



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)

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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/>

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

5th Sunday of Lent – 22nd March 2026

COME AND INVITE YOUR FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS

Readings of the Day

1st Reading: Ezekiel 37:12-14

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 129:1-8

(Response): **With the LORD** there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

2nd Reading: Romans 8:8-11

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.

Everyone who believes in me shall never die.

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

Gospel: John 11:1-45

Christ Breathes Into Us
His Living Spirit

Today we open ourselves to Christ's life-giving Spirit. We pray too for those who are to be given the new life of the Spirit in Baptism this Easter.

WEEKLY MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 21st: 6 pm(SJ): For the intentions of the people of the parish

Sun 22nd: 9 am (SJ): For birthday intention of Hope Azelia

11 am (CC): Healing of Nancy M. and sick family members

6 pm (CC): Rosary, Vespers and Benediction

Mon 23rd: 9:30 am (CC):

Tue 24th:

Weds 25th: 7pm (CC):

Thurs 26th: 9:30 am (SJ): RIP of Manuel DaCosta

Fri 27th: 9:30 am(CC): RIP of Peter and Vera Anderson FM

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: I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

On Saturday, 28th March 2020, at 6 pm Italian and Cameroonian time and 5 pm British time, the now late Holy Father, Pope Francis, led a solemn liturgy at St. Peter's Square in Rome, imparting the Urbi et Orbe blessings with attached indulgences. These blessings were intended to invoke God's mercy and bring an end to the COVID-19 pandemic, which was devastating the world at the time. He recited a heartfelt passage from scripture (Mk 4:35-41), where Jesus calms a storm at sea and alleviates the fears, worries, and doubts of the apostles about whether Jesus truly cares. This act by the Holy Father served as a reminder that only Jesus holds supreme power to heal. He is the Creator and Giver of life, capable of restoring order when everything seems to be going wrong. As we reflect on this today, we still want to employ those blessings on the world and to remind ourselves that Jesus is the resurrection and the life, and only in him can the world be healed and find true peace.

But what do we mean when we say Jesus is the resurrection and the life? An insight from the webpage "Got Questions. Your questions. Biblical Answers" (www.gotquestions.org) offers us two explanations for this: First, when Jesus declared, "I am the resurrection and the life," He was asserting to be the source of both — that is, there is no resurrection without Christ, and no eternal life outside of Him. Second, Jesus was also making a statement about His divine nature. He does more than merely give life; He is life itself, and therefore death has no ultimate authority over Him. He grants His spiritual life to those who believe in Him, so they share His victory over death (1 John 5:11-12). Believers in Jesus Christ will experience resurrection because, having received the life Jesus offers, it is impossible for death to overcome them (1 Corinthians 15:53-57).

The ideals expressed on this webpage, which I wholeheartedly share, are reflected in today's readings. First, the reading from the prophet Ezekiel offers us reassurance of God's power to restore life, stating, "I am now going to open your graves; I mean to raise you from your graves, my people, and lead you back to the soil of Israel. And you will know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves and raise you from your graves, my people. And I shall put my spirit in you, and you will live, and I shall resettle you on your own soil; and you will know that I, the Lord, have said and done this — it is the Lord God who speaks" (Ez 37:12-14). Despite this assurance from God, how many of us genuinely believe in it, especially at this material point?

The Jews believed that only God had power over life and death. He is the one who can give life and take it back. He is the one who alone can fulfil the prophecy in today's first

reading. We see this prophecy fulfilled by God - Jesus - in today's gospel. Jesus is told that his friend Lazarus is sick. Rather than give a command for him to be well immediately, as he did for others in the gospels (Lk 7:1-10; Mt 8:5-13; Jn 4:46-53), Jesus instead said, "This sickness will end not in death but in God's glory, and through it the Son of God will be glorified" (Jn 11:4). Jesus delayed going to see Lazarus, and by the time he arrived at Bethany, Lazarus had been in the tomb for four days. According to the Jews, the soul of a dead person remains with the body for a few days and only departs after three days. For Jesus to arrive on the fourth day to raise Lazarus from the dead demonstrates his power over life and death. This testifies that he is the resurrection and the life. After the meaningful discussion Jesus had with Martha upon his arrival at Bethany, Jesus eventually raises Lazarus from the tomb, revealing his divinity and power over life.

We are also living in a time that feels dead, especially as many have turned their backs on God. Even some of us who have not turned away from God are not intentional about our call to discipleship. But all hope is not lost. Jesus is still there for us, assuring us that he is the resurrection and the life. We only need to believe in him, trust in him, and rely on him, for we know in the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption (Ps 129:7). We must trust and rely on him now more than ever, by prioritising the spiritual life over the unspiritual, as St. Paul urges in today's second reading. We do this by possessing the Spirit of Christ (Rom 8:9). The Spirit of Christ can raise us from death to new life in him. We should strive to avoid the death sin brings and embrace a new life in Christ by living out our baptismal call to be authentic Christians every day.

Jesus is the resurrection and the life. He is inviting us to trust in Him. Let us rely on Him especially during this penultimate week of Lent. May we pray today for the graces to depend more on the power and healing that come from Christ, rather than from our own efforts.

FILM NIGHT: There will be another film night fundraiser between the Friars' Community and St Joseph's Parishioners on Friday, 27th 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 today Sunday 22nd of March 2026 and there will be altar servers training after the mass.

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ccsj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

FINANCE & MORE

COLLECTIONS/INCOME 15/03/2026

ST. JOSEPH: Loose plate £100.46, Envelopes £34.50 and Hall Rent £125

Contactless Collection: Votive Candles £5 & CC New Heating System £20

CORPUS CHRISTI: Loose plate £239.44, Envelopes £35, Candles £17.75, Coffee £33, Holy Places £10 and Clergy Assistance Fund £20

Contactless Collection: General £30 and Votive Candles £5

Online Donation: General £65 & CC New Heating £ 20

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 are available. 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.

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.

ST JOSEPH'S UPPER HALL: There are boxes of items in the upper hall. If they belong to you, please remove them immediately otherwise they will be dumped.

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 22nd 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 16th May 2026, Sat 19th Sept 2026 and Sat 31st Oct 2026**

NB: All Sessions start at 11.00am until 12.30.

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

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.

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:



HOLY WEEK PROGRAMME 2026

Palm Sunday: Saturday 28th March: 6pm at SJ

Sunday 29th March: 9am at SJ and 11am at CC

Chrim Mass: Tuesday 31st March at Cathedral @ 11am

Maudy Thursday: 6pm at SJ and 8pm at CC

Good Friday: 3pm both at SJ and CC

Holy Saturday: 1 pm Polish blessing of food at CC

(Polish people are invited to get involved)

6pm at SJ and 8:30pm at CC with baptisms

Easter Sunday: 9am at SJ and 11am at CC

PENITENTIAL SERVICES

SJ: Monday 30th March 2026 at 6pm

CC: Wednesday 1st April 2026 at 6pm

PILGRIMAGE: We are in the process of arranging a pilgrimage to Ladywell Convent, Godalming. More details when costs are known etc, but it is planned for Saturday 24 October 2026.

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.

YOUTH CLUB: We are inviting the youth of our Parish 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.



EASTER OFFERINGS: Please remember this collection goes to our Priests for everything that they do for our parishes. Envelopes will be available on Palm Sunday.

We have two times in the year to support our priest in their work and ministry. One of the ways in which the Parish can support our Parish Priest in his ministry is by contributing to the Easter.

There are four ways in which you can give:

1. The collection on Easter Sunday
2. A bank transfer to the parish bank account, please put ref 'easter offering (note that standing orders are not counted as Easter collections)
- 3 . Contactless payment via Dona machine at the back of church - option marked "Priest Easter Collection"
4. Use our give as you give page :

[Donate to Portsmouth Corpus Christi & St Joseph Catholic Parish Easter Collection - Give as you Live Donate](#)

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