



There is this popular saying that *family is gold*. However, the very family that is gold can also be a mine field. Family can be gold when the members of the family love each other selflessly without any agenda, i.e., where love does not follow marketing principles. Such an environment is characterised by compassion, gentleness, joy, forgiveness, patience, trust, openness and kindness. On the other hand, when family is a minefield, individuals tend to care more for themselves and are very careful to trip on each other's toes which may result in an explosion of emotional fights. When we look at the state of our families today, we see that many of them tend to be mine fields. Hence, it is no surprise that relationships do not last long due to too much suspicions, founded or not. This is what Christ came to heal by belonging to a human family. By so doing, he wanted to heal the family from within. The advent and Christmas stories are not just inviting us to celebrate Jesus, Mary, the Shepherds or Three Wise men. Rather, these people are presented by the bible as sources of inspiration to the type of love that can make family to become gold. At the centre of their love is sacrifice for the other and not counting the cost or wanting anything in return. It is this type of love that creates a community of hearts that is lasting. I thank the Good Lord for the lovely families we do have in this parish. During this Christmas season, could we take something from the birth of Jesus that could spice our family love and make our families golden. This is this sacrificial love that parents need to pass on to their children and which is at marriage spirituality. May the clarion call of St. Pope John Paul II be what takes us into the New Year: 'the essence and role of the family are in the final analysis specified by love.' Hence the family has the mission to guard, reveal and communicate love, and this is a living reflection of and a real sharing in God's love for humanity and the love of Christ the Lord for the Church His bride' (FC, para. 17). This is the love that humanity needs in order to be healed. This is the mission of Christian marriages and families to the world. May God bless all your families!

Sunday 31st DECEMBER THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

AN 9.00am Polish Mass:
EC 9.00am Mass: the people of the parish
AN 11.00am Mass: Alesandro Di Adamo RIP
AN 6.30pm Mass: well-being of Yen's Evans family
EC 7.00pm Polish Mass:

Monday 1st JANUARY MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD

EC 9.30am Mass: well-being of Yen's Evans family

Tuesday 2nd JANUARY Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen

AN 7.00pm Mass: Holy Souls

Wednesday 3rd JANUARY

EC 9.30am Mass: special intention

Thursday 4th JANUARY

AN 8am -1pm Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
AN 9.30am Mass: Holy Souls
EC 7.00pm Polish Mass:

Friday 5th JANUARY (Day of abstinence from meat)

EC 9.30am Mass: Holy Souls
EC 7.00pm Polish Mass:

Saturday 6th JANUARY

AN 10.00am Mass: Holy Souls

Parish Priest: Fr. Bernardine Nsom
(Co-ordinating Pastor)
Assistant Priest: Fr. Andrzej Zuziak SChr
(481 Castle Lane West, BH8 9TN)
Deacon: Rev. Barry Jennings
Administrator: Karen Gilbert
**The Annunciation Church, Hall,
Presbytery & Parish Office:**
TEL: 01202 513369,
218 Charminster Rd, B'mth BH8 9RW
Parish Office email:
charminster@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
St. Edmund Campion Church & Hall:
Castlepoint, 481 Castle Lane West,
Bournemouth BH8 9TN
Parish Website: www.annunciation-
stedmundcampion.co.uk
St. Walburga's Primary School:
Headteacher : Mrs Veronica Woodward
Malvern Rd, Moordown, B'mth BH9 3BY
Tel: 01202 528811
www.stwalburgas.bournemouth.sch.uk

THE PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED FROM FRIDAY 22ND DECEMBER UNTIL 9.30AM ON WEDNESDAY 3RD JANUARY 2018.

SCHOOL FORMS... Please be aware that the closing date for Primary school forms is 15th January 2018!

DATE FOR YOUR DIARY - Quiz Night in aid of the SHINE appeal on Saturday 13th January 2018 in St. Edmund Campion hall at 7pm for a prompt start at 7.15pm. Tickets £6.50 to include a Fish & Chip Supper. Raffle prizes welcome please. To book a table of 6, please phone Margaret Sullivan on 07552 074135.

