Room. We begin to reflect on what it means to be a Synodal Church and also prepare for the 4th General Assembly of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart in Rome Feb 2024. The ACI Family is a lay community affiliated to the Handmaids. More info from Jo Henwood. Email : josephinehenwood@virginmedia.com

SVP Thursday Afternoon Tea Gathering on 8th December 2023 from 2.00pm to 3.30pm in the Memorial Room. We are looking forward to seeing you there. SVP Team.



STELLA MARIS - SEAFARERS CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATE APPEAL 2023 This year we will be collecting chocolate gifts to be given out to all those who work at sea and come into our local ports. Stella Maris chaplains and port visitors, who offer spiritual and practical help to seafarers, will deliver them in time for Christmas. Please bring your Chocolate Gifts to the Parish Office by Sunday 10th December. See poster

VITA NOVA PERFORMANCE 'The Wind of Change' is a light-hearted, pirate themed play about the serious business of addiction recovery. It tells the story of Captain Roderick Jolly Rogers and his motley crew on their quest to find treasure. What they discover on Serenity Island is not what they expect...but is worth so much more than gold.

Performances are at Corpus Christi Parish Centre at 6.30pm on Thursday 7th December and Friday 8th December. Tickets (by donation) can be bought from Eventbrite, search Wind of Change or purchased on the night.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN BOSCOMBE CHRISTMAS EVENT, Boscombe Precinct, Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December 3.00pm This year CTIB are joining together with the Salvation Army and Impact Boscombe to run a live nativity in the Boscombe High Street! They will be telling the Nativity story over 4 'stops', with acting, choirs (including St Clement's School), the Salvation Army youth band. There will be donkeys and also free mince pies and drinks at the end served from Black Cherries cafe, and a gift of chocolate and a nativity story for all the children who attend.

JESUIT REFUGEE SERVICE - Write a Christmas Card to people held in immigration detention For many of us, Christmas is a time spent celebrating with family and friends. For those accompanied by JRS UK, however, Christmas and New Year - as with any large celebration throughout the year - can be a much more difficult time as it is often a reminder of the people and communities that they are separated from. We would therefore like to invite you to take part in this year's Christmas Card Appeal and help us to send a Christmas card and message of solidarity and support to all those supported by JRS. We hope that these messages might bring small bit of comfort, connection and encouragement at this time. Find out how you can get involved at www.jrsuk.net.

DIVERSE ABILITIES, DORSET'S DISABILITY CHARITY, CAROL CONCERT Join us in the centre of Bournemouth for a night of festive carolling thanks to Sound of Soul, Razzamataz, Canford Heath School Choir, and soprano Poppy Neame. St. Peter's Church Bournemouth Wednesday 13 December from 6pm. Tickets from: https://diverseabilities.org.uk/ carolconcert Adult £10; Family ticket £28; plus other concessions Sponsored by Colten Care

**CARITAS PORTSMOUTH** COP28 is rapidly approaching (30 Nov – 12 Dec). In Laudate Deum, Pope Francis describes how some of the big changes we need to happen to slow the rate of climate change must come from the actions of governments. Let us pray for those leaders, that they can listen to those already affected by climate change and have courage to act. Visit our website https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk for links to prayer resources.

CAFOD'S ONLINE ADVENT CALENDAR 2023 Cafod's online Advent calendar of daily prayer and reflection will offer an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. Join us as we journey through the season of Advent with our global family. Sign up by going to: https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar

**<u>CAFOD World Gifts</u>**: Give a gift of hope this Christmas In Advent, let's share the promise of hope that has been made to us with our sisters and brothers around the world. You can buy CAFOD's World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/ or pick up a catalogue in church. Brochures at back of Church or scan the QR code.



VOCATIONS: "I was hungry and you gave me to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me to drink." Is Christ calling you to serve Him in others as a sister, brother, deacon or priest? Contact Cn. John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

**INTENTION:** That Christ the King, who brought peace through his death on the cross, will choose many men and women to preach His love as priests, deacons and in the consecrated life, we pray to the Lord.

FOOD BANK COLLECTIONS are Friday mornings 10.30-11.30am and at Saturday evening and Sunday Masses. Gifts may be dropped off in the church porch. TINNED FOODS always appreciated. Thank you for your continued generosity.

TO SET UP A STANDING ORDER (Can be Gift Aided) Go to your bank: You will need the parish business bank details, which are: CDP BOURNEMOUTH CORPUS CHRISTI Sort code 30-93-04. number: 01786041 Parish Account Or donate online at our website: http://www.corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk/ or on our Facebook page or to donate via Give As You Live, click on the QR CODE

GIFT AID If you are a UK taxpayer please consider Gift Aiding your donation. The parish can reclaim 25p for every £1 donated, at no extra cost to you. To join the Gift Aid scheme, or if you want an annual box of offertory envelopes, please send contact details to: accounts@corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No.1199568

