



# CORPUS CHRISTI WITH ST. JOSEPH PARISH

CHARITY NO: 1199568



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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](mailto: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

## The Holy Family Jesus, Mary, Joseph – 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025

COME AND INVITE YOUR FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS

### Readings of the Day

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 127:1-5

(Response): **Blessed are all who fear the LORD, and walk in his ways.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Colossians 3:12-21

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia.

**May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts;  
let the message of Christ find a home with you.**

**Gospel:** Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

The Holy Family

We celebrate that  
Holy Family of  
Nazareth which is the  
model for all who fear  
the Lord and walk in  
his ways.

### WEEKLY MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 27<sup>th</sup>: 6 pm(CC): For the intentions of the people of the parish

Sun 28<sup>th</sup>: 9 am (SJ):

11 am (CC): For the wellbeing of Gerard Doyle

Mon 29<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 am (CC): For the wellbeing of Lily Farrel

Tues 30<sup>th</sup>:

Weds 31<sup>st</sup>: 6 pm (SJ):

8 pm (CC): Thanksgiving of Julie Ambada and family

Thurs 1<sup>st</sup>: 9 am (SJ):

11 am (CC):

Fri 2<sup>nd</sup>: 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

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH  
YEAR A 2025**

**(Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14; Ps 127; Col 3:12-21; Mt. 2:13-15, 19-23)**

**THEME: LIVING AS CHRISTIAN FAMILIES**

Christmas has always been a family feast, whether in Cameroon, England, or anywhere on this planet. It is a time when families try to come together and celebrate not only the joy of Christmas but also the joy of family life. This explains why those living away from their homeland and families always endeavour to return home during Christmas. The Church, aware of the family dimension of Christmas, offers us today the chance to celebrate family life. She encourages us to do this by emulating the example of the Holy Family—Jesus, Mary, and Joseph—of Nazareth. The family, as Christ restored it to its original form, is something holy, enduring, and monogamous. In this regard, He elevated the contract from which it originates to the dignity of a sacrament, thereby placing the family itself on the plane of the supernatural. Therefore, today presents us with the opportunity to strengthen what we may not always celebrate fully in our individual Christian families.

The family is the smallest yet most basic and vital society. The Christian family is supernatural because it originates from a sacrament. The ideals of a Christian family have always been shown to surpass those of a non-Christian family. The Christian family, as a small community, demonstrates itself as a great human community within the divine plan and reflects the Church, which is a larger family. Sadly, this ideal Christian family faces many challenges. In this light, the Holy Father, Pope Francis, said: “There is no perfect family. We do not have perfect parents, we are not perfect, we do not marry a perfect person or have perfect children. We have complaints from each other. We disappoint each other.” In the face of these imperfect families, we need the example of the Holy Family of Nazareth to serve as a light in the darkness of our families.

From the above, we realise that we all have a duty to work towards making our families better places for ourselves, our spouses, children, relatives, and friends. The readings of today encourage us in that regard. That is why the first reading highlights the responsibilities of all family members. We must recognise that the wife is neither a slave nor the property of her husband, but his partner. The children are not objects to be bought, sold, or disposed of at will through free choice. Children and all members of a family have their own unique roles to play in making the family a harmonious and peaceful environment. When everyone fulfils their role well, the family is like a choir in which each member sings their

Part, creating beautiful musical harmony.

To foster harmony within a family and ensure it functions well, today's readings offer us valuable guidance. The first reading urges children to show respect, obedience, and honour towards their parents. It also encourages them to support their parents in their old age; and I would add, always. These are core values that both spouses and children need. The second reading highlights the importance of love, compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience as essential virtues to cultivate in every family. It further emphasises the significance of forgiveness. Stressing the importance of forgiveness, I will include what the Holy Father Francis stated: “So there is no healthy marriage or healthy family without the exercise of forgiveness. Forgiveness is vital to our emotional health and spiritual survival. Without forgiveness the family becomes an arena of conflict and a stronghold of hurt. Without forgiveness, the family becomes ill. Forgiveness is the asepis of the soul, the cleansing of the mind and the liberation of the heart. Whoever does not forgive does not have peace in the soul nor communion with God. Hurt is poison that intoxicates and kills. Keeping heartache in the heart is a self-destructive gesture. It's autophagy. Those who do not forgive are physically, emotionally, and spiritually ill. That is why the family must be a place of life, not of death; Territory of cure and not of illness; Stage of forgiveness and not guilt. Forgiveness brings joy where sorrow has produced sadness; Healing, where sorrow has caused disease”.

But these virtues are not acquired from watching TV, playing games, or reading books. They require hard work and perseverance. That is why St. Paul urges us to teach and advise one another in all wisdom, doing so with gratitude in our hearts. Through this, our spouse and children shall come to know God, listen to his words, and follow his example.

Even when we work on these issues, I must urge you to be cautious. Building a Christian family faces many obstacles. Some identified dangers include: individualism, unfaithfulness, divorce, workaholism, selfishness, lack of concern, laziness or sloth, lying and blackmail, immorality or immodesty, sexual deviations, and a lack of respect for life. Therefore, we must pray for the spiritual renewal of our families, both human and Christian, across all nations, especially in our world today, which is becoming more advanced and increasingly marked by the signs and benefits of progress.

**MERY AND HAPPY CHRISTMAS SEADO TO YOU ALL**

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# FINANCE & MORE

## COLLECTIONS/INCOME 21/12/2025

**ST. JOSEPH:** Loose plate £79.60, Envelopes £38.90 and Christmas Offering £75

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

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Loose plate £106.44, Envelopes £10, Candles £18.87, Bamenda £10, Wintershall £34 and Christmas Offering £130

**Contactless Collection:** General £30, Christmas Offering £40 & CC New Heating £20

**Online Donation:** General £44.19, Christmas Offering £40 & CC New Heating £20

## **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**

**E:**

**Winner for the Christmas draws are:**

**1<sup>st</sup>: Gail Edwards**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: Patrick burke**

**3<sup>rd</sup>: Felicia Ogwuc**

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:** Next session will be on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> 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 17<sup>th</sup> Jan 2026**

**Sat 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026**

**Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2026**

**Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2026**

**NB:** All Sessions start at 11.00am until 12.30.

# CONTINUATION OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAMME 2025

### POST CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> Dec 2025** 9:30 am (CC) Altar servers' mass of St. Stephen/Award of medals

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

The enrolment mass went well and thanks to parents who brought food and drinks to celebrate after. May God bless you all.

Next year the enrolment shall be in St. Joseph Church.

### END OF YEAR THANKSGIVING & NEW YEAR'S MASSES

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

We encourage parents and especially those from the background where harvest thanksgiving is their tradition to do something great as they would normally have one back home.

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> 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**

## 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.** 08<sup>th</sup> 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

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.

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.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION AT CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH: This will be next Friday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2026 from 10 am till 6 pm. It will end with Benediction and mass. The volunteer's sheet is at the table at the back of the church.

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