



CORPUS CHRISTI WITH ST. JOSEPH PARISH



PARISH PRIEST Fr. Rinda Emmanuel Bamuh

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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/>

YOU TUBE: Corpus Christi with St. Joseph Parish

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(Tel) 023 9283 1245 (Email) stjosephsmarianhouse@gmail.com

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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

3rd Sunday of Lent – 23rd March 2025

COME AND INVITE YOUR FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS

Readings of the Day

1st Reading: Exodus 3:1-8. 13-15

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4. 6-8. 11

(Response): **The Lord is compassionate and gracious.**

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Gospel Acclamation: Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

The Lord Of Compassion
And Love

We celebrate today the
Lord who resolves to free
us from our slavery to sin,
if only we will listen to his
serious warnings to us to
repent.

WEEKLY MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 22nd: 6 pm (SJ): For the intentions of the people of the Parish

Sun 23rd: 9 am (SJ): For the intentions of the people who attended

Derek Hopkins' funeral

11 am (CC): For birthday anniversary intentions of African Community

Mon 24th: 9:30 am (CC): RIP of Madge Murphy FM

Corpus Christi Children will be joining the mass.

Tue 25th:

Weds 26th: 7 pm (CC): For a private intention of O. E.

Thurs 27th: 9:30 am (SJ):

Fri 28th: 9:30 am (CC): For the wellbeing of Pam Farr

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: REPENT OR YOU SHALL PERISH

We are entering the third week of lent where the Lenten message is coming to us forcibly in a new way. Lent is a time when we are invited to experience in a special way the mercy of God. We are called during this time to repentance and the readings have been encouraging us towards this since we started this grace filled season. As we begin the third week, the readings continue the same message of repentance but this time with a threat from Christ: repent or you will all perish. I am afraid, if we do not repent from our evil ways, we shall indeed all perish.

In the gospel of today, we find some people who have come to report to Jesus about some misfortune that had fallen upon the land. They told Jesus of some Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Probably, Pilate met them offering sacrifices which he did not want and so decided to kill them and add them to their sacrifices. What a pity! But my concern is: why were they telling Jesus this story? Was it to provoke him or really to learn? Whatever their motivating reason, Jesus' response brings us to the reality of what we are called to do otherwise we face the effects.

In response to their story, Christ says: "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way, they were greater sinners than all the other Galileans? By no means. But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did." To substantiate further, Jesus quotes an old unfortunate incident that had taken place at that time by asking: those 18 persons killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them, were they more guilty than the others in Jerusalem? By no means. Christ then goes further to warn the second time: if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did.

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, despite my sinfulness, I don't want to perish. I long for repentance but fail to live up to the task. This notwithstanding, I am making the effort each day not to perish. We all need to do same.

We are all sinners in need of God's mercy. God's mercy which we celebrate during the Year of mercy some years ago and at this time of Pilgrims of Hope, is always present in the sacrament of reconciliation and at mass. The penitential liturgy at mass opens us to God's mercy, so that we may not perish but have eternal life. We must not then continue to live in sin when God is calling us to repentance.

The way of repentance is the way all of us should take. It is a sure but difficult way to Christ. Without repentance we are all lost. We should all make the effort to repent despite the challenges involve. When we fall on this way of repentance, we should not relent but rise again in the sacrament of Reconciliation. The saints in the Church and the holy people we have encountered, especially those who grew out of sinfulness to holiness are examples we can emulate today. Think for example saints like St. Paul, St. Ignatius, St. Mary Magdalen, St. Peter, etc. They made a personal journey of repentance to holiness.

May God help us on this task of repentance to be true to his name otherwise we perish.



FURTHER NOTICES:

Mass and Lenten Talk at St. Joseph this Tuesday 25th March 2025. There will be mass on the solemnity of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary at 6pm followed by a Lenten talk and movie in the hall thereafter. This is part of our working together with the Friars initiative and we call on as many of us to be present to benefit from this great venture. Come along with others to benefit from the life of Duns Scotus.

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FINANCE & MORE

COLLECTIONS/INCOME 16/03/2025

ST. JOSEPH: Loose plate £121.85, Envelopes £41.10, Coffee £10, Mass Stipend £50, Clergy Assistance Fund £11.35 and Hall Rent £1650

CORPUS CHRISTI: Loose plate £197.35, Envelopes £60, Coffee £11.87, Candles £5.36, CAFOD £3, Retreat £15, Clergy Assistance Fund £75, Sacrament £50 and Mass Stipend £10

STANDING ORDERS FEBRUARY 2025 £1,344

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 January & February was £82.14. Thank

100 CLUB

New member is welcome as there's still one number (73) available. Please see Hubert or Jenny if you want to join.

CAFOD LENT APPEAL – FAMILY FAST DAY

COLLECTION: Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You'll be supporting communities experiencing the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call us on 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

FRIENDSHIP CLUB This will take place every 2nd Saturday in the month at 10 am until 11.30 am. The next one will be Saturday, 5 April, in the hall at St. Joseph's. We had an increased number at our last get-together. Why not tell your friends and neighbours and come along for a drink, piece of cake and a chat. Last month we had a quiz which was very good.

LENT SEASON: The season of Lent has begun. During this time we will be having rosary, vespers and Benediction beginning at 6pm every Sunday. All are invited.

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.

Adoration: 11 am - 1:30 pm Monday to Friday (Most days with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Adoration).

Holy Hour: 7pm - 8pm 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 PROGRAMMES FOR 2024/2025

- BAPTISMAL PREPARATION SESSION:** This will be on Saturday 14th of June 2025 and 11th of October 2025 in St Joseph Hall at 11 am.
- FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM 2024/25:** Next session will be today Sunday 23rd of March 2025 at 9:15 am.
- CONFIRMATION:** Next session on Friday 28th of March 2025 at the Cathedral at 6pm.
- RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:** The next session will be on Thursday 3rd of April in Corpus Christi Presbytery at 6 pm.

CATECHISTS LENT DAYS OF PRAYER, FORMATION AND NETWORKING

The Vicariate for Evangelisation will be hosting three online events during Lent for Catechists across the diocese. These events offer a chance to connect with other catechists, share experiences, and find inspiration to hand on the faith in our parishes. Each event will begin at 7:30 PM and last for one hour. Catechists can choose from the three events based on their area of catechesis:

Thursday 13th March (Children's Liturgy and First Holy Communion)

Thursday 20th March (Marriage Preparation and Baptism)

Thursday 3rd April (Confirmation and RCIA)

To sign up for these events, please go to <https://forms.office.com/e/VkCdj1SWzA>.

CONTINUATION OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARISH FINANCES: Could you heat your house for £1 a week? Probably not, so think about the size of the churches and how much it costs to heat them so that you are warm when you attend Mass. Because St. Joseph's has not been open for two years, we have no bills for comparison, but two years ago, before we were shut down, the bill was more than £900 for three months for St. Joseph's and over £900 a month for Corpus Christi plus approx £1,400 in standing orders – the weekly collection for both churches is in the region of £300 or less. We'll leave you to do the sums, but the income is nothing like the expenditure (and that is only for the gas, let alone everything else!). We all know that gas and electricity prices have rocketed recently so we are expecting a hefty bill in March.

We are coming to the time of year when we give out Gift Aid envelopes for the next 12 months. This year, we are not only appealing for people to consider taking out a standing order instead of envelopes, but for those people who already have standing orders, to increase them. Many of you will have been in the scheme for years and never increased the amount you give. Could you give another £5 a month or more perhaps? Every little helps.

CONTACTLESS PAYMENT IN THE PARISH: As part of the future parish, we are being encouraged to sign up for the Dona contactless payment scheme, which will be operational in all the churches of our new parish. The arrangements for this have already been made and by next month, God willing, the contactless payment scheme will be operational in the parish. We would be able to use this scheme to pay for votive candles, offerings, mass intentions, stole fees, donations, etc.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES AND TALK: Thank you to those who listened to the talk about Parish finances and how Gift Aid can help. We will be available this weekend to sign up any new members or increase standing orders for others. Please consider your giving and how much it costs to heat the church, for instance, November & December was almost £1,500. Income from Standing orders for February was £1,344, so not enough to pay the heating bill, let alone anything else. There will be a talk at Corpus Christi Church today explaining why it is so important to give by Gift Aid.

PARISH RETREAT: This will be in Dominican Sisters, Sway, on Saturday, 29th March from 10 am to 4 pm. We look forward to car sharing and ask those who want to help out to let Fr Emmanuel know.

YOUR PRAYERS are asked for our Holy Father, Pope Francis, who is seriously ill in Hospital in Italy.

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

Colin Green, Sonia Hopwood, John Micallef, Michael Owen, Sheila Heaword, Teresa & 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.

JUBILEE PLANNING MEETING OUTCOME

On Monday 3rd Feb. 2025 at SJ church at 7pm, we had a meeting to plan the parish activities during this jubilee year, Pilgrims of Hope. At the end of the meeting, the following was decided: The Jubilee prayer and the prayer of hope will be printed and laminated and used for prayers in our churches throughout the jubilee year.

1. First Friday adoration to be done in our parish churches after masses from 10am to 6pm. Parishioners encouraged to sign up for adoration time slots.
2. 9th March 2025 (First Sunday of Lent) will be the launching of the Jubilee year in our parish.
3. Parish Jubilee celebration at the cathedral shall surely be on Ascension Thursday (29th May 2025). Necessary arrangements towards this shall be made and concrete programme communicated later by parish
4. Jubilee retreat: Will take place on Saturday 29th March 2025 at the Dominican Sisters in Sway from 10 am to 4 pm. Parishioners are encouraged to sign up.
5. Jubilee pilgrimage shall take place in October and either Walsingham or Ladywell will be our pilgrimage site.
6. Jubilee faith in action plan. We are all encouraged to put into practice our corporal works of mercy; to feed the hungry, visit the sick, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, etc.
7. Closing of the jubilee year in Advent 2025

LAUNCHING OF JUBILEE YEAR: Jubilee prayer and the prayer of hope bookmark will be said after every mass throughout the jubilee year.

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