



# CORPUS CHRISTI WITH ST. JOSEPH PARISH



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Also: St. Joseph's Church, Baffins

**PARISH WEBSITE:** <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/corpus-christi-with-st-joseph/>

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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

## 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent – 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025

### COME AND INVITE YOUR FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS

#### Readings of the Day

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Isaiah 53:16-21

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 125

(Response): **What great deals the LORD worked for us! Indeed, we were glad.**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Philippians 3:8-14

**Gospel Acclamation:** Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

Even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart,  
for I am gracious and merciful.

Glory to you, O Christ, Son of the living God.

**Gospel:** John 8:1-11

The Lord Who Has Wiped  
Out Our Past Sinfulness

The utter completeness of  
Christ's forgiveness is  
almost incredible. When he  
says to us "Neither do I  
condemn you", the past is  
dead, snuffed out like a  
wick, forgotten. Laughter  
and song fill our hearts. It  
seems like a dream.

#### WEEKLY MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 5<sup>th</sup>: 6 pm (SJ): For the intentions of the people of the Parish

Sun 6<sup>th</sup>: 9 am (SJ): For the souls in purgatory

11 am (CC): For the personal intention of Liz Douglas

Mon 7<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 am (CC):

Tue 8<sup>th</sup>:

Weds 9<sup>th</sup>: 7 pm (CC): RIP of Jude DeBattista & Mario Oakes FM

Thurs 10<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 am (SJ): RIP of Violet & Jeffrey Heaword FM

Fri 11<sup>th</sup>: 9:30 am (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

## THEME: LET HIM WHO IS WITHOUT SIN AMONG YOU BE THE FIRST TO THROW A STONE AT HER

We are all sinners in need of God's mercy. But more often than not, even though we are sinners, we have the irresistible tendency among us to condemn others in the sins, looking low on them or gossiping about them wherever we find ourselves; all in a bid to prove that we are holier than they are. For such people, a sinner is one who has been caught or one whose sins are known, and a saint is one who has not been caught or whose sins are not known. If God were to expose our sins, who is going to be free?

The readings of today want us to turn away from the "holier than thou" attitude, where we think that we are better people than others in terms of sins. This is brought out eloquently in the words of Christ "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her."

In the Mosaic law, the penalty for adultery was stoning to death. The Jews kept this law to the letter, but the unfortunate thing was that only the women, most of the time suffered this and the men went unpunished. Today, in the gospel, we find a similar situation. The Scribes and the Pharisees bring to Jesus a woman caught in adultery. Don't ask me whether she did it alone or where the man was who did it with her. They bring this woman to Jesus to set a trap for him. They presented their case thus: "Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery. Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such woman. What do you say about her?"

This was really a big test for Jesus. If Jesus refuses to abide with the demand of the Mosaic law, then who is he? Blasphemer? When their charge was placed before Christ, he bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. And as they continued to ask him, he stood up and set their consciences at work: "Let him who is without sin among you be the first to throw a stone at her." What a challenge! Is there anyone among us, who is without sin? Who can save us, from this question of Jesus in our parish? When they heard this, we are told they left, one by one, beginning with the eldest. At the end, Jesus is left alone with the woman.

Preaching on this gospel text of today, Emeritus/late Pope Benedict XVI said: "St. Augustine says that the gesture of Jesus portrays him as the divine legislator: in fact, God wrote the law with his finger on tablets of stone. Thus, Jesus is the Legislator, he is justice in person. And what is his sentence? 'Let him who is among you

without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.' These words are full of the disarming power of truth that pulls down the wall of hypocrisy and opens consciences to a greater justice; that of love, in which consists of the fulfilment of every precept."

When we want others to be condemned for their sins, we become hypocrites. We are hypocrites because we are all sinners but want others to pay for their sins; might be because theirs is known and ours unknown to man. God does not want the death of a sinner but wants that they repent and return to him. This has been the entire Lenten message.

When Jesus raised his head from the ground after challenging the scribes and Pharisees, he found the woman by his side alone. He demanded: "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?...Neither do I; go and sin no more." What a merciful Jesus. Two things come to mind with this attitude of Jesus. Firstly, if Jesus were living today, would the masses have allowed him to go away without this woman being condemned? Was Jesus not afraid that he could be misread by the people and condemned for that?

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, we should all learn to be merciful like Jesus. He doesn't condemn us in our sinfulness but gives us opportunities every day for conversion. We should learn to do the same with others rather than point condemning fingers at them, or desire they are punished for their sins and mishaps. Let us all not condemn others but go and sin no more.



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# FINANCE & MORE

## COLLECTIONS/INCOME 30/03/2025

**ST. JOSEPH:** Loose plate £97.54, Envelopes £40, CAFOD £80, Clergy Assistance Fund £42.75 and Hall Rent £225

**CORPUS CHRISTI:** Loose plate £230.75, Envelopes £50, Coffee £8.10, Clergy Assistance Fund £37.50, Easter Offering £40, Holy Places £10, Collection for the Retreat £15 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 you to all contributors. Don't forget to put your loose change in the buckets.

## 100 CLUB

Here are our winners for the month of March:

1 <sup>st</sup> Prize	Andrew Heaword
2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize	Terry Walmsley
3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize	James Cuffe

**GIFT AID ENVELOPES:** Thank you to those who signed up and those who increased their donations for our parish. You can sign up for Gift Aid at any time, so please see Teresa/Angela for St Joseph and Jenny/Joy at Corpus Christi.

**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 are now operational in all the churches. The arrangements for this have already been made and by this weekend, the contactless payment scheme will be operational in the parish. We will be able to use this scheme to pay for votive candles, offerings, mass intentions, stole fees, donations, etc.



**SECOND COLLECTION:** Today we are doing second collection for the Jubilee Lenten Retreat in Sway last Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> of March.

## 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 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2025 and 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2025 in St Joseph Upper Hall at 11 am.
- FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM 2024/25:** Next session will be today Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> of April 2025 at 9:15 am.
- CONFIRMATION:** Next session on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2025 at the Cathedral at 6pm.
- RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:** The next session will be on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> of April in Corpus Christi Presbytery at 6 pm.

**FRIENDSHIP GROUP** will be meeting on Saturday 12th April in St Joseph's church hall at 10am.

Everyone is welcome. We look forward to seeing you there.



# CONTINUATION OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

## HOLY WEEK 2025 PROGRAM FOR CORPUS CHRISTI WITH ST. JOSEPH

1. **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025**
  - **6 pm:** Penitential service at St. Joseph
2. **Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025**
  - **6 pm:** Penitential service at Corpus Christi followed by the normal evening mass
3. **PALM SUNDAY: 13<sup>th</sup> of April 2025**
  - 9 am: Mass at St. Joseph
  - 11 am: Mass at Corpus Christi
4. **TUESDAY OF THE HOLY WEEK: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025**
  - **11 am: Chrism Mass** at the Cathedral presided by the Bishop
5. **HOLY THURSDAY: 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025**
  - **6 pm:** Holy mass at St Joseph
  - **8 pm:** Holy mass at Corpus Christi

There will be washing of feet in both churches and adoration will take place after mass till midnight at Corpus Christi.
7. **GOOD FRIDAY: 18<sup>th</sup> April 2025**
  - **3 pm:** St Joseph
  - **3 pm:** Corpus Christi

2:30 pm Stations of the Cross before Good Friday ceremonies
8. **HOLY SATURDAY: 19<sup>th</sup> April 2025**
  - **1 pm:** Polish blessing of food at Corpus Christi (**Polish people are invited to get involved**)
  - **6 pm :** Easter Vigil Mass at St Joseph
  - **8:30 pm:** Easter Vigil Mass at Corpus Christi
9. **EASTER SUNDAY: 20<sup>th</sup> April 2025**
  - **9 am:** Mass at St. Joseph
  - **11 am:** Mass at Corpus Christi

**EASTER OFFERINGS:** Envelopes will be out on Palm Sunday. Please remember this collection goes to our Priests for everything that they do for our parish. Below is the link for this year's Easter Collection.  
<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/portsmouth-h-corporis-christi-and-st-joseph-catholic-parish-easter-second-collection>

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

**MEETING WITH THE BISHOP ON THE NEW PARISH:** This will be on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> of April from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Cathedral. Please feel free to attend and be updated on what the Pastoral area has been working on so far. It would also be an opportunity to share your thoughts on what you think about the new parish.

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

Colin Green, Sonia Hopwood, John Micallef, Michael Owen, Sheila Heaward, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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. Parish Jubilee celebration at the cathedral will surely be on Ascension Thursday (29<sup>th</sup> May 2025). Necessary arrangements towards this shall be made and concrete programme communicated later by parish
3. A Jubilee pilgrimage will take place in October and location will be advised in due course.
4. 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.
5. Closing of the jubilee year in Advent 2025.

NB: Launching of Jubilee year and Parish Retreat has already taken place.

**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.

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