



CORPUS CHRISTI WITH ST. JOSEPH PARISH



CHARITY NO: 1199568

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PARISH SAFEGUARDING MINISTERS	
CORPUS CHRISTI:	Shelagh Card
ST. JOSEPH'S:	

PLEASE NOTE: Any of the above can be contacted via the Parish Office

17TH ORDINARY SUNDAY - 26TH JULY 2026
COME AND INVITE YOUR FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS

Readings of the Day

1st Reading: 1 Kings 3:5-12

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118:57, 72. 76-77. 127-130

(Response): **O Lord, how I love your law!**

2nd Reading: Romans 8:28-30

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia.

**I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children**

Gospel: Matthew 13:44-52

The Treasure We Have Found

Solomon prayed for the wisdom to discern the true value of things. We scarcely need the wisdom of Solomon to realise that in finding the love of God and the kingdom of God we have found a treasure beyond price. It is in the joy of this realisation that we hold our celebration today.

WEEKLY MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 25th:	6 pm (SJ): For the intentions of the people of parish
Sun 26th:	9 am (SJ):
	11 am (CC): RIP of Theresa & Joseph Blair
Mon 27th:	9:30 am (CC): For John Wilson
Tue 28th:	
Weds 29th:	7 pm (CC):
Thurs 30th:	9:30 am (SJ):
Fri 31st:	9:30am (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

DO EVERYTHING TO BE PART OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

In last Sunday's reflection, we looked at the first part of the 13th chapter of Matthew's gospel, which is primarily about the parables of the Kingdom of God. There, three parables were presented: the parable of the Sower, the parable of the mustard seed, and the parable of the yeast. Our focus was on the parable of the Sower, where we discerned that evil and good will always coexist, but that we need to be propagators of goodness rather than evil. In today's gospel passage, Jesus rounds off the parables of the Kingdom of God by introducing us to three more: the parable of the hidden treasure, the parable of the pearls, and the parable of the dragnet. All these parables emphasise the need to do everything humanly possible to enter the kingdom of heaven, which comes only through a worthy way of life.

In Christianity, the kingdom of God, or the kingdom of Heaven, is the spiritual realm over which God reigns as king, or the fulfilment on earth of God's will. It is our mission here on earth to be part of this kingdom. God has made us for Himself; He wants us to know Him, love Him, serve Him, and be with Him for ever in Heaven. This mission is our purpose of existence, which we must seek daily and do everything to enter the kingdom of Heaven. To illustrate this, Jesus uses the parables of the treasure found in the field and of the pearls, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field which someone has found; he hides it again, goes off happy, sells everything he owns and buys the field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls; when he finds one of great value, he goes and sells everything he owns and buys it" (Mt 13:44-46).

The essence of the parables above is to show that when we find something of great value, we are ready to make all the necessary sacrifices to achieve it. Businesspeople or politicians may understand this passage better than others. A businessman or woman will do whatever it takes to secure the best-quality produce for the market or to obtain enough money. Analogously, the greatest treasure for us as Christians is to be in the presence of God forever. In other words, it is to be in heaven. What else do we need apart from this? Therefore, we have just one task here on earth: to do everything possible to reach the kingdom of heaven.

Unfortunately, many of us live as if the kingdom of heaven doesn't exist, or as if it exists only on earth. We spend our whole lives searching for the things of this world and neglect the things of heaven. It is true that heaven begins here on earth, and so we must build that kingdom of God here in the right way. This explains why the wisdom of Solomon, as found in the first reading, is relevant to us. We are told that God appears to Solomon and asks him to make a request for anything he wants, and that God will grant it. Solomon did not ask for riches, long life, good health, or anything else. All he asked was for a discerning mind to distinguish between good and evil (1 Kgs 3:9). This request pleased God, and He gave Solomon all he needed on earth. This wisdom of Solomon is what we need to help us do all we can to get to heaven. This is very important because we are aware that evil and good coexist till the end of time, and without discernment, we are bound to make wrong choices.

The coexistence of good and evil is further borne out by the third parable of today, the parable of the dragnet, in which Jesus says: "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet cast into the sea that brings in a haul of all kinds. When it is full, the fishermen haul it ashore; then, sitting down, they collect the good ones in a basket and throw away those that are no use. This is how it will be at the end of time: the angels will appear and separate the wicked from the just and throw the wicked into the blazing furnace where there will be weeping and grinding of teeth" (Mt 13:47-50). If this is the case, I don't think any of us want to go to the blazing furnace at the end of time. We only need to ask for the discerning spirit that Solomon requested to discern the difference between good and evil, and then go on to do good, which leads us to the kingdom of God.

May we all pray for the graces we need to do all we can to enter the kingdom of heaven.



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FINANCE & MORE

COLLECTIONS/INCOME 19/07/2026

ST. JOSEPH:	Loose plate £128.45, Envelopes £43.05, Ladywell £10
Contactless Collection:	General £, Votive Candles £, CC New Carpet £ & Mass Intentions £
CORPUS CHRISTI:	Loose plate £96.18, Envelopes £55, Candles £55, Stella Maris £10, Coffee £6
Contactless Collection:	General £
Online Donation:	General £, Votive Candles & New Carpet £

STANDING ORDERS FOR JUNE 2026 - £2,118

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 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 JULY DRAW

There will be draw today Sunday 26th of July 2026 at St Joseph's Hall after the mass.

ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING DAYS

We intend to make use of the Sundays in August for training for our old and new altar servers and a rota will be communicated within the course of the week in the Altar Servers parents WhatsApp group. Please do watch out for the information.

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. 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 12th Dec 2026** at St. Joseph hall and Corpus Christi school respectively running from at 11.00am until 12.30.

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

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 b



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



VOLLEYBALL AND OTHER GAMES NEXT SUNDAY: We shall have volleyball and other games with the youths next Sunday 2nd august after mass at 2pm in the school. Do invite friends and others to come and relax.

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

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL OPEN MORNING - SAVE THE DATE: St Edmund's Catholic School is holding an Open Morning for Year 6 pupils and parents on Saturday 3rd October 2026 between 9am and 1pm. We hope you will come to get an insight into life at St Edmund's. Booking will be required.
Session 1 - 9:00am - 11:00am
Session 2 - 11:00am - 13:00pm
Check further details on school website.

WE PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND MEMBERS OF OUR COMMUNITIES INCLUDING: Andy, 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, Keith, Jenny P, Goodwin, Nancy M, Andy, 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.

VOTE OF THANKS FOR PARISH PICNIC

Last Sunday we had a lovely parish picnic at Baffins Pond. It was special because we met the Friars community having a BBQ and we all sent the day together as one big family. I want to use this opportunity to thank all those who turned out for the parish picnic. We thank all those who brought things to share. You all made the day memorable. We regret to say there was not a single member from St. Joseph community in attendance.

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).

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

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