



# CORPUS CHRISTI WITH ST. JOSEPH PARISH

CHARITY NO: 1199568



**PARISH PRIEST** Fr. Rinda Emmanuel Bamuh

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**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](mailto:ccsj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Marian Franciscans at St. Joseph**

(Tel) 023 9283 1245 (Email) [stjosephs Marianhouse@gmail.com](mailto:stjosephs Marianhouse@gmail.com)

**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

## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – 15<sup>th</sup> March 2026

**COME AND INVITE YOUR FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS**

### Readings of the Day

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** 1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7, 10-13

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 22:1-6

(Response): **The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Ephesians 5:8-14

**Gospel Acclamation:** Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will have the light of life.**

**Praise and honour to you, Lord Jesus.**

**Gospel:** John 9:1-14

Our Shepherd-King In This Valley Of Darkness

We walk in the darkness of this world, often assailed by fear and misgiving. But Christ, the Shepherd-King, the second David, lights up our way for us and cures our congenital blindness as he leads us to his kingdom.

### WEEKLY MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 14<sup>th</sup>: 6 pm(SJ): Thanksgiving to God for all graces received

Sun 15<sup>th</sup>: 9 am (SJ): For the intentions of the people of the parish

11 am (CC): For 56<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary of Tom & Maureen Blair

6 pm (CC): Rosary, Vespers and Benediction

Mon 16<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 am (CC): For the wellbeing of Jenny Pearce

Tue 17<sup>th</sup>:

Weds 18<sup>th</sup>: 7pm (CC):

Thurs 19<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 am (SJ):

Fri 20<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 am(CC): For the intentions of Jesus Youth UK Movement (25<sup>th</sup> year anniversary)

**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: GOODNESS TURNS SOUR

Today, the fourth Sunday of Lent, is also known as “Laetare Sunday.” This name comes from the first word of the entrance antiphon, which reads: “Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her, you who love her; rejoice with her, you who mourned for her, and you will find contentment at her consoling breast.” This Sunday invites us to rejoice because we are more than halfway through our preparations for Easter. Traditionally, the fourth Sunday of Lent was seen as a day of relief from the usual rigours of Lent. It was a day filled with hope, with Easter in sight. On this day, weddings, which were otherwise forbidden during Lent, could be performed. As we rejoice that our liberation is near, I would like us to remember that goodness can sometimes turn sour. Nevertheless, we should not cease doing good but rejoice even when it turns sour.

In the gospel, Jesus performs a miracle by healing a man born blind. He spat on the ground, made a paste with his spittle, and applied it over the man’s eyes, then asked him to go and wash in the Pool of Siloam. When he did this, he regained his sight. This would have been a cause for great rejoicing, seeing a blind man being made to see. Unfortunately, things turned sour because Jesus had healed on a Sabbath day and because the Pharisees did not want to recognise who Jesus was. So, they looked for ways to pin him down. They interrogated the healed man, his parents, and again the man just to gather evidence they could use against Jesus. Even though they had been seeing the blind man sitting and begging along the streets, Jesus’ miracle made them doubt whether the man had even been born blind. All this was because they refused to accept the work of God through Jesus. The unbelief of the Pharisees and Jews strengthened the faith of the man who had been healed from blindness, who defended Jesus’ miracle as coming from God. This also gave him the opportunity to remain faithful to Jesus.

We may also have had similar experiences where we did good to others, and all that resulted was something negative; something we have come to regret. Does this then mean we should avoid doing good because it might be misunderstood, or because bad things could happen as a result of our kindness? Not at all! We must continue to do good and carry out the deeds we are called to do, even in challenging moments. Our good actions are even more necessary now. There are lots of people around us who are sick, have just lost a loved one, live alone or in isolation, or are going through challenges in life that need someone to talk to. Such individuals need our help, and as Christians, we should be ready to sacrifice our lives to save others. This is the heroic virtue we are all called to emulate. This is not an

unfamiliar teaching because God sees things differently from humans. For example, in the first reading, Samuel saw Eliab, son of Jesse, and thought he was the one God had chosen to be king over Israel. But he was seeing through human eyes. God told him that he was not the one, and eventually David was anointed king. We need to learn to see with God’s eyes, which enables us to do the unthinkable.

As we are told in the second reading, we were once living in darkness and now are children of the light. The effects of light then must be seen in complete goodness, right living, and truth (Eph 5:9). Therefore, we must strive to discover the good that the Lord wants us to do today for others and go ahead to do them in season and out of season, welcomed or unwelcome (2 Tim 4:2). Don’t be afraid to do good because of the negative consequences that may follow. And always, let us rejoice in the Lord because of the good we do for others.

May the joy of this day shine in our hearts and empower us to continue doing the good things we should during this Lent. May our prayers, fasting, and almsgiving bring us closer to Christ through the good deeds we undertake each day.

**HEADTEACHER VACANCY AT CORPUS CHRISTI CATHOLIC SCHOOL:** Are you committed and passionate about making a difference to children’s lives? We are seeking an outstanding Headteacher with ambition, experience and enthusiasm to lead our vibrant school. If you would like further information, please look at our website [Corpus Christi Catholic Primary School – Vacancies](#) or contact the school office on 023 9266 1818.

**CHURCH SWAP:** Fr Emmanuel will be swapping church for the mass with Fr Ansel today Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> of March.

**ROSARY, VESPERS AND BENEDICTION:** 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.

**FILM NIGHT:** There will be another film night fundraiser between the Friar’s Community and St Joseph’s Parishioners on Friday, 27<sup>th</sup> of March at 7 pm in St Joseph Hall. The film will be The Passion of the Christ by Mel Gibson. All are welcome.

**CORPUS CHRISTI ALTAR SERVERS:** Isabella will be enrolled as an altar server next Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2026 and there will be altar servers training after the mass.

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# FINANCE & MORE

## COLLECTIONS/INCOME 08/03/2026

**ST. JOSEPH:** Loose plate £68.44, Envelopes £33.90, Hall Rent £1098, Donations (Card Sales) £12.56, Mass Stipend £20, Directory £5 and Clergy Assistance Fund £50

**Contactless Collection:** General £40

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Loose plate £135.05, Envelopes £15, , Candles £14.31, Coffee £6.27 and Mass Stipend £20

**Contactless Collection:** General £20 and Votive Candles £5

**Online Donation:** General £63.60, CC New Heating £ 10 and Mass Intentions £ 10

## **STANDING ORDERS FOR FEBRUARY 2026 - £1,691**

**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 January and February amounted to £154.62. 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.

**GIFT AID:** Our new gift aid envelopes for 2026 /27 will be available starting this weekend. Please collect them from Angela W. for St Joseph and Joy or Jenny for Corpus Christi. Please consider taking out a Standing Order for the benefit of the Parish. We know that finances are needed for the church to flourish. Thank you.

**DIOCESAN CLERGY ASSISTANCE FUND:** Our second collection for Sunday 15<sup>TH</sup> of March 2026. The Clergy Assistance Fund contributes to the work of the Department for Clergy Team. The Clergy Support Team is responsible for looking after the welfare, ongoing formation and personal support of our clergy, such as the provision of spiritual direction, counselling, appraisal, ongoing formation and practical advice. It organises retreats, ministerial formation days, courses and sabbaticals.

Below is the link and the QR code.

[Diocesan Clergy Assistance Fund 2026 - Give as you Live Donate](#)



## 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:** Three candidates will be baptised and confirm over Easter. Scrutiny began last Sunday.
- FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM 2025/26:** Next session will be on today 15<sup>th</sup> of March 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 16<sup>th</sup> May 2026, Sat 19<sup>th</sup> Sept 2026 and Sat 31<sup>st</sup> Oct 2026**

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

**MARRIAGE BANNES:** Third Call: Chima Pascal Nwobodo wants to marry Ujunwa Juliet Ebene this June 2026 in Nigeria. We should pray for them and if anyone knows why they can't be joined into holy matrimony, please let me know.

**ST JOSEPH'S FEAST DAY:** We will celebrate our Patron, St. Joseph (whose feast day is 19 March) on Sunday, 22 March at 9 am Mass. There will be refreshments (and cake) in the hall afterwards. All welcome.

# CONTINUATION OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LAUNCHING CHURCHSUITE:** The parish is now using a new system called ChurchSuite, to manage our parishioner database and our communications like the newsletter. To do this we need to renew all the information we hold about parishioners. To ensure you remain registered as a parishioner and to continue to receive communications from the parish, including the newsletter, please make sure you have filled out a new Registration Form. There is a separate adult and child registration form. There is a paper form if you want to do it manually (see Jenny or Angela W).

The **Adult Registration Form** is available here: [Adult Parishioner Registration Form](#) or by scanning this QR code:



The **Child Registration Form** is available here: [Child Parishioner Registration Form](#) or by scanning this QR code:



**YOUTH CLUB:** We are inviting all the youths to our forthcoming Easter Holiday Meeting. Please join us for a special Easter gathering! This will be on Tuesday 7th April 2026 at Corpus Christi Church. More details will be provided soon.

Parents and Guardians kindly take note and encourage your children to attend.



**WE PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITIES INCLUDING:** Danny, Karen, Sonia, John, Michael, Sheila, David, Lawrie, Nicky, Janet, Helen White, Dawn, Eileen & Joe McGannan, Vanessa, Debbie, Jenny, Colin, Angie, Aileen Mary, 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.**

## **FORMATION MORNING FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNICATION:**

Fr Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgical Formation and the Liturgy Formation team invite you to a formation morning at St Peter's Pastoral Centre, Winchester on Saturday 9th May 2026 commencing with Mass at 9 am. There will be a welcome session from Fr Anthony, a talk focussing on the Eucharist in the sacred scriptures as well as a session on Lectio Divina: "Living a Eucharistic life – what does it mean to live out the eucharist?". All Eucharistic Ministers, experienced and new, are very welcome to attend. If you wish to attend, please register via [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

**ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH FORUM:** A regular meeting has been requested by some Parishioners, to discuss all aspects of church life. The first meeting will be at St Joseph Hall at 12 noon on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> of March (chaired by Fr Emmanuel) immediately after the Friendship Group and every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in the month after that. Everyone is invited. Please think about anything you would like to discuss.

**MOTHERING SUNDAY:** A woman who fears the Lord is to be praised. Happy Mother's Day to all our beloved Mothers.

**EASTER OFFERINGS:** Please remember this collection goes to our Priests for everything that they do for our parish. Envelopes will be available on Palm Sunday. Below is the link for this year's Easter Collection. [Donate to Portsmouth Corpus Christi & St Joseph Catholic Parish Easter Collection - Give as you Live Donate](#)

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