



CORPUS CHRISTI WITH ST. JOSEPH PARISH



PARISH PRIEST Fr. Rinda Emmanuel Bamuh

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FACEBOOK: Corpus Christi and St. Joseph Parish in Portsmouth

Also: St. Joseph's Church, Baffins

PARISH WEBSITE: <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/corpus-christi-with-st-joseph/>

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St Joseph Hall Booking: sjhallbookings@gmail.com or phone the office

Parish Safeguarding Ministers

Corpus Christi: Shelagh Card: **St. Joseph's:**

PLEASE NOTE: Any of the above can be contacted via the Parish Office

2nd Sunday of Lent – 16th March 2025

COME AND INVITE YOUR FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS

Readings of the Day

1st Reading: Genesis 15:5-12. 17-18

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 26:1. 7-9. 13-14

(Response): **The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

2nd Reading: Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father

From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard:

"This is my beloved Son, listen to him".

Glory to you, O Christ, Wisdom of God the Father.

Gospel: Luke 9:28b - 36

The Lord In Whom We Put Our Faith

Like Abraham, our father in faith, we are called by God to a new homeland. We are not to rest in the material comforts of this world, but to move onwards towards the land of promise, where the Lord in whom we put our faith will transfigure our mortal bodies into the likeness of his glorified body.

WEEKLY MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 15th: 6 pm (SJ): For the intentions of the people of the Parish

Sun 16th: 9 am (SJ):

11 am (CC): For the 55th Wedding Anniversary of
Tom & Maureen Blair

Mon 17th: 9:30 am (CC): For the intentions of the Irish Community

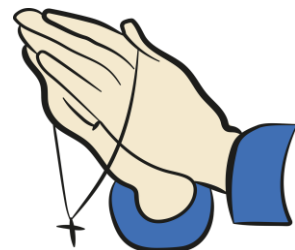
Tue 18th:

Weds 19th: 7 pm (CC): For the wellbeing of a dear friend

Thurs 20th: 9:30 am (SJ):

Fri 21st: 9 am (CC):

Mass intentions can be offered by filling the mass intention envelopes at the back of the church and put in the offertory basket or can be handed to the priest or secretary.



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Sunday Reflection

THEME: ARE YOU AN ENEMY OF THE CROSS OF CHRIST?

We are all children of God from different parents and families, backgrounds, cultures, mentalities, etc. As children of God, we are called to live the kind of life He is inviting us to live. Unfortunately, this is not always the case because some of us rather live like enemies of the cross of Christ.

St. Paul brings this out in the second reading of today when he cries out: "I have told you often, and I repeat it with tears, there are many who are behaving as the enemies of the cross of Christ" (Phil 3:18). What will it entail to live as an enemy of the cross of Christ? St. Paul goes on to name three things that some members of the Philippian church were doing that caused them to be living as enemies of the cross of Christ:

1. They were those who cherished food above every other thing and had made foods into their own gods. In other words, their god was their stomach which they spent all their time trying to satisfy. We too can be too focused on feeding the body that we forget God and his work. I have seen it here in England how people are too busy to make ends meet and so don't have the least time for the things of God. It's a pity.
2. Still linked to the first class are those who are proud of things they should be ashamed of. For example, a man happy to have beaten the wife, or a young boy being proud among his friends for going out or sleeping with several girls, or someone being proud of getting drunk, etc. These are things they should be ashamed of. This shows how values have been reversed.
3. Finally, those who concentrate their minds on thinking of earthly things. No focus on spiritual and heavenly things. In other words, those who moved with their heads downwards. Many of us might find ourselves caught up with this aspect in our lives especially when we create no time for God.

These are things that were chopping deeply into the heart of the Philippian Church and were struggling to destroy the community. That is why St. Paul reminds them to strive daily to be united in following the rules he gave them. In doing this, they should be able to look for role models, study them and try to copy their examples. This has always been a Christian practice right from the onset to copy the lives of those who have lived an exemplary life on earth. This accounts for the presence and use of Christian names in the Church which we are called to give to our children and they in turn are called to emulate their lifestyles daily.

When St. Paul recommends the above, those who haven't made themselves enemies of the cross of Christ are those whose homeland is heaven. Therefore, we need to work hard daily waiting for the Lord Jesus Christ who is coming to transfigure our wretched bodies into copies of his own glorious body. It is the kind of transfigured body of Christ we find in the gospel of today. Jesus takes three of his disciples: Peter, James, and John up the mountain from where he was transfigured in their presence

Moses and Elijah appeared and were talking with him in that scene. It was so beautiful that Peter said "Master, it is wonderful for us to be here; so let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah" (Lk 9:33). This in effect is to tell us that when we focus on becoming friends of God rather than his enemies, we have a glorious future awaiting us. We must strive to do this daily. This is particularly important because just as Abraham entered a covenant with God in the first reading and God promised him abundant blessings, so too we have entered a covenant with God at our baptism that brings abundant blessings on us as well. We don't need to spoil these blessings by a sinful way of life that makes us enemies of the cross of Christ. This is what St. Paul admonishes when he says "do not give way but remain faithful in the Lord." We can only be faithful if we accept the cross of Christ and come follow him.

Lent gives us an opportunity to reflect and see how far we have made ourselves enemies of Christ. It gives us also the chance to amend and come back to God with all our hearts; fasting, weeping, mourning, prayers and almsgiving. May we strive today and always to imitate the lives of those who became friends of Christ so that we too are friends rather than enemies of the cross of Christ.



FURTHER NOTICES:

Mass and Lenten Talk at St. Joseph on Tuesday 25th March 2025. There will be mass on the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 6pm followed by a Lenten talk in the hall thereafter. This is part of our working together with the Friars initiative and we call on as many of us to be present to benefit from this great venture. Come along with others to benefit from the life of Duns Scotus.

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FINANCE & MORE

COLLECTIONS/INCOME 09/03/2025

ST. JOSEPH: Loose plate £90.93, Envelopes £33 and Hall Rent £808

CORPUS CHRISTI: Loose plate £217.64, Envelopes £32, Coffee 10.75, Candles £10.26 and Stole fee £30

STANDING ORDERS FEBRUARY 2025 £1,344

FINANCIAL APPEAL: We need your financial help to run our parish all the time and now more than ever before. You can help towards the repairs by either using our account name, **Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Corpus Christi & St Joseph**, sort code is **30-93-04** and account number **00884996** or the online giving page for the parish at: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/portsmouth-corpus-christi--st-joseph-catholic-parish>

Donations to Bamenda in the orange/yellow buckets for November & December was £82.14.
Thank you to all contributors. Don't forget to put your loose change in the buckets.

100 CLUB

New members are welcome as there are three numbers available now, 9, 38 & 73. Please see Hubert or Jenny if you want to join.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES AND TALK: Over the weekend of 15th/16th (SJ) and 23rd (CC) of March 2025 we will be giving out Gift Aid envelopes and hopefully signing up some new people and also some people increasing their contributions to the Parish. There will be a talk at both churches explaining why it is so important to give by Gift Aid.

CAFOD LENT APPEAL – FAMILY FAST DAY

COLLECTION: Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You'll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call us on 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB This will take place this Saturday at 10 am until 11.30 am. The next one will be Saturday, 5 April, in the hall at St. Joseph's

DAILY MASSES

ST. JOSEPH: Adoration at 8:30 am followed by Mass at 9:30 am in English on Thursdays. On Saturdays 5 pm adoration followed by 6 pm mass and 9 am mass on Sundays.

Adoration: 11 am - 1:30 pm Monday to Friday (Most days with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration).

Holy Hour: 7pm - 8pm Monday to Friday (with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, Vespers (in Latin), Rosary and Benediction).

LATIN MASS COMMUNITY: 7am daily and 11:15 am on Sundays at St Joseph.

CORPUS CHRISTI: Adoration at 8.30 am followed by Mass at 9:30 am on Mondays and Fridays and adoration at 6 pm on Wednesdays followed by Mass at 7 pm to allow workers to have a chance to attend weekday masses. On Sundays at 11 am.

CHURCH TIMES FOR PRIVATE PRAYERS DAILY:

Corpus Christi: 9 am – 11 am on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays

CONFESSIONS

ST. JOSEPH: 8:30 am on Thursdays and Sundays and 5 pm on Saturdays

CORPUS CHRISTI: 6 pm on Wednesdays and 8:30 am on Mondays and Fridays.

SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES FOR 2024/2025

- BAPTISMAL PREPARATION SESSION:** This will be on Saturday 14th of June 2025 and 11th of October 2025 in St Joseph Hall at 11 am.
- FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM 2024/25:** Next session will be today Sunday 16th of March 2025 at 9:15 am.
- CONFIRMATION:** Next session on Friday 21st of March 2025 at the Cathedral at 6pm.
- RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:** The next session will be on Thursday 20th of March in Corpus Christi Presbytery at 6 pm.

CATECHISTS LENT DAYS OF PRAYER, FORMATION AND NETWORKING

The Vicariate for Evangelisation will be hosting three online events during Lent for Catechists across the diocese. These events offer a chance to connect with other catechists, share experiences, and find inspiration to hand on the faith in our parishes. Each event will begin at 7:30 PM and last for one hour. Catechists can choose from the three events based on their area of catechesis:

Thursday 13th March (Children's Liturgy and First Holy Communion)

Thursday 20th March (Marriage Preparation and Baptism)

Thursday 3rd April (Confirmation and RCIA)

To sign up for these events, please go to <https://forms.office.com/e/VkCdj1SWzA>.

CONTINUATION OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH FINANCES: Could you heat your house for £1 a week? Probably not, so think about the size of the churches and how much it costs to heat them so that you are warm when you attend Mass. Because St. Joseph's has not been open for two years, we have no bills for comparison, but two years ago, before we were shut down, the bill was more than £900 for three months for St. Joseph's and over £900 a month for Corpus Christi plus approx £1,400 in standing orders – the weekly collection for both churches is in the region of £300 or less. We'll leave you to do the sums, but the income is nothing like the expenditure (and that is only for the gas, let alone everything else!). We all know that gas and electricity prices have rocketed recently so we are expecting a hefty bill in March.

We are coming to the time of year when we give out Gift Aid envelopes for the next 12 months. This year, we are not only appealing for people to consider taking out a standing order instead of envelopes, but for those people who already have standing orders, to increase them. Many of you will have been in the scheme for years and never increased the amount you give. Could you give another £5 a month or more perhaps? Every little helps.

JUBILEE PLANNING MEETING OUTCOME

On Monday 3rd Feb. 2025 at SJ church at 7pm, we had a meeting to plan the parish activities during this jubilee year, Pilgrims of Hope. At the end of the meeting, the following was decided: The Jubilee prayer and the prayer of hope will be printed and laminated and used for prayers in our churches throughout the jubilee year.

1. First Friday adoration to be done in our parish churches after masses from 10am to 6pm. Parishioners encouraged to sign up for adoration time slots.
2. 9th March 2025 (First Sunday of Lent) will be the launching of the Jubilee year in our parish.
3. Parish Jubilee celebration at the cathedral shall surely be on Ascension Thursday (29th May 2025). Necessary arrangements towards this shall be made and concrete programme communicated later by parish
4. Jubilee retreat: Will take place on Saturday 29th March 2025 at the Dominican Sisters in Sway from 10 am to 4 pm. Parishioners are encouraged to sign up.
5. Jubilee pilgrimage shall take place in October and either Walsingham or Ladywell will be our pilgrimage site.
6. Jubilee faith in action plan. We are all encouraged to put into practice our corporal works of mercy; to feed the hungry, visit the sick, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, etc.
7. Closing of the jubilee year in Advent 2025

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITIES INCLUDING:

Colin Green, Sonia Hopwood, John Micallef, Michael Owen, Sheila Heaward, David Grant, Nicky Waldren, Janet Lentieul, Helen White, Dawn Hurst, Eileen & Joe McGannon, Vanessa Sharman, Debbie Gray, Jenny Pearce, Colin Card, Angie Sharma, Aileen Mary Sullivan, Lolo Kelly, Leonard Donegan, Tom & Joan Maguire, Ellen MacKay, John Clarke, Maureen Floyd, Philip Lush, Margaret & Brian Boland, Jim Cuffe, Giuseppe Mascia, Kamila Rogoz, Pam Farr, Terry Walmsley, Pretty Mukuhlane, Clare Hill, Frances & Ron Little, Anna Pagano, Margaret New and Sean New.

Please send names of sick & housebound parishioners so that we can add them to this list.

IF YOU HAVE ASKED FOR PRAYERS AND NOW WISH THESE PEOPLE TO BE REMOVED FROM THE LIST, PLEASE EMAIL THE PARISH OFFICE.

PARISH RETREAT: Parish Retreat at Dominican Sisters, Sway, on Saturday, 29th March. Please sign up as soon as possible as the list will be taken down on Monday 18th March 2025. Per person is £15 and we shall have a second collection on Sunday 23rd March 2025 to support those going. We look forward to car sharing and ask those who want to help out to indicate, so we can do the distribution of persons by the 20th of March 2025.

CONTACTLESS PAYMENT IN THE PARISH: As part of the future parish, we are being encouraged to sign up for the Dona contactless payment scheme, which will be operational in all the churches of our new parish. The arrangements for this have already been made and by next month, God willing, the contactless payment scheme will be operational in the parish. We would be able to use this scheme to pay for votive candles, offerings, mass intentions, stole fees, donations, etc.

LAUNCHING OF JUBILEE YEAR, 1st SUNDAY OF LENT:

Jubilee prayer and the prayer of hope bookmark will be given out today Sunday 9th of March and will be said after every mass throughout the jubilee year.

LENT SEASON: The season of Lent has begun. During this time we will be having rosary, vespers and Benediction beginning at 6pm every Sunday. All are invited.

YOUR PRAYERS are asked for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, who is seriously ill in Hospital in Italy.

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