



CORPUS CHRISTI WITH ST. JOSEPH PARISH



CHARITY NO: 1199568

PARISH PRIEST:	Fr. Rinda Emmanuel Bamuh
CORPUS CHRISTI OFFICE:	21 Gladys Ave. Portsmouth PO2 9AZ Tel. 023 9266 0927 (Emergency calls: TXT 07424 018519)
PARISH SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER:	Jenny Elliott
OFFICE HOURS:	9 AM - 4 PM (Mon, Wed, Thurs & Fri)
ST. JOSEPH'S OFFICE:	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
LATIN MASS COMMUNITY ST. JOSEPH:	Tel 023 9283 1245 Email stjosephsmarianhouse@gmail.com
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

21ST ORDINARY SUNDAY - 23RD AUGUST 2026
COME AND INVITE YOUR FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS

Readings of the Day

1st Reading: Isaiah 22:15, 19-23

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 137:1-3. 6-8

(Response): **O LORD, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.**

2nd Reading: Romans 11:33-36

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia.

**You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Peter The Rock

We rejoice today that Christ chose Peter in spite of his human failings to be the rock on which he built his Church. The reason for that choice lies in the unfathomable depth of God's wisdom. 'The Lord is high, yet he looks on the lowly.'

WEEKLY MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 22 nd :	6 pm (SJ):	RIP of Bernard & Margaret Duffy
Sun 23 rd :	9 am (SJ):	RIP of Sylvia Foster FM
	11 am (CC):	For the wellbeing of N. C.
	2pm (SJ):	intentions of the baptised and family
Mon 24 th :	9:30 am (CC):	For the intentions of the people of the parish
Tue 25 th :		
Weds 26 th :	7 pm (CC):	Wellbeing of Digna Guerrero Reyes
Thurs 27 th :	9:30 am (SJ):	RIP of John Heywood FM
Fri 28 th :	9:30am (CC):	for the intentions of the FHC catechists



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.

IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY EMAIL US ON

ccsj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

SUNDAY REFLECTION

THE CHOICE OF GOD AS LEADING SERVANTS IN HIS HOUSE

One of the pains the Church has suffered and still suffers comes from the sexual scandals that have occurred within it. Many were heartbroken to hear that priests and religious defiled the bodies of children. This left many in shock and embarrassment and led them to leave the Church. There has been, and still is, much condemnation of the Church, and the Church has suffered and still hopes to recover from this crisis. In some places, men in collars don't want to be seen and are mocked or abused because of the hurt that ensued from the sexual abuse scandal. Could it be that the wrong choice was made at the time of ordination? Could it be that God did not choose those involved, and they forced themselves in, only to soil the Church? What went wrong? Could God not prevent such a scandal that has rocked His Church? All these questions only leave us to realise that God's choice is not dependent on human calculation and wisdom or on holiness, but on whom God wants to use for His service. We need to accept this fact and then pray for the leaders of our churches so that they remain faithful to God's calling in their lives.

The above theme flows from today's gospel. We are at Caesarea Philippi, where Jesus puts the shocking question to his disciples: "Who do people say the Son of Man is?" (Mt 16:13). There was probably a dead silence as everyone looked at Jesus, reluctant to speak. It was Peter who found the courage to tell him what people think of him. They say you are John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets. After listening to Peter and hearing what the people think, Jesus then asked his own close disciples once more what they thought about him. It was still Peter who spoke up: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Mt 16:16). This profound answer of Peter gave Jesus the opportunity to choose him as leader of his Church, and He said: "Simon son of Jonah, you are a happy man! Because it was not flesh and blood that revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. So I now say to you: You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church. And the gates of the underworld can never hold out against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven: whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven: whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven" (Mt 16:17-19).

The question is: why did Jesus choose Simon, knowing how weak he was? He was fearful and denied him three times; he was hypocritical and had to be rebuked by Paul; he was talkative, asked too many questions, and spoke before reasoning. He was in the background when Jesus needed him most, etc. Despite his weaknesses, he was a man of great leadership skills who strove to be holy, and his name is mentioned in the gospels more than any other disciple. Jesus's choice shows that God's choice does not depend on human wisdom. This is shown by Paul in today's second reading when he says: "How rich are the depths of God – how deep his wisdom and knowledge – and how impossible to penetrate his motives or understand his methods! Who could ever know the mind of the Lord? Who could ever be his councillor? Who could ever give him anything or lend him anything?" (Rom 11:33-36). In a sense, we can say that the choices God makes to lead His church are known to him alone. When they do the work well, we are happy, but when they misbehave, we all get worried and wonder whether it was the right choice.

Sometimes God himself deposes even those He had chosen to lead His people. This is what we find in today's first reading, where He deposes Shebna and replaces him with Eliakim, son of Hilkiah, in the following words: "I place the key of the House of David on his shoulder; should he open, no one shall close, should he close, no one shall open. I drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a throne of glory for his father's house" (Is 22:22-23). The authority and power vested in Eliakim are the same as the authority and power Jesus gave to Peter by handing over the keys of the kingdom to him.

Let us all make the effort to contribute to the beautiful lives of God's chosen leaders by providing them with the support and strength they need, rather than trying to drag them through the mud. We need your prayers and support, and we will always remain grateful for them.

FINANCE & MORE

COLLECTIONS/INCOME 16/08/2026

ST. JOSEPH: Loose plate £67.09,
Envelopes £44.15 and Mass Stipend
£60

Contactless Collection: General £10

CORPUS CHRISTI: Loose plate £87.15,
Envelopes £7 and Candles
£10.61

Contactless Collection: General £26 & Mass
Intentions £10

Online Donation: General £30, Mass
Intentions £20 & CC New Carpet £20

STANDING ORDERS FOR JULY 2026 - £2,047

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
h-corpus-Christi--st-joseph-catholic-parish](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.

The **MEDAILLE TRUST**, one of the UK's leading
providers of support for survivors of modern slavery, is
bringing its Art Roadshow to St John's Cathedral on
Saturday 12 September from 11am to 2pm. Through
art, reflection, and shared experiences, the exhibition
aims to raise awareness, inspire conversation and
highlight the impact of survivor-led voices over the
past two decades.

Everyone welcome. Light refreshments provided.
Download a flyer and for more details contact
caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PRAYER REQUESTS: We have noticed that some of
our parishioners are going through challenges,
sickness, trials, etc and need our prayers. Please do
take time to pray for one another. If you have any
issue you need prayers for do contact the office.

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

BAPTISMAL PREPARATION DATES FOR 2026: There
will be a baptismal preparation sessions on the
following dates: **Sat 19th Sept 2026 and Sat 12th Dec
2026** at St. Joseph hall and Corpus Christi school hall
respectively running from at 11.00am until 12.30.

ALTAR SERVERS TRAINING DAYS

We intend to make use of the Sundays in August for
training for our existing 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.

SACRAMENTALISATION OF MARRIAGES

We are making an appeal to all those who are living in
irregular marriage situations and cannot receive the
sacraments to please do contact the parish priest to have
a conversation on how you can be helped to
sacramentalise the marriage. Do not be afraid of cost as
we shall do everything within our power to fix things for
you.

IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY EMAIL US ON

ccsj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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 by scanning this QR code:



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



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.

DIOCESAN CATECHIST DAY – PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE

Are you involved in passing on the faith in your parish? Join catechists from across the Diocese for a morning of prayer, inspiration, and practical formation as we reflect on our shared mission to **form missionary disciples**. Inspired by Jesus' words, "*Go therefore and make disciples...*" (Matthew 28:19), we will explore how catechists can lead others to Christ, hand on the living faith of the Church, accompany people in conversion, and help build vibrant missionary parishes. Whether you are an experienced catechist or new to the ministry, you are warmly invited to attend. This will be on **Saturday 10 October, 9:30am–1:30pm at St Bede's, Basingstoke**.

To register your interest please go to <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/RFGROzEzDh> or email Meghan, Formation for Mission Team Leader at ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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:

Andy H., George, Gail E, Karen, Sonia, John, Michael O, Sheila H., David, Laurie R, Nicky W, Janet L, Helen W, Dawn, Eileen, Vanessa, Debbie, Jenny, Colin, Angie, Aileen Mary, Leonard, Tom & Joan, Ellen, John, Maureen, Philip, Margaret & Brian, Jim, Giuseppe, Kamila, Terry, Pretty, Claire, Frances & Ron, Anna, Margaret, Sean, James, Leo, Keith, Jenny P, Goodwin, Nancy M 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

FINAL BALANCE IS NOW DUE. All those signed up already having paid the £10 deposit, now need to pay the balance of £40 as soon as possible to either Jenny (CC) or Angela W (SJ) or through BACS. Account Name: CDP Corpus Christi & St. Joseph, Sort Code: 30-93-04, Account No: 00884996. Please use the reference **LADYWELL**. There are still a few spaces available, so if you intend to come please let Jenny or Angela W know ASAP.

ALPHA FORUM FOR PARISHES IN PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE

Has your parish run Alpha, or are you thinking about starting one? Join the Formation for Mission team for an online Alpha Forum designed to encourage, support, and connect parishes across the Diocese. This informal gathering is an opportunity to share experiences, learn from one another, explore best practice, and discover fresh ideas for running Alpha in your parish. This will be online on Monday 7th September at 7:30 – 8:30pm.

To register for the meeting please go to <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/OTNBkTR7z8> or email ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. A link will be sent out nearer the time.

RESTORING SEXUAL INTEGRITY is a day conference designed to equip, encourage, and strengthen Christians who want to understand God's design for sexuality and experience the transforming power of the gospel. This will be on 26 September 2026 from 10 am till 5 pm at Westminster Chapel SW1E 6BS.

Here is a link for more information if you are able or interested in attending:

<https://christianconcern.com/ccevents/restoring-sexual-integrity/>

IF YOU WANT TO RECEIVE THIS NEWSLETTER ELECTRONICALLY EMAIL US ON

ccsj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk