



If you were not able to come and visit the Museum of the Moon (20,135 people came through the doors!) at St Mary's then you missed what was described by many as an amazing sight. The most commonly heard response by those who stood at the door welcoming people was 'Wow!'. What made it such an enjoyable and captivating experience? There are many answers, but amongst them was the chance to see something from a different perspective. You were able to walk round and under the Moon and see those parts normally hidden from our sight. There was also a sense of people seeing themselves and the world in a different way as we contemplated the moon and its relationship to us.



It is important that we all find time and opportunity to see things from a different perspective and perhaps in our minds' walk around and under them' and look at ourselves and our lives and our relationship with God in a different way.

Advent is one of those times of the year when we are encouraged to do that as we prepare to welcome Jesus as the child born in Bethlehem. Our problem is that this time of preparation can be overwhelmed by the world's rush to mince pies, tinsel and trees and Christmas images. We get swept up into Christmas spirit, before we have had a chance to prepare and reflect on what we are truly celebrating. This year it is compounded by the Football World Cup and its dominance of news and TV schedules.



Perhaps then it is more important than ever to carve out time for God and create space to reflect on what lies at the heart of our celebrations. So we offer you **The Great Invitation** to share in Advent and

Christmas The national great invitation to peoples is to join us in celebrating Advent and the Christmas Story. Over the coming weeks there will be a number of opportunities for us to gather to reflect and celebrate. Please look at the dates and times in this leaflet– and also think about what commitment you can give to give time to God over the Advent season –could this be a a regular commitment to time for worship ?

There are daily service on **Monday ,Wednesday and Friday at noon at St Mary's** and **Tues (9.30am) and Thursday (10.30am) at St Faith's**. Try and share in an act of worship each week.

You can join us each day in **pausing to pray at 9am & 6pm** – perhaps even stopping at that time and whatever you are doing saying the Lord's prayer.

A Feast for Advent through Advent we will be reflecting on Delia Smith's book and invite you to share in conversations with us on **Zoom on Wednesday evenings** (starting on 30th Nov); at **Fellowship lunch at St Mary's on Wednesdays after the Noon Mass** (also starting on 30th) and **at Advent Breakfasts at 9am on Saturdays** (starting on Dec 3rd) There are copies of the book available at St Mary's.

We hope that we will see you at some of our Advent activities and that we will together discover more of what lies at the heart of Christmas

Best wishes



Father Bob

023 92 822687



Revd Sam
07341 569234

Today

2.30pm Panto Players at St Mary's
6pm Service of Music and Readings for Advent at St Mary's with candlelight.

Monday Nov 28th
Advent Week 1

Noon Mass at St Mary's

Tuesday Nov 29th
Advent Week 1

9.30am Mass at St Faith's

Do something Different Day at St Faith's – a chance to chat; share in craft and activities; with a 2-course lunch in the Community Centre and Carol singing in the Church – **all for £5**. If you wish to **book a space please contact Maggie** in the St Faith's Office.

7pm Parish Standing and Finance Committee at St Mary's

Wednesday Nov 30th **Noon Mass** in St Mary's Vestry Hall
S Andrew

12.30pm Fellowship lunch & look at A Feast for Advent

7pm Advent Zoom Book Club
Contact Revd Sam for Zoom link

Thursday Dec 1st

10.30am Mass at St Faith's and coffee and chat

Advent Week 1

6.30pm Deanery Standing and Pastoral Committee meets at St Faith's

Friday Dec 2nd

Advent Week 1

10.30am Organ Project Volunteers

at St Mary's

11am Coffee and Chat at St Mary's

Noon Mass at St Mary's

6pm Fratton Awards at St Mary's

Saturday Dec 3rd

9am Advent Breakfast and a look

at A Feast for Advent

10am Just Ask at St Mary's

10am Messy Advent at St Mary's

Explore the Advent season with us in art, craft, mess and fun and share in a free lunch at the end. If you can help please contact Fr Rajiv

Next Sunday 4th

Advent Sunday

8am BCP Eucharist at St Mary's

9.30am Mass at St Faith's

10am Mass at St Mary's

3.30pm Panto Players

5pm An exploration of Light in Darkness

for young people at St Mary's – using craft, chat and cake!

Monday Dec 5th

7pm District Scout Christingle at St Mary's

Wednesday Dec 7th

10am Portsmouth Music Hub Carols

at St Mary's

Thursday Dec 8th

5.30pm Portsmouth Music Hub Concert

at St Mary's

- Friday Dec 9th 5.30pm News Carols and Christingle**
at St Mary's
- Saturday Dec 10th 5.30pm Portsmouth Choral Union concert**
at St Mary's
- Sunday Dec 11th 2.30 & 5pm Barrells Services** at St Mary's
- Monday Dec 13th 6pm Carol Singing around the area –**
meet at St Mary's
- Thursday Dec 15th 7.30pm Royal Marines' Christmas Concert**
at St Mary's
- Friday Dec 16th Noon Comfort and Joy voucher**
distribution and Carols at St Mary's
- 7pm Reindeer Drive** in aid of Hope into
Action
at St Faith's