



CORPUS CHRISTI WITH ST. JOSEPH PARISH



CHARITY NO: 1199568

PARISH PRIEST:
CORPUS CHRISTI OFFICE:

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PARISH SECRETARY/BOOKKEEPER:
OFFICE HOURS:
ST. JOSEPH'S OFFICE:
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Corpus Christi and St. Joseph Parish in Portsmouth
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PARISH WEBSITE:
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<https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/corpus-christi-with-st-joseph/>
Corpus Christi with St. Joseph Parish
ccsj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

LATIN MASS COMMUNITY ST. JOSEPH:
ST JOSEPH HALL BOOKINGS:
PARISH SAFEGUARDING MINISTERS

Tel 023 9283 1245 **Email** stjosephsmarianhouse@gmail.com
sjhallbookings@gmail.com or phone the office

CORPUS CHRISTI:
ST. JOSEPH'S:

Shelagh Card

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

SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY - 16TH AUGUST 2026
COME AND INVITE YOUR FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS

Readings of the Day

1st Reading: Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6. 10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 44:10. 11. 12. 16

(Response): **On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.**

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-27

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia.

**Mary has been taken up into heaven;
the host of angels rejoice.**

Gospel: Luke 1:39-56

In Mary's glorious assumption we celebrate the fulfilment of our Christian destiny, and with her we proclaim the greatness of the Lord.

WEEKLY MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 15th: 6 pm (SJ): For the intentions of the people of the parish

Sun 16th: 9 am (SJ): For a private intention
11 am (CC):

Mon 17th: 9:30 am (CC): RIP of Joe McGannan

Tue 18th:

Weds 19th: 7 pm (CC): RIP of John De Battista FM

Thurs 20th: 9:30 am (SJ):

Fri 21st: 9:30am (CC): RIP of Kathleen Coughlan 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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SUNDAY REFLECTION

BLESSED IS SHE WHO BELIEVED

"By the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, of the Blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, and by our own authority, we pronounce, declare, and define it to be a divinely revealed dogma: that the Immaculate Mother of God, the ever Virgin Mary, having completed the course of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heavenly glory". These are the solemn words of Pope Pius XII, who, in the Apostolic Constitution *Munificentissimus Deus* on 1 November 1950, authoritatively defined the dogma of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven. The pope cited 1 Cor 15:54 and Gen 3:15 as scriptural passages in support of this dogma. In the Corinthian text, Paul prophesied that the seed of the woman would crush Satan with his feet. Since then, Jesus has risen to heaven to fulfil this prophecy; it follows that the woman would have a similar end, since she shared this enmity with Satan. The phrase "having completed the course of her earthly life" leaves open the question of whether Mary died before her assumption. This dogma is a consequence of Mary's full and total participation in God's divine plan of salvation. As we celebrate the birthday of Mary in heaven, I would like us to reflect on her words from the gospel: "Blessed is she who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled" (Lk 1:45).

Indeed, blessed is anyone who believes that the promise made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled. Even though we celebrate Mary's Assumption into heaven with great joy, this dogma is often misunderstood, criticised, and condemned on mistaken grounds by many non-Catholics. I have in mind the words of a Cameroonian veteran journalist, Peter Essoka (a Presbyterian Christian), in his book "Journeying to my Emmaus: Reflections on Religion, Faith, Christian Life and Festivals", who says: "I have always debated within me over this phenomenon of Mary going up to heaven....Perhaps it is the premise with which this phenomenon was established. The moment we make assumptions, doubts arise. If the Roman Catholic Church had established that indeed, like the Biblical Elijah or Moses, Mary was taken up body and soul to heaven, the whole question of an assumption would be irrelevant. Secondly, if there was any Biblical or scriptural backing or reference to the going to heaven of the mother of God, no one would dare question this phenomenon except, of

course, the agnostics" (pg. 60-61). Many, even some Catholics, want scriptural backing for any teaching of the Church. They forget that not everything that happened, even to Jesus, was recorded in Scripture. Such persons haven't yet come to terms with the truth that Divine Revelation has three sources: the Bible, the Magisterium (the living teaching office of the Church), and Sacred Tradition (what has been handed down from the time of the apostles by word of mouth). The Bible came out of the Church's Tradition, that is, from the faith community of the early Christians, who were inspired and decided to record what they had been handing on orally. While some was left to be handed on orally, these were approved by the Magisterium for our consumption. So, some of the doctrine and practices in the Church have reached us today by that handing on from one generation to the next by word of mouth. This implies that some Church teachings may not be directly written in the Bible but are aspects of our faith that are as old as the Church itself, which has existed for over 2000 years. That is why we need the gift of faith; to believe like Mary, for blessed is she who believed all that was told her from the Lord.

Indeed, blessed is she who believed that the promise made to her by the Lord would be fulfilled. Mary indeed believed, and her belief did not remain at the level of intellectual assent but was expressed in her way of life. That accounts for the singular privilege accorded to her by her son, Jesus Christ. She was taken up into glory after her earthly life had ended. Peter Essoka mistook the term literally; this belief we are making is not an assumption but a reality. It is a fact that took place in history.

It is true that she was taken to heaven, body and soul. But what does this have to do with us who are left behind? As mother of the Church, she intercedes for us unceasingly. She knows our human conditions and weaknesses and asks her son for favours on our behalf. This accounts for her numerous apparitions, in which she tells us what to do on our journey to where she is seated as Queen of heaven.

As we celebrate this day, let us also, through Mary's intercession, ask for the graces to believe in the promises God made to us at the time of our Baptism and to work hard like Mary towards the realisation of these promises in our lives.

FINANCE & MORE

COLLECTIONS/INCOME 09/08/2026

ST. JOSEPH: Loose plate £118.41, Envelopes £43.20, Coffee £13, Ladywell £120 and Hall Rent £125

Contactless Collection: General £7

CORPUS CHRISTI: Loose plate £174.18, Envelopes £30, Candles £11.01 and Coffee £9

Contactless Collection: General 5

Online Donation: General £50, Mass Intentions £20, Votive Candles £5 & CC New Carpet £10

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-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

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 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.

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.

PARISH PROCESSION

A Parish procession to celebrate the feast of the Assumption will take place on Saturday, 15th August, starting from St. Joseph's church at 9.30 am, walking to Baffins Pond, around the pond and back to the church for Mass (in Latin) at 11 am. All welcome to attend.

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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, Clare, 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/>

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