



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) stjosephs Marianhouse@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

4th Sunday of Advent – 21st December 2025

COME AND INVITE YOUR FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS

Readings of the Day

1st Reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 23:1-6

(Response): **Let the LORD enter; he is the king of glory.**

2nd Reading: Romans 1:1-7

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son,

and they shall call his name Emmanuel – which means, God with us.

Gospel: Matthew 1:18-24

Mary's Child: The Emmanuel
God's choice rested on the
House of David which was to
bring forth the Emmanuel, the
God-with-us. But Mary's Child
was to belong to all the nations.
We are one of those nations
who, by God's call, belong to
Jesus Christ.

WEEKLY MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 20 th	6 pm(CC):	Fr Emmanuel's birthday intentions
Sun 21 st :	9 am (SJ):	Forn the wellbeing of Sophie, Tymek, their parents and grandparents
	11 am (CC):	Birthday thanksgiving of Wakuna
Mon 22 nd :	9:30 am (CC):	
Tues 23 rd :	Tanya's birthday intention	
Weds 24 th :	5 pm (SJ):	Carol Service
	6 pm (SJ):	
	8 pm (CC):	Carol Service
	9 pm (CC):	Birthday intention of Philomena Bamuh
Thurs 25 th :	9 am (SJ):	RIP of Fr Francis Isherwood FM
	11 am (CC)	
Fri 26 th :	9:30 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.



IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY EMAIL US on

ccsj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Sunday Reflection

THEME: EMMANUEL, GOD IS WITH US

We are in the last Sunday before Christmas and are gradually rounding off our preparations for welcoming the Son of Man into our lives at Christmas. Over the four Sundays of Advent, we have navigated the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love, respectively. God love, his own beloved son is coming to dwell with us. He is Emmanuel.

Beloved friends in Christ, today we gather around one of the most powerful names ever spoken in Scripture: Emmanuel — God is with us. We are neither talking as if God were with us in the past nor talking about a future reality in which God will be with us someday. But we are talking about God is with us — here, now, in this very moment in the person of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. This name is not merely a title; it is a declaration, a promise, and a revelation of God's heart toward humanity.

Emmanuel. Our long-awaited Messiah is Emmanuel, which means God is with us. During this fourth Sunday of Advent, we reflect on love, the love God has for us that causes him to turn against his own self so that he may reach out to us. It is that love that makes him merciful, compassionate, and caring to us. It is that love that made him forgive us every time we sin. It is that love that made him send his only begotten son to come and die for our sake. That is why Emmanuel, God with us, would be with us within the week in person as we celebrate his birth at Christmas.

The gift of God with us, Emmanuel, is the promise made known by the prophet Isaiah in the first reading of today. The Lord asked Ahaz to make a promise in the words: "Ask the Lord your God for a sign for yourself either from the depths of Sheol or from the heights above", but Ahaz will not accept to do so. His reverence of the Lord made him to revere him than to ask. Then the Lord in his infinite goodness promised Ahaz: "The Lord himself, therefore, will give you a sign. It is this: the maiden is with child and will soon give birth to a son whom she will call Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'" (Is 7:12-14).

As we have just seen in the closing verse of the above quotation (Isaiah 7:14), the prophet speaks to a nation trembling with fear, surrounded by enemies, and uncertain about tomorrow. Into that anxiety, God gives a promise: "The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Emmanuel." This promise came not when Israel was strong, but when they were weak. Not when they were faithful, but when they were faltering. Not when they felt God's nearness, but when they feared His absence. Emmanuel here therefore suggests that God steps into our waiting, our confusion, our fear — and says, "I am here."

God is with us always and is coming to be with us in a special way at Christmas. This is accounted for in the gospel of today, that he was born to us by Mary. Therefore, fulfilling the promise made long ago by Isaiah. What a

privilege! God has been coming to us every year in the person of his Son, Jesus Christ. But is Emmanuel really with us?

In Matthew 1:23, he declares that Jesus is the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy. God did not send an angel, a message, or a distant blessing. He came Himself. He came as a baby — vulnerable, dependent, wrapped in human flesh. He came into poverty, not privilege. He came into a manger, not a palace. Why? Because Emmanuel means God is not afraid of our humanity. He is not distant from our pain. He is not disgusted by our weakness. He is not intimidated by our brokenness. In Jesus, God says, "I will not save you from a distance. I will walk with you." He wants to be with us and share in our lives.

We need to check our lives and see whether Emmanuel is really with us. If God is with us, then sin cannot be part of us. Therefore, to make him be with us, we must shun sin and embrace the life of virtue. Sometimes I wonder whether Emmanuel is really with us when I see so many evil things happening in the world and propagated by Christians. We all, as Christians, have a common enemy, which we must fight to keep Emmanuel with us. That common enemy is the devil (sin) in all its forms. Let us not allow Emmanuel to pass us by because of our sinfulness.

This week, we shall have penitential services in our churches, and the sacraments will be brought to the sick in their homes, hospitals, care homes, etc. May we all find time this week to encounter Christ in the sacraments and prepare ourselves for his coming by particularly celebrating the sacrament of confession.

Emmanuel, God is with us, should dwell every day in our lives. This should be our prayer today and always.



IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY EMAIL US on

ccsj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

FINANCE & MORE

COLLECTIONS/INCOME 14/12/2025

ST. JOSEPH: Loose plate £83.12, Envelopes £18.55, Mass Stipend £20, Flowers £50 and Hall Rent £495

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

CORPUS CHRISTI: Loose plate £131.29, Envelopes £40, Candles £9.35 and Mass Stipend £20

Contactless Collection: General £15, Votive Candles £15 & CC New Heating £20

Online Donation: General £50, Votive Candles £5 & CC New Heating £10

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.

CRIB: This year's collection for the CRIB will be for The Friends of the Holy Land.

100 CLUB

Our Christmas draw will be today 21st of December 2025 at St Joseph Hall after the 9 am mass.

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>

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING VOUCHERS: Thank you to those who kindly gave shopping vouchers for the less well-off in our schools, Corpus Christi and St. Paul's. These were distributed evenly between the two schools.

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:** Next session will be on Sunday 4th January 2026 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.

CHRISTMAS SALE

Our Altar servers need £18 to achieve the fundraising goal they set themselves. This week after Mass will be a Christmas decoration sale with items priced at 20p, 50p, and £1 only. Help them achieve their goal!

CONTINUATION OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME 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 Yer'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**

THE MOVE TOWARDS ONE PARISH: Following some months of discussion by the planning group to this end, 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.

CHRISTMAS CARDS: Christmas cards can be left for distribution to fellow Parishioners in the porch at St Joseph.

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!

NO PARKING: There will be **NO PARKING** at Corpus Christi School car park during the Christmas break. Sorry for the inconvenience it may cause you.

IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY EMAIL US on

ccsj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk