



CORPUS CHRISTI WITH ST. JOSEPH PARISH

CHARITY NO: 1199568



PARISH PRIEST Fr. Rinda Emmanuel Bamuh

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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

3rd Ordinary Sunday – 25th January 2026

COME AND INVITE YOUR FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS

Readings of the Day

1st Reading: Isaiah 9:1-4

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 26:1. 4. 13-14

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

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia.

Jesus proclaimed the gospel of the kingdom
and healed every affliction among the people.

Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23

Jesus, The Light Of The World
The good news we have
heard is like a beacon light
which draws men irresistibly
to Christ. We must not be
content with lesser lights.

WEEKLY MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 24th: 6 pm(SJ): For the birthday intentions of Maria Souza

Sun 25th: 9 am (SJ): For the intentions of the people of the parish

11 am (CC): Thanksgiving & prayers for Missio/Red Box members

Mon 26th: 9:30 am (CC): Deceased members of Cuffe family

Tues 27th:

Weds 28th: 7pm (CC):

Thurs 29th: 9:30 am (SJ):

Fri 30th: 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.

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Sunday Reflection

THEME: CHRIST IS OUR LIGHT

Generally speaking, darkness is usually associated with evil, especially with the activities of the devil. It is a symbol of misery and adversity (Job 18:6, Ps 107:10), or a symbol of ignorance, superstition, vice (Is 9:2, 60:2; Mt 6:23), and death (Job 10:21). That is why darkness often brings fear, anxieties, worries, etc. This probably explains why films involving evil, magic, and similar themes are mostly shot at night. In our personal experiences of the night, I think many of us are afraid of the dark and find it very difficult or even impossible to move alone in the dark or sleep alone in a house. When faced with such situations, we tend to prefer the company of others for security.

On the other hand, light is generally associated with everything good. The Word of God, Truth, and Christians are referred to as the light. In our modern-day context, light has become linked to stardom and models. We strive daily to emulate these icons. We display their pictures everywhere—our rooms, books—and even imitate their tattoos on our own bodies. When we look at such stars, we aim to copy their style of dressing, speaking, walking, singing, and playing. In short, we want to be like them and identify with them daily in all aspects. We seek to mirror them because we desire to grow and become like them. However, these stars or models can be misleading and may lead us astray. Today, we are presented with the true light—Jesus Christ.

Today's readings remind us that Christ is our light; he is our star and our example. He is the light of the world, and just as we aim to imitate the lives of other earthly stars and models, so too we are called to imitate Christ in all we do, think, or say.

In today's first reading, we hear the prophet Isaiah delivering a prophecy: "The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in a land of deep shadow a light has shone." The question to ask is: Why does Isaiah say this? What kind of darkness is he talking about? Isaiah speaks these words after the Northern kingdom of Israel was taken into captivity by the Assyrians in 722 BC. At that time, the whole land was in terror; the city was in ruins, lives had been lost, and the people were forced into slavery. Having seen all this, Isaiah offers words of encouragement: the darkness and suffering will come to an end. He promises that a day of great joy and gladness is approaching. That joy will be like the happiness of harvest time, when people feast and sing because their stores are full, or like hunters sharing their spoils. Truly, the people living in darkness have seen a great light, and that fills them with happiness.

This prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled in today's gospel passage. It is this light that the apostles of Jesus recognised when Jesus began preaching his message of repentance in Galilee. When they heard Jesus' call to repentance, they left everything and followed him. They joined him in proclaiming the Good News about the kingdom of God and healing all kinds of diseases among the people.

Dear friends, Jesus Christ is my light; he is your light. He has come to draw us out of the darkness of sin, ignorance, fear, anxieties, worries, and other shadows. He has come to illuminate our path to the Kingdom of God. Just like the apostles whom he called, we have accepted him, the light, through our Baptism. That is why, at our Baptisms, we were given a lit candle to signify the new life we have received in Christ, which we are called to keep burning all day long. Therefore, as Christians, we are meant to be the light to others.

We follow the light when we do His will, preach His kingdom through our way of life, and invite others to share in this kingdom. When we follow Christ, our light, we become lights to others, and through our good example, they, in turn, follow Christ. We become lights to others when we empathise with them in moments of pain, when we give a listening ear to a brother or sister in crisis, and when we help someone among us who is in financial or material need. These are a few simple ways we can follow the light and be a light to others as well.

Could this be the case in my life? Some of us probably have rejected the light we embraced at the time of our baptism and thus remained in darkness. This is evident when our actions become a source of division rather than unity, gossip rather than protecting others' good names, sexual sins rather than a life of chastity, or all kinds of sins rather than goodness. May we pray for the graces to be strengthened and led by Christ, our light.

Volunteers Needed for Outreach Talks Initiative

We are re-launching the Outreach Talks programme at St Joseph's Church to share engaging topics connected to the Faith with both Catholic and non-Catholic neighbours. This important evangelising effort needs your support!

We are looking for volunteers from St Joseph's parish and the Friars communities to help organise distributing flyers, setting up the hall, serving teas and refreshments.

Your help can make these talks a success. If you can help, please contact the parish office or speak to a Friar after Mass. Please volunteer!

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FINANCE & MORE

COLLECTIONS/INCOME 18/01/2026

ST. JOSEPH: Loose plate £59.86, Envelopes £33.70, Heating £22.75, Flowers £25.60, CRIB £17.80 and Hall Rent £300

Contactless Collection: General £5

CORPUS CHRISTI: Loose plate £87.32, Envelopes £35, Christmas Tabletop Fundraising £320, Candles £10.10, Mass Stipend £15 and CRIB £28

Contactless Collection: General £15

Online Donation: General £15, CC New Heating £20 & Votive Candles £5

STANDING ORDERS DECEMBER £2178

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 November and December amounted to £118.39. 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.

We acknowledge, with thanks, a donation of £30, which will be added to the January/February figures.

100 CLUB RENEWAL: All annual subscriptions for 100 Club will conclude at the end of this month. Those who pay annually needs to renew their subscriptions. Our winners will receive:

	<u>MONTHLY DRAW</u>	<u>CHRISTMAS DRAW</u>
1 st Prize	£150	£300
2 nd Prize	£75	£200
3 rd Prize	£50	£100

Thank you for your support to the Parish.

DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH DIRECTORY 2026

These are now available and can be purchased from Angela Waldren (SJ)Or Jenny Elliott (CC) for £5 each. They are a great source of information

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

- RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:** If you are not a Catholic or have no religion and wants to become 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.
- FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM 2025/26:** Next session will be on Sunday 18th January 2026 at 9:15 am in Corpus Christi Hall.
- 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.

ST JOSEPH CHURCH: We will be singing the psalm and the alleluia every Sunday.

CONTINUATION OF ANNOUNCEMENTS



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.

SAFEGUARDING: Is there anyone in St. Joseph's who could take on the role of Safeguarding. If you can, please speak to Fr. Emmanuel or Angela Waldren. You don't need experience as training can be given.

SECOND COLLECTION FOR THE CATHEDRAL: Our cathedral is situated in the most deprived part of the diocese. The parish collection covers just over half of the ordinary running costs of £5,000 per week. Please support the second collection today Sunday 25th of January 2026. Never has this annual collection by parishes for the mother church of the diocese been more critical or needed. Thank you.

You can donate online using the attached QR code.



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

Over 60 Singers to Gather in Portsmouth for Major Gregorian Chant Course Beginning 10 January 2026

Portsmouth is set to resonate with the timeless sound of sacred music as more than 60 participants gather this Saturday, 10 January 2026, for the opening session of the Portsmouth Gregorian Chant Course, hosted at St John's Cathedral.

Bringing together both beginners and seasoned singers, this three-part workshop series offers a rare opportunity for participants to deepen their understanding of Gregorian chant, explore ancient repertoire, and develop interpretative skills under expert guidance.

A Public Sung Mass Featuring a 60-Voice Choir
The first workshop will culminate in a sung Mass at 15:00, during which course participants will form a choir of more than sixty voices to perform the chants they have studied. [The Mass, held at St John's Cathedral, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3HG, is open to the public.](#)

The Portsmouth Gregorian Chant Course consists of three workshops, held on the second Saturday of each month: 10 January, 14 February, and 14 March 2026.

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

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