

# SACRED HEART OF JESUS & ST. PETER THE APOSTLE

356 London Road, Waterlooville, PO7 7SR

[www.waterlooville-catholic.org.uk](http://www.waterlooville-catholic.org.uk)

*Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity no. 246871*



**Parish Priest: Rev. Mgr. Canon Jeremy Garratt**

**Parish Secretary: Susan Siou**

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**Parish Office Hours: Monday 9am-12.30pm, Tuesday-Friday 9am-2.30pm**

**Mass Offerings & Housekeeping: Lisa Wingrove-Cross**

**Monday 9am-3pm, Thursday & Friday 9am-4pm**

**Parish Centre Manager & Bookings: Nina McCormack**

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Corona Newsletter 037a

Boxing Day 2020

## **SPECIAL EDITION!**

Forgive me for bothering you on Boxing Day when I'm sure you've better things to do than read a 'round robin', like walk off your Christmas dinner and write your 'thank you' cards, but I just had to write to thank all of you who sent cards, wonderful and generous presents and Christmas offerings. Yesterday was rather busy so I've only just finished opening the presents people have so kindly sent in and, as always, I am deeply touched by your kindness and generosity. I hope to write individually to as many people as possible, but, inevitably, some labels get separated from their relevant gift and sometimes it's difficult to identify people from their writing or if they just sign themselves 'John' as it could be one of many possible donors. So, I hope you might accept this message as a 'carpet' thank-you to everyone who has expressed such kindness to me over Christmas and, indeed, throughout the year, but also to all who have expressed their condolences over the loss of my brother Tim. Paul has also asked me to extend his gratitude and thanks to those of you who included him on your Christmas gift list. He has some work to put in to do justice to the lemon drizzle cakes and cashew nuts Father Christmas brought.





As you probably know, there is a new resident at the Presbytery, and Ben would like to express his heartfelt thanks to those of you who also sent him gifts. As you can see, he enjoyed unwrapping them. He had lots of fun with squeaky toys and wanted to sample all the food items, some of them very smelly, and had to be persuaded to stagger his consumption over time. Needless to say, he was very excited with all the

presents and just like a child in his enthusiasm to tear open the wrappings.

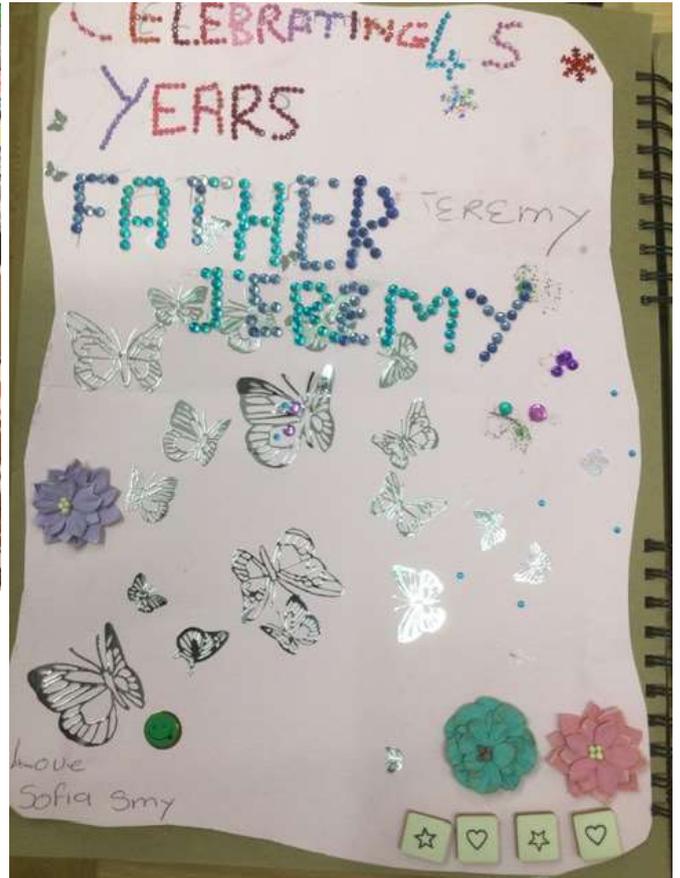
This strange year has made impossible all sorts of events and commemorations. In my case, my 70<sup>th</sup> birthday and the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my ordination both fell within the first total lockdown period so I didn't get to celebrate them. Unbeknown to me, St Peter's had not let these events go unmarked. They worked very hard to create some lovely artwork for both



occasions and were twice frustrated in being able to present me with it at school, so it was the most wonderful surprise get a beautifully wrapped box from Mr Cunningham just before Christmas. The package was so beautifully made, it felt wrong to unwrap it and destroy the artistry, so I left opening it to the very end. Imagine my surprise when I found a beautiful album with the most imaginative and colourful artistic contributions from all the children. I think it is the best present I've ever

received. The children and teachers have clearly worked very hard to give of their best. Some of the cards had lovely messages which brought a tear to my eye and were really undeserved: "Thank you for being a funny and nice priest"; "Happy birthday to the most amazing priest ever!"; "I love your enthusiasms in church and the stories you tell in the homily and when we come back from liturgy" (I'm getting this one to write my obituary); "45 years of changing lives"...etc. Mindblowing! Some flattered me by writing that I didn't look a day over 30, 50 or 60, and, for some reason, bottles of beer featured frequently in the children's drawings, with 'Bishop's Finger' an obvious favourite! The stone portrait at the top of the page, by Calin

(Year 4) is a very good likeness of me, especially after Christmas dinner. The cover features a brilliant portrait of me by Islwyn (Year 6), and some of the other works of art are shown below. You can imagine, I was overwhelmed by this and thank Mr Cunningham, brilliant art teacher, Mrs Pearson and the dedicated staff and amazing children of St Peter's for this book which I will treasure all my life.



This amazing deer's head was made by Rosie who's only in Year 1!!  
A bright future as a taxidermist awaits you Rosie

Thanks again to everyone for your kindness and wonderful support. May the New Year turn the page for all of us and bring as much joy and happiness as this year has brought the opposite.

*Fr Jeremy*

