

CORPUS CHRISTI WITH ST. JOSEPH PARISH



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, Tangier Road, Copnor PO3 6JL

FACEBOOK: Corpus Christi and St. Joseph Parish in Portsmouth

YOU TUBE: Corpus Christi with St. Joseph Parish

(Website) <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/corpus-christi-with-st-joseph/>

(Email) ccsj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Marian Franciscans at St. Joseph

(Tel) 023 9283 1245 **(Email)** stjosephsmarianhouse@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

Baptism of the Lord – 12th January 2025

COME AND INVITE YOUR FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS

Readings of the Day

1st Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 24-25, 27-30

(Response): **Bless the Lord , O my soul! My God, how great you are.**

2nd Reading: Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia!

He who is mightier than I is coming, said John.

He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

The Baptism of the Lord
The Father anointed his
beloved son, Jesus, with
the Holy Spirit and with
power, to bring healing
and peace to all the
nations

WEEKLY MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 11th: 12 nn(SJ): Thanksgiving to God for re-opening of the church/intentions of the parishioners

6 pm (SJ): RIP of Dolores Sliman

Sun 12th: 9 am (SJ): For the intentions of the people of the Parish

11 am (CC):

Mon 13th : 9:30 am (CC):

Tue 14th:

Weds 15th: 7 pm (CC): RIP of Joan Pidgley FM

Thurs 16th: 9:30 am (SJ): RIP of Mark Taylor

Fri 17th: 9:30 am (CC): RIP of Patsy McCreesh



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

THEME: WHY WAS JESUS BAPTISED?

Today, we are celebrating the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. This celebration simultaneously brings an end to the Christmas season and ushers in the celebration of the first period of Ordinary Time, Cycle I. As we celebrate this feast, I would like us to carefully examine the baptism of Jesus and our own baptisms and see how far we have been able to live out our baptismal promises. We shall do this as we answer the question: why was Jesus baptised?

Every religion at the time of Jesus practiced some form of Baptism. Baptism was not initially a practice of Judaism but came with the Essene community. These were those who saw corruption in the practice of Judaism, that is, they didn't like the way people were living out the Jewish faith anymore. So, they left the ordinary life of the day and went into the deserts and lived there in strict observance of Judaism. They were the ones that started baptism in Judaism as a sign of repentance. John the Baptist, who was an Essene, practiced the baptism of repentance too, for the forgiveness of sins. Those who were willing to leave their old ways of sin and embrace a new way of life in God were given baptism. Now the question is: If John's Baptism was a baptism of repentance, why would Jesus who was sinless accept to be baptised?

There are three reasons I would like to uphold for permitting Jesus to receive baptism despite his divine state.

1. Jesus received baptism to fulfil all righteousness (Mt 3:15). In the baptism account of Jesus by Matthew, which is normally taken in Year A, we are told that when Jesus came for baptism at the hands of John, John initially refused because he did not see himself worthy to baptise the Lord. He felt he was the one to receive baptism from Jesus. Jesus insisted he had to baptise him stating that the essence of the baptism was to fulfil all righteousness. By this righteousness, he was completing the words of the prophets in the Old Testament and giving us an example of obedience to follow. Therefore, when we accept to receive baptism, we too are accepting to enter a righteous way of life; a life of total obedience to God. That is why at baptism we renounce Satan and all his works, plays and empty promises. But do we live this out daily?

2. Jesus was baptised because he wanted to identify himself completely with fallen humanity. Philippians 2:6-7 tells us that though Jesus was God, he did not count his equality with God a thing to be grasped but emptied himself, taking the form of slave, becoming man in all things but sin. As he identified himself with us in everything but sin, he had to free us from sin. Taking baptism at the hands of John was still part of his identification with man and man's liberation from sin through baptism (2 Cor 5:21). In a sense, he was showing us what we need if we must follow him. This shows us that for us too to identify ourselves with the Lord, means staying clear from sin which baptism has washed away.

3. Jesus' baptism was an epiphany. We celebrated the feast of the Epiphany last Sunday and we saw that the feast was to manifest Jesus to the world as the Messiah who was expected by the Jews. As Luke recounts in the gospel of today, Jesus' manifestation is made known while he was at prayer. At that time, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in the form of a dove and the Father's confirmation of Jesus was heard: "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you" (Lk 3:21-22). These words of God himself about Jesus confirms the mission of Jesus as expressed by Isaiah in the first reading of today: "Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations" (Is 4:1). In all, for Jesus to be the beloved of God comes also from total obedience to the will of God which he sought throughout his life in prayers. We too as baptised children of God need to ask ourselves whether we are God's beloved children? Do we seek God's will for us every day in prayers?

As we celebrate the feast of the baptism of the lord, let us reflect on our own baptisms and see whether we have left our old ways of sin and have embraced a new life of righteousness. If not, then using famous Pentecostal parlance, we must be born again. Let us in this sense make use of the Sacrament of Confession and begin afresh with the Lord.

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FINANCE & MORE

COLLECTIONS/INCOME 05/01/2025

ST. JOSEPH: Loose plate £62.26, Envelopes £16, CRIB £64 and Rent £80

CORPUS CHRISTI: Loose plate £163.73, Envelopes £20, Coffee £9.01, Candles £16.04, CRIB £26.70 and Mass Stipend £10

STANDING ORDERS NOVEMBER 2024 £1307

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 November & December was £144.56. Thank you to all contributors. Don't forget to put your loose change in the buckets.

100 CLUB REGISTRATION 2025

Members who want to step down should indicate this now. New members are welcome as there are few numbers available.

OUR NEW PARISH PAGE:

<https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/corporus-christi-with-st-joseph/>

CLEANERS WANTED AT ST JOSEPH

Now that we are back in the church, we need people to help with the cleaning. We now have one lady and she cannot do it all. Is there anyone who would be prepared to help, every other week? Please either speak to Teresa White or Angela Waldren

JUBILEE YEAR PLANNING MEETING: Pope Francis has declared 2025 as a jubilee year with theme "PILGRIMS OF HOPE". We shall have a planning meeting to determine the parish activities and programme during this jubilee year on Monday 3rd of February at 7 pm at St Joseph Hall. The meeting shall commence with a talk from the parish priest on the expectations of the Holy Father for the Jubilee year.

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.

LATIN COMMUNITY: 7am daily in Latin and 11 am on Sundays at St Colman's Church in Cosham with the Friars (until further notice).

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 PROGRAMMES FOR 2024/2025

- 1. BAPTISMAL PREPARATION SESSION** A date for preparation in the New Year will be announced soon.
- 2. FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM 2024/25:** Next session will be on Sunday 12th of January 2025 at 9:15 am.
- 3. CONFIRMATION:** First session on Friday 17th Jan. 2025 at the cathedral at 6pm.
- 4. RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:** The sessions will run every Thursday in Corpus Christi Presbytery at 6 pm.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION AT CORPUS CHRSTI CHURCH:

As part of the Jubilee Year Programme, we shall have the First Friday Adoration from 10 am to 6 pm in the church. To help facilitate this, we need parishioners to sign up for an hour each between 10 am to 6 pm. We therefore need about 8 parishioners for each first Friday adoration to sign up and keep Jesus company.

BAMENDA PRIEST MEETING PORTSMOUTH: This will be on Sunday 19th to Tuesday 21st of January 2025 in English Martyrs, Reading.

CONTINUATION OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

CELEBRATION MASS FOR THE RE-OPENING OF ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

This Saturday, 11 January 2025, we will be having a celebration for the re-opening of the church. This will take the form of a procession from St. Joseph's (meet at the church at 10.45 am) at 11 am to the Library at Baffins Pond, a walk around the pond (if time permits), then back down Tangier Road to the church. Once there (and given time to change vestments), there will be Benediction followed, at 12 noon, by Mass.

If you do not wish to or cannot walk in the procession, please do come and wait in the church. Various dignitaries have been invited, including the Bishop (who is unable to attend), but also the Lord Mayor, Cllr Jason Fazackerley, who is able to attend and various others.

After the Mass, there will be a light lunch in the hall, various homemade soups, crusty bread and cakes, along with refreshments. Do try to come and celebrate with us. Donations of cakes would be much appreciated. Please bring these to the hall either on Friday evening (when we are having a rehearsal) or Saturday morning, from 10 am.

At last, the day arrives when we formally celebrate the reopening of the church



Thanks to all who helped in the re-opening of St Joseph Church. Your efforts and dedication are greatly appreciated. May God bless you all immensely.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS:

These will be taken down on Monday 13th of January 2025 after the 9:30 am mass at Corpus Christi and on Saturday, 18 January at St. Joseph's at 10 am. Thanks to all our volunteers for their help.

BAFFINS FRIENDSHIP CLUB

We are going to start a friendship Club in the hall, running on the second Saturday of each month, so the first one will be Saturday, 8 February, from 10 to 11 am. This will take the form of meeting up with old friends and making new friendships. Please come along and give it a go. Donations of cakes would be appreciated.

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

John Micallef, Michael Owen, Sheila Heaward, David Grant, Nicky Waldren, Janet Lentieul, Helen White, Dawn Hurst, Eileen & Joe McGannon, Vanessa Sharman, Debbie Gray, Jenny Pearce, Colin Card, Angie Sharma, Aileen Mary Sullivan, Lolo Kelly, Leonard Donegan, Tom & Joan Maguire, Ellen MacKay, John Clarke, Maureen Floyd, Philip Lush, Margaret & Brian Boland, Jim Cuffe, Giuseppe Mascia, Kamila Rogoz, Pam Farr, Terry Walmsley, Pretty Mukuhlane, Clare Hill, Frances & Ron Little, Anna Pagano, Margaret New and Sean New. 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.

MISSIO/RED BOX COLLECTION CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH:

A very sincere thank you & God bless you one & all for your December/January amazing total from our Missio/Red Box Collection - £539.25!! Love from Terry Walmsley.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY: From Wednesday 22nd to Wednesday 29th of January 2025, Fr Emmanuel will be taking his Christmas Holiday. There will be **NO WEEKDAY MASSES**. The 25th/26th weekend masses will be covered by priests from the Cathedral.

URI QUADROS, A PARISHIONERS, ASKS THE FOLLOWING:

Hi, I'm a fellow member of this Parish as well as a College student. I have decided to base my personal investigation on our parish community. The investigation title is "To what extent do people in diverse church communities have perceptions based on People and Place". I ask for your help in completing this investigation hoping that people will come forward voluntarily to complete my survey (which will only take two minutes of your time) and in-depth interviews. Thank you.

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