



CORPUS CHRISTI WITH ST. JOSEPH PARISH

CHARITY NO: 1199568



PARISH PRIEST Fr. Rinda Emmanuel Bamuh

CORPUS CHRISTI OFFICE 21 Gladys Ave. Portsmouth PO2 9AZ

Tel. 023 9266 0927 (Emergency calls: TXT 07424 018519)

PARISH SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER: Jenny Elliott

OFFICE HOURS: 9 AM - 4 PM (Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri)

ST. JOSEPH'S, Tangier Road, Copnor PO3 6JL

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/>

YOU TUBE: Corpus Christi with St. Joseph Parish

(Email) ccsj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Marian Franciscans at St. Joseph

(Tel) 023 9283 1245 (Email) stjosephsmarianhouse@gmail.com

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

3rd Sunday of Advent – 14th December 2025

COME AND INVITE YOUR FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS

Readings of the Day

1st Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6. 10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:6-10

(Response): **Come, Lord, and save us.**

2nd Reading: James 5:7-10

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia.

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he has sent me
to proclaim good news to the poor.**

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

The Joy Of Expectancy

At his coming Christ fulfilled the expectations of the prophets. He made the blind see again, the lame walk, and the lepers clean. We must not lose heart in face of all the evils of the world, for we too have a glorious expectation. Come, Lord Jesus, and save us.

WEEKLY MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 13 th	6 pm(CC):	For the intentions of the people of the parish
Sun 14 th :	9 am (SJ):	RIP of Derek Hopkins
	11 am (CC):	Birthday thanksgiving of Jackline Kimani
Mon 15 th :	9:30 am (CC):	RIP of Kathleen Coughlan FM
Tues 16 th :		
Weds 17 th :	7 pm (CC):	
	3 pm (CC):	Divine Mercy
Thurs 18 th :	9:30 am (SJ):	
Fri 19 th :	9:30 am(CC):	RIP of Ron Rumbold FM
	3 pm (CC):	Divine mercy

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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ccsj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Sunday Reflection

THEME: ARE YOU THE ONE WHO IS TO COME, OR HAVE WE TO WAIT FOR SOMEONE ELSE?

The Jews awaited a Messiah who was to come and bring the day of the Lord's judgment and free them from Roman domination. John was to be the precursor, the one to prepare all and lead them to the Messiah. He did this so well but finds himself today in doubt and has to send his disciples to find out if really Christ was the one they were expecting.

John's doubts arose from the fact that the Jewish understanding of the Messiah was to be one who will bring about terrible things: was to make men's flesh creep, was to be a severe judge, one who would cut down useless trees, would sweep clean the threshing floor, and separate the grain from the chaff and burn all that was not clean and pure. All this was a result of their understanding of an imminent coming of the messiah.

Unfortunately, the messiah was one who didn't condemn sinners but welcomed them, he did not sweep away the unjust but dined with them. In short, he destroys nothing but tries to repair. By this token, John is confused and needs to understand whether Jesus is the one or they needed another person. When John's disciples asked Jesus: "Are you the one who is to come, or have we got to wait for someone else", Jesus' response confirms his inaugural speech: "Go back and tell John what you hear and see; the blind see again, and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised to life and the Good News is proclaimed to the poor" (Mt 11:4-5).

That is what Christ is coming to us this Christmas to do. Do not remain in doubt about whether he is the Messiah. He has come and is coming again to make us see, to make us hear, to make us walk, to make us listen to his word. Nothing should deter us from receiving him. The example of hope given to the Israelites in the first reading by Isaiah in the moment of defeat in Israel's history should be the same kind of hope we carry along today and always despite the challenges we might be going through.

No matter what is happening to us, we should follow the three admonitions of St. James in the second reading of today:

1. To be patient and never lose heart no matter what is happening (James 5:7, 8).
2. Not complaining about our situation or others (James 5:9).
3. Submitting with patience to God as the prophets did (James 5:10).

May Christ coming this Christmas help us to depend on him more despite our doubts and challenges in life.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME 2025

PENITENTIAL SERVICES

Corpus Christi: 6pm Wednesday 17th Dec. 2025 **St.**

Joseph: 6pm Thursday 18th Dec. 2025

CHRISTMAS CAROLS AND MASSES

Wednesday 24th Dec 2025

St. Joseph: 5 pm carol service and 6pm mass

Corpus Christi: 8pm carol service and 9pm mass

Latin mid night mass at St. Joseph by the friars

Thursday 25th Dec. 2025

St. Joseph: 9am: English mass

11:15 am: Latin mass by the friars

Corpus Christi: 11am: English mass

POST CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

Friday 26th Dec 2025 9:30 am **(CC)** Altar servers' mass of

St. Stephen/Award of medals

11:15 am **(SJ)** Latin Mass by the Friars

END OF YEAR THANKSGIVING & NEW YEAR'S MASSES

Wednesday 31st Dec 2025 End of year thanksgiving masses

St. Joseph: 6pm English mass

Corpus Christi: 8pm English mass

Friars at SJ: New Year's Eve Prayer Vigil in St. Joseph's from 11pm with adoration and Benediction at Midnight.

Thursday 1st January 2026: Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

St. Joseph: 9am: English mass

11:15 am: Latin mass by the Friars

Corpus Christi: 11am English mass

**Merry Christmas to you from
Corpus Christi with St Joseph
Parish**

CHRISTMAS GRANDPARENTS AND PARISHIONERS: There will be a Christmas Tea party on Wednesday 17th of December 2025 at 1:45 pm in Corpus Christi Hall. We would like to invite our parishioners to join us for our annual Christmas afternoon of festive fun on the above date. You will be welcomed into our school to enjoy refreshments and cakes, with entertainment provided by some of the classes. We need to gauge numbers for this popular event so kindly ask that you call the school on 02392 661818 by the morning of Tuesday 16th if you wish to attend.

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FINANCE & MORE

COLLECTIONS/INCOME 07/12/2025

ST. JOSEPH: Loose plate £84.64, Envelopes £33.55 and Hall Rent £1,494

Contactless Collection: (The machine has been out of action for the last week or so)

CORPUS CHRISTI: Loose plate £95.63, Envelopes £45, Candles £13.19, World Missions £5, Clergy Assistance Fund £2, Coffee £11.95, Bamenda £5, Cathedral £ £2 and Wintershall £34

Contactless Collection: General £25, Mass Intentions £20 & New Heating £10

Online Donation: General £212, Mass Intentions £51, Votive Candles £6 & CC New Heating £30

STANDING ORDERS NOVEMBER £2455

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-corporus-christi--st-joseph-catholic-parish>

Donations to Bamenda in the orange/yellow buckets for September & £189.00. Thank you to all contributors. Don't forget to put your loose change in the buckets and you can now use the contactless payment machine/QR code in both churches to donate to Bamenda.

CHRISTMAS SALE

Some of our young parishioners from Corpus Christi have organised a Christmas sale for the four Sundays of Advent for church funds.

They would appreciate donations of religious cards, unbroken toys, stocking filler gifts, and Christmas decorations. Thank you. (gifts for sale can be given to Terry, Geraldine or Liz who sit at the back of the church on a Sunday.)

CHRISTMAS OFFERING: The Christmas Collection is an opportunity for Parishioners to acknowledge the dedication, service and witness our parish priests offer across our Diocese.

In addition to the usual ways of giving for this collection through envelopes (now available at the table by the main entrance) and DONA, donations may be received via our online giving page. This is now live on Give As You Live. Below is the link.

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/portsmouth-corporus-christi-and-st-joseph-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2025>

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 PROGRAMME FOR 2024/2025

- 1. RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:** If you are not a Catholic or have no religion and wants to become not a Catholic, you can join this program. So far, we have 5 persons currently doing the program. Others are also welcome to enrolled in this programme.
- 2. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM 2025/26:** Sixth session today Sunday 14th of December at 9:15 am in Corpus Christi Hall.
- 3. BAPTISMAL PREPARATION DATES FOR 2026:** There will be a baptismal preparation sessions at St Joseph Hall, Tangier Road Copnor PO3 6JL on the following dates:

Sat 17th Jan 2026

Sat 16th May 2026

Sat 19th Sept 2026

Sat 31st Oct 2026

NB: All Sessions start at 11.00am until 12.30.

RED MISSIO BOXES: Please leave them at the sacristy of St Joseph ready for collection or give it to Marion. For Corpus Christi, please give it to Terry or to the parish office. Thank you for your support.

CONTINUATION OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

WINTERSHALL NATIVITY

DECEMBER 20TH 2025

2.00pm

THIS TRIP IS NOW FULL

ITINERARY

Pick Up Times

St Joseph's Church 11.00am

Corpus Christi Church 11.15pm

We will be making a refreshment stop at Guildford Cathedral for those who wish to purchase lunch or beverages. Performance starts at 2.00pm lasting 90min. Transport up the steep hill is provided for the less able. Warm clothing and appropriate footwear is advisable. For more information go to www.wintershall.org.uk

THE MOVE TOWARDS ONE PARISH: Following some months of discussion by the planning group for the above, on which each of the current parishes is represented, the latest update is that a website will be created and cards distributed giving information about service times and activities throughout all the Catholic churches on Portsea island.

It was also suggested that the name for the proposed One Parish should be open to suggestions from all. "Christ the Light of the World" is one suggestion put forward. Please feel free to write down or email alternative suggestions to Father Emmanuel.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP IN 2026: The group meets every second Saturday at 10.30 am – 12 noon in the church hall at St. Joseph's. Not only is there time to meet up with others, have a coffee/tea and a piece of cake, there are activities, like quizzes, etc.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY AT ST. JOSEPH'S: As you are all aware, we were hoping to create a nativity tableau at the Carol service at St. Joseph's on Christmas Eve. Unfortunately, we only had three children volunteer for this, so it is not viable. A big apology to those three children and their families. Although there will be no Nativity this year, the Carol service will still go ahead.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Boxes for Christmas cards for distribution to fellow Parishioners will be available in the porch at St Joseph.

CHRISTMAS VOUCHERS: This is the last week we will be collecting Christmas shopping vouchers for our less fortunate families from Corpus Christi and St. Paul's Schools. No more than £5 please. We appreciate that this is a difficult time for all, but if you can spare £5 to purchase a supermarket shopping card when you do your weekly shopping, these families will be eternally grateful. Please put the card in the basket on the steps of the altar or in the weekly collection.

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

Karen, Sonia, John, Michael, Sheila, David, Nicky, Janet, Helen, Dawn, Eileen & Joe, Vanessa, Debbie, Jenny, Colin, Angie, Aileen Mary, Lolo, Leonard, Tom & Joan, Ellen, John, Maureen, Philip, Margaret & Brian, Jim, Giuseppe, Kamila, Terry, Pretty, Clare, Frances & Ron, Anna, Margaret, Sean, Leo and Tallieu family.

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.

GDPR (General Data Protection Regs):

To comply with data protection regulations, we are no longer allowed to identify people in the newsletter, on rotas etc, unless we have their written permission. Please take a consent form from the back of either church and sign it if you are willing for your full name (forename and surname) to put identified. This means that if you request a listing in the "prayers for the sick" in the newsletter, we will need to have permission either from the person themselves or a family member.

Baffins Pantry: Every Sunday, Janette collects the parcels left in the church for Baffins Pantry (just along Tangier Road from the church) and delivers them on Monday. She says: "Can I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued generosity towards the Pantry. They have asked us for Christmas goodies this month such as biscuits, chocs, puddings, etc. Let me thank you in anticipation and can I assure you the Pantry is always very grateful for our support". Janette

Parish Pilgrimage to Knock & Co. Mayo – Led by Fr. Rinda Emmanuel. 08th March 2026. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight from Heathrow or Luton, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Full use of leisure facilities. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock Shrine, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre & Kylemore Abbey. Irish music nightly. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact: Fr. Emmanuel to register your interest or complete the form to show your interest

CHRISTMAS DECORATION IN OUR CHURCHES: Thank you to all those who helped with the Christmas decorations this year. Have you ever thought "what do I do to help prepare the church for Christmas – maybe you'll help next year!"

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