



# St Mary's Church, Portchester



## Sunday 28th December 2025

### The Holy Innocents

At St Mary's we are a people of Prayer, learning and growing in faith together.  
Our vision is to be a caring and welcoming church family who reach out with  
the love of God into our local community and the world

#### The Clergy

##### **Vicar**

Rev Canon Dr Ian Meredith  
02392 375422 / irev@ymail.com  
Vicar's day off: Monday

##### **Curate**

Rev Elizabeth Pearn  
curate@stmary-portchester.org.uk

#### Honorary Assistant Priests

Rev Anne Boggust

Rev Adam Gay

Rev Phil Hiscock

Rev Canon Trevor Hubble

Rev Philip Parker-Osler

Contact details for all assistant clergy are in the Parish Directory or via the Parish Office

***For Churchwardens, Readers and other contacts see 'About Us' on our website***

##### **PARISH OFFICE**

##### **Parish Administrator**

Chris Hayes  
Portchester Parish Hall, Assheton Court PO16 9PY  
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[www.stmary-portchester.org.uk](http://www.stmary-portchester.org.uk)

[www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Church-Portchester](https://www.facebook.com/St-Marys-Church-Portchester)  
[Instagram @stmaryschurchportchester](https://www.instagram.com/stmaryschurchportchester)

##### **St Mary's Tea Room**

[facebook.com/stmarystearoom](https://facebook.com/stmarystearoom)



# St Mary's Church, Portchester



## This Sunday

### **8.00am Holy Communion**

Celebrant & Preacher: Rev Elizabeth Pearn

### **10.30am Parish Eucharist**

Celebrant: Rev Trevor Hubble

Preacher: Richard Gunton

### **Collect for The Holy Innocents**

O Almighty God, who out of the mouths of babes and sucklings hast ordained strength, and madest infants to glorify thee by their deaths: Mortify and kill all vices in us, and so strengthen us by thy grace, that by the innocence of our lives, and constancy of our faith, even unto death, we may glorify thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### **SUNDAY'S READINGS**

Jeremiah 31:15-17  
1 Corinthians 1:26-29  
Matthew 2: 13-18

#### **NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS**

Isaiah 60:1-6  
Ephesians 3:1-12  
Matthew 2:1-12



# Dates for This Week



**St. Mary's will be open daily from 10am –4pm**

**Monday 29 December**

*MPR: Psalm 19/Jonah 1*

**Tuesday 30 December**

*MPR: Psalm 113/Jonah 2*

**Wednesday 31 December - New Year's Eve**

*MPR: Psalm 102/ Jonah 3-4*

**Thursday 1 January 2026 - New Year's Day**

*MPR: Psalm 103/Romans 2:17-end*

**Friday 2 January**

*MPR: Psalm 18:1-30/Ruth 1*

**Saturday 3 January**

*MPR: Psalm 127/Ruth 2*

9.00am Ladies Breakfast - Parish Hall

**Sunday 4 January - Feast of the Epiphany**

8.00am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Eucharist

11.30am Later Morning Service with Communion

Morning Prayer will re-commence on Wednesday 7 January  
2026

# This Week's Prayers

*Please remember the following in your prayers:*



**For this parish:** Give thanks for all those who took copy of J. John 's booklet "More than a Christmas Carol" at the various services, and that seeds of searching will be sown in hearts. Pray for our new Alpha course starting on 20th January, that some from the Christmas services will attend.

**For other churches in the Fareham Deanery:** this Sunday, we will be praying for the parish of **St John's Locks Heath**.

**For our Parish (Portchester and Port Solent)** — Sandport Grove, Lansdowne Avenue, Laverock Lea, Marina Keep and Kilmiston Drive.

**For the world around us:**

Pray for all refugees and migrants displaced by wars and civil unrest. Pray for the safety and support of medical staff in war-torn places. Give thanks for the recent greater distribution of aid and supplies. Pray for the hungry and homeless throughout the world.

**For those who are ill or recovering** – –Shirley Stewart, Eileen Parker, Thelma Lewis, Ethan Smith, Caroline Cosgrove, Peter Battley, Kate Hanley, Stuart Tyler, Hazel Young, Malcolm Greenall, Gwen Meatyard, Julian Cole, Sophie Carnaghan, Baby River Fry, Jackie Scadden and Paul Wallen.



**TODAY** - There will be two services today, 8.00am & 10.30am

**Saturday 3 January** - New later time of 9.00am start for 2026, Ladies Breakfast at The Parish Hall. Guest speaker will be Eric Standen on the subject of Oswald Chambers. All Ladies are welcome.

**Sunday 4th January** - Feast of the Epiphany, we return to our normal three services today, 8.00am Holy Communion, 9.30am Parish Eucharist and 11.30am Later Morning Service

**Tuesday 6th January** - A new Bible Study group will commence today, starting at 7.00pm in church. Please contact Steve Oliver for more details.

**Wednesday 7th January** - 12.00 noon. The funeral will be held of Janet Lynn in church. All welcome.

**Wednesday 7th January** - Slow Stitch Club meet at The Parish Hall at 2.00pm. Contact Marilyn Nash for details.

**Friday 9th January** - Skittle Evening - Tickets are now on sale for our first social event of the new year. Starting at 6.00pm, enjoy an evening of skittles. with a bring & share buffet. Just £5 a ticket, available from the Tea Room, Parish Office or the QR code on the poster.

**Saturday 10th January** - Men's Breakfast, starting at 8.00am in church,. Guest speaker with be Ian Millet. All Men are welcome.

**Friday 16th January**- Prayers for the Persecuted Church meet at 10 Portchester Heights. All are welcome.

**Sunday 18th January**- 4.00pm, Cafe Church, Informal worship for all the family.

**Sunday 18th January**- 6.00pm, Christian Unity Service to be held at Portchester Methodist Church.

**Friday 23 January**- Burns Night Supper. Join us for a celebration of Robert Burns, 6.30pm in church. 3 Course meal with wine or soft drinks. Please see Richard Andrews for more information. There is a sign up sheet on the welcome table. Only 60 places are available and over half have already been taken.

**Alpha Course**- The next Alpha course will start on Tuesday 20 January 2026 at 6.45pm in the church. Please contact Jeff Gennings for further information or to book a place ~ [jeffgennings@gmail.com](mailto:jeffgennings@gmail.com)

**"Word for Today"** the popular daily devotional booklet is available free of charge on the welcome table, and includes a copy of the sermon preached by the Vicar to introduce this on Sunday 7th December.

**Parish Office Christmas Closure** - The Parish Office will be closed from 1.00pm 24 December until 9.00am 2 January. Emails and answerphone will be checked during this time. Anything urgent please phone 07999 818966

**Support St Mary's and the Environment!** We're excited to share that St Mary's is now part of Recycle4Charity. By bringing your empty printer cartridges to the Parish Office, you'll be helping to protect the planet while also raising funds for the church. Every box of returned cartridges generates valuable income for our parish. We have already received £25 from Recycle4Charity.



**Want to make a donation? You can now [click here](#) to make an online donation to St Mary's Church.**