



CORPUS CHRISTI WITH ST. JOSEPH PARISH



CHARITY NO: 1199568

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PARISH SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER:	Jenny Elliott
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/
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ST JOSEPH HALL BOOKINGS:	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

15TH ORDINARY SUNDAY - 12TH JULY 2026
COME AND INVITE YOUR FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS

Readings of the Day

1st Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 64:10-14

(Response): **Some seed fell into good soil and yielded its fruit**

2nd Reading: Romans 8:18-23

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia.

**The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower;
all who find him will live for ever.**

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

Christ, The Sower

We celebrate Christ who came to sow the seed of God's word in the world, and we rejoice with him as we see everywhere around us the first-fruits of the Spirit.

WEEKLY MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 11 th :	6 pm (SJ): For the intentions of the people of parish
Sun 12 th :	9 am (SJ): 11 am (CC): Praying for God's grace over her now & for ever
Mon 13 th :	9:30 am (CC): For Fr Emmanuel's intentions
Tue 14 th :	
Weds 15 th :	7 pm (CC): For private intention
Thurs 16 th :	9:30 am (SJ): NO MASS 1 pm (CC): Funeral mass for Anne Murphy
Fri 17 th :	9:30am (CC): For the souls in purgatory 2 pm (CC): Corpus Christi Head Teacher send off mass



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

OPEN YOUR HEART TO CHRIST WHO WANTS TO SOW THE SEED OF *HIS WORD* IN YOU

One of the things I have come to realise in life is that when you open your heart to love someone and that love is sincere, your heart is open to receiving the other person wholeheartedly. The two are ready to build on the foundation of love. The heart becomes like soil in which the other person's heart is planted in love. There, that seed of love is nurtured and cared for in the hearts of both, so that it grows and bears fruit. This sometimes ends in marriage or in couples living as sincere friends. Analogously, this can be applied to our relationship with God, where we can open our hearts to Christ so that they become the soil in which Christ can sow the seed of his word, preparing for a rich harvest. This is the message we have for today.

In the gospel, which marks the beginning of Jesus' sermons on parables (Mt 13), we are told that Jesus sat at the lakeside to teach the people, but the crowds were so large that he had to enter a boat to teach them. The first parable he taught them was the parable of the Sower. Here, a man goes out to sow seeds which fall on different soils: the edge of the path, patches of rock, thorns, and rich soil. Firstly, those that fell on the edge of the path and were eaten up by birds are those who hear the word of God without understanding, and the evil one comes and carries away what has been sown in their hearts. Secondly, those that fell on patches of rock are seeds that found little soil and sprang up immediately but could not be sustained by the soil. These are those who welcome the word of God but easily give up when persecution comes on account of the word. Thirdly, the seeds that fell on thorns grew up but were choked by the thorns, and this represents those who hear the word and accept it, but the worries of the world/lures of riches would not allow the soil to produce anything. Finally, those that fell on rich soil produce crops according to their abilities: a hundred, sixty, and thirty. They represent those who hear the word of God, understand it and allow it to yield a harvest according to their abilities.

Dear friends in Christ, we must open our hearts so they become rich soil where God can sow His Word, yielding a rich harvest. To do this, we must follow the following process. Firstly, we must hear the Word of God, either by studying the scriptures or through

spiritual or scriptural readings. Secondly, we need to meditate on the Word of God to understand it. Remember that the other soils were those who listened but did not understand, and so did not know what to do. This signifies that understanding is crucial to sowing for a rich harvest. Thirdly, to open our hearts for Christ to sow, we must learn to detach from the things of this world. The lures of riches, the worries and pleasures of this world, can greatly distract us from becoming fertile soil. Fourthly, we should be aware that persecution will come when we open our hearts to become fine soil. Some gave up because they could not bear the persecution that resulted from the Word.

The admonition of St. Paul in the second reading is of utmost importance in this regard. He tells us that the sufferings of this present life can never be compared with the glory that is to be revealed (Rom 8:18). Finally, we must trust that God is willing to fulfil His promise with us if we follow Him by opening our hearts to allow Christ to sow there. This assurance stems from the first reading of today, which notes that "Yes, as the rain and snow come down from the heavens and do not return without watering the earth, making it yield and giving growth to provide seed for the Sower and bread for the eating, so the word that goes from my mouth does not return to me empty, without carrying out my will and succeeding in what it was sent to do" (Is 55:10-11).

We must ask ourselves today: what keeps me from opening my heart to become that rich soil where God's word can be sown for a rich harvest? Is it riches, pleasures of this world, pride, covetousness, gossip, lying, fornication/adultery, etc.? If we fail to answer this question adequately and sincerely, we may end up like people who listen and listen again but do not understand, who see and see again but do not perceive, because our hearts are hardened, our ears dull of hearing, and our eyes shut from seeing (Mt 13:14-15).

May we therefore pray for the graces to completely eradicate anything that can prevent us from becoming rich soil for God's sowing, so that we may bear a rich harvest.

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FINANCE & MORE

COLLECTIONS/INCOME 05/07/2026

ST. JOSEPH:

Loose plate £86.07,
Envelopes £33, Peter's
Pence £7 Peter Pence from
the Friars £70.05, 100 Club
£20, Stella Maris
£2, Ladywell £30 and Hall
Rent £275

Contactless Collection:

General £25

CORPUS CHRISTI:

Loose plate £157.11,
Envelopes £85, Candles
£21.34, Peter Pence £15, Day
for life £10, Stella Maris
£10, CC New Carpet £10,
Coffee £11.67, Mass Stipend
£40, Ladywell £60 and
Donation for
the Heating £130

Contactless Collection:

General £30 & CC New Carpet
£20

Online Donation:

General £56, Votive Candles
£10 & Mass Intentions £5

STANDING ORDERS FOR MAY 2026 - £1,732

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-corpus-Christi--st-joseph-catholic-parish>

Donations to Bamenda in the orange/yellow buckets for May and June amounted to £152.91. 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.

100 CLUB MAY DRAW

1 st Prize	Lucette
2 nd Prize	Jim C.
3 rd Prize	Jim C.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Anne Murphy, who died last week. Her funeral will be at St Joseph Church at 1300hr on Thursday 16 July 2026.

DAILY MASSES

ST. JOSEPH'S: Adoration at 8.30 am followed by Mass at 9.30 am in English on Thursdays. On Saturdays, 5 pm adoration, followed by Mass at 6 pm and 9 am on Sundays.

Adoration: 11 am – 1.30 pm Monday to ~Friday (Most days with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration)

Holy Hour: 7 pm – 8 pm 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 2025/2026

1. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM 2025/26: Two more candidates will be receiving their First Holy Communion today Sunday 12th of July during the 11 am mass.

2. 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 19th Sept 2026 and Sat 31st Oct 2026**

NB: All Sessions start at 11.00am until 12.30.

3. CONFIRMATION: Nancy will be confirmed on Saturday 11th of July in Corpus Christi Church at 4 pm.

NEW ORDER OF SACRAMENTS

In order for your children to be included in our First Communion programme, they must be enrolled in our children's Liturgy. If you want to enrol your children in the Liturgy group, please see Felicia (CC) or Angela G (SJ). For those who want to be confirmed, they must be part of our youth group. If you want to enrol your child for the youth group, please see Debbie (CC).

CONTINUATION OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION: Edith Stein Catholic Academy Trust is seeking committed volunteers to join its Board of Trustees. This is an opportunity to support and strengthen Catholic education across our schools as the Trust continues to grow. Bishop Philip has asked all Catholic schools under the trusteeship of the Diocese to become part of one of the two established Catholic Academy Trusts.

Trustees play a vital role in setting the Trust's vision and ensuring high standards of education, safeguarding, financial stewardship, and Catholic mission. The role is voluntary, with induction, training, and reasonable expenses provided.

We welcome applications from practising Catholics and others who support the Catholic ethos. Experience in education, finance, HR, legal services, IT, safeguarding, estates, or community engagement would be particularly valuable, although previous trustee experience is not essential.

For more information and details on how to apply, visit www.escat.org.uk or email g.rennicks@escat.co.uk.

MISSIO RED BOX NOTICE: Terry from Corpus Christi and Marion from St Joseph would like to thank all red box holders for their kind generosity. Total amount collected in 2025 for both parishes was £569.57. Your generosity goes a long way towards helping a great many missionary causes. If you would like a red box to put your spare change in, please see Marion or Terry.

BAPTISM: Christopher will be baptised today Sunday 12th of July 2026 during the 9 am mass at St Joseph Church. Everyone is welcome in the hall afterwards.

PARISH PICNIC: Our annual parish picnic will be on Sunday 19th of July 2026 in Baffins Pond at 1:30 pm. Please come and join the fun.

ST. JOSEPH'S FRIENDSHIP CLUB: This takes place every 2nd Saturday in the hall at St. Joseph's. Everyone welcome, young and old. 10.30 – 12 pm. It's a time to have a chat and enjoy refreshments, often including cake!! The next one will be this **Saturday 11th of July 2026** from 10.30 am. All welcome

ST JOSEPH CHURCH CHILDREN'S LITURGY: This will be starting again at St. Joseph's but helpers are needed. Some of the young mums might like to consider helping. Instruction can be given and the more who volunteer, the fewer the time that you take your turn. Please consider this and speak to Angela Goble who will be leading this

MASS FOR BARBARA RICE-DUNLEA: There will be a mass for Barbara on Sunday, 6th September 2026 at 11 am at Corpus Christi Church. Everyone is warmly invited to join her family in prayer and remembrance.

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITIES INCLUDING:

Eileen, George, Danny, Gail, 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, James, 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.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LADYWELL

If you are interested in coming to this on **Saturday, 24 October**, please pay your £10 deposit ASAP. Cash to either Jenny (CC) or Angela W (SJ or through BACS, Account name: CDP Portsmouth Corpus Christi & St. Joseph, Sort Code: 30-93-04, Account number 00884996 and Reference **LADYWELL**. We have now reached numbers of people to make this viable, but still need you to sign up and pay your deposit if you intend to come.

The day will include coach travel there and back, all refreshments plus a three-course lunch, a talk about St. Francis of Assisi, Mass and a visit round the convent.

We have been asked if it is possible to bring your own packed lunch. Yes, but you will still have to pay the full price as this is a fixed price for the day.

OUR LADY'S ALTAR AT ST. JOSEPH'S

Several Parishioners have asked why has the carpet been removed from the altar and why does the floor look so dirty. It was decided to remove the carpet to be in line with the Baptistry and main sanctuary. The appearance of the floor will not be there for long, as the glue from the carpet needs to be removed and then the floor buffed up which will be done when Brian is back from his holiday.

CLEANERS

We are still in need of cleaners at St. Joseph's. If you would be able to give an hour or two once a week, please speak to Teresa White (6pm) or Angela Waldren (9 am).

STELLA MARIS (FORMERLY KNOWN AS APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA)

is the maritime charity of the Catholic Church. Its chaplains and ship visitors provide practical help and pastoral care to seafarers and fishers in the UK and around the world. Let us stand alongside them so they always have someone to turn to in times of need. Let's support Sea Sunday today 12th of July 2026 by praying for seafarers and **giving online** or through the collection at Mass.

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