



CORPUS CHRISTI WITH ST. JOSEPH PARISH



PARISH PRIEST Fr. Rinda Emmanuel Bamuh

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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

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

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

21st Ordinary Sunday – 24th August 2025

COME AND INVITE YOUR FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS

Readings of the Day

1st Reading: Isaiah 66:18-21

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 116

(Response): Alleluia!

2nd Reading: Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord.

No one comes to the Father except through me.

Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

The Lord Gathers A People To Himself
Today, as sons and daughters of God,
we submit ourselves to his loving
discipline, remembering that it was
not just the Jews, nor will it be just
Christians whom the Lord will gather
to himself. Many more worthy than
us will come from East and West to
share the banquet of his kingdom.

WEEKLY MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 23rd: 6 pm (SJ): For the intentions of the people of our parish

Sun 24th: 9 am (SJ): RIP of Sylvia Foster FM

11 am (CC): For the African Community members celebrating birthdays and anniversaries in
August

Mon 25th: 9:30 am (CC):

Tue 26th: RIP of John Heywood FM

Weds 27th: 7 pm (CC): **NO MASS**

Thurs 28th: 9:30 am (SJ): **NO MASS**

Fri 29th: 9:30 am (CC): RIP of Joyce & Nelson McStea FM **NO MASS**

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: STRIVE TO ENTER THROUGH THE NARROW GATE IF YOU MUST BE SAVED

Every human being desires peace, oneness of self, joy, happiness and they want to live in a place where they would experience love. But we discover that this is not possible here on earth because most often what we experience is hatred, anger, revenge etc. Therefore, each day, we strive to look for a place where we can enjoy love, warmth, joy, happiness etc. but miss this out often. We can only enjoy these things in its totality in heaven, where God has prepared for us eternal life. This eternal life is for all, for the Lord has said "I come to gather the nations of every language... to witness my glory" (Is 66:18). But who are those who would actually enter? The readings of today exhort us to try our best, and try it now, to enter through the narrow door; for it is only through this door that we are sure to enter our eternal home; where we shall enjoy all that our hearts long for.

The first reading is taken from the section of Isaiah called Trito-Isaiah; written after the return of the Israelites from exile in 538 B.C. The aim of the author was to console the returned exiles, who were depressed when they saw the sad state of Jerusalem and the poverty of the country. He foretold the future glory of Jerusalem to which people of all nations will come. It would be the centre from which the knowledge of the true God would go out in all directions. That is why he says "I know their works and thoughts, and I am coming to gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come and shall see my glory, and I will set a sign among them. And then I will send survivors to the nations...that have not heard my fame or seen my glory, and they shall declare my glory among the nations."

The second reading is a continuation of last Sunday's second reading where the author of the letter to the Hebrews encouraged Jewish converts to Christianity to be ready to face adversity and hardships. He compared them with athletes who endure so much in order to win a contest. Today, he goes on in the same strain, telling us that we must expect hardships as Christians because this is part of our training. We cannot win the prize of Christianity unless we undergo this training. God, our loving Father, is our trainer and sends us these trials so that through our overcoming of them, we may win the eternal prize.

In the gospel, we find Jesus teaching through towns and villages as he headed for Jerusalem. In the course of this journey, someone demanded whether those who would be saved are few or not. Jesus' response makes it clear that it is not the concern of the man as to the number of those who would be saved. All we need to strive is to enter through the narrow door since many will seek to enter and will not be able. We should note that the Lord's message in today's gospel was primarily intended for the Jews who had heard

his teaching but refused to follow it. However, the fate he foretells for them is the same fate which awaits all who fail to accept the gospel which he preached and lived according to it. This is because once the householder has risen and shut the door, no amount of knocking, no amount of pleading on grounds of familiarity: we ate and drank with you, you taught in our streets; will be able to give us access into the kingdom. Then only will be the moment of regret, a moment of weeping and gnashing of teeth because of the glory we shall see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all those in heaven enjoying and while we shall be thrust out of it. The story of Lazarus and the rich man can help us to relive this message.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, strive to enter through the narrow gate. But what does it mean to strive to enter through the narrow gate? It is just accepting Christ as our personal Lord and Saviour as some Christian denominations say? The answer to this question opens us to four things.

In the first case, it tells us that the narrow door that leads to the kingdom of heaven is first and foremost a matter of free choice. God created us and gave us freedom that through this we may make the choices in our lives and so be responsible for these choices. Secondly, we must bring this message to others. See first reading where God gathers a people and wants them to bring the knowledge of him to others. Thirdly, we must earn this kingdom through hard work and discipline. Finally, the narrow door that leads to the kingdom of God is not a matter of familiarity or acquaintance. This is not a matter of eating and drinking at the table of the Lord during mass or of savouring from the table of the Word at the readings and preaching. If it is this way, then the only response will be that the door is lock for us and we will find ourselves weeping and gnashing our teeth.

Let us therefore strive each day to enter through the narrow door.

NEW APPROACH TO GODPARENTS FOR BAPTISM

We have come to realise that some parents do not understand the difference between a Godparent and a witness for baptism. This has led to situations where none Catholics have stood as Godparents for their children. As a clarification, a witness at baptism can be anyone from any denomination or one without a religion. But a Godparent must be a practicing Catholic and one who is able to receive the sacraments. In this light, we would be introducing a form that parents who want their children to be baptised must send to the Godparents so that their Parish priest can fill and sign to testify that they are practicing Catholics and regular in their sacramental lives.

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FINANCE & MORE

COLLECTIONS/INCOME 17/08/2025

ST. JOSEPH: Loose plate £87, Envelopes £51.10, Pilgrimage £20 and Hall Rent £635

Contactless Collection: General £33

CORPUS CHRISTI: Loose plate £141.33, Envelopes £15, Candles £11.69, Mass Stipend £20 and Pilgrimage £20

Contactless Collection: General £25, Votive Candle £5 & New Heating £20

Online Donation: New Heating System £35

STANDING ORDERS JULY £ 3,181.19

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 was £106.02. 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.

DONA CONTACTLESS PAYMENT MACHINE:



CHURCH COLLECTION

Please remember you can make your donations to the church via the DONA machine in the porch or by scanning the QR code. This is an easy way of accessing the payment method, rather than queueing at the machine. Just point your phone's camera at the QR code and then follow the instructions on your phone.

DONATING TO THE PARISH. Are you new to the Parish? Or a long-standing Parishioner? Do you want to set up a standing order or direct debit? If you do, please speak to Jenny as, if you are a taxpayer, we can reclaim a further 25% back from your donation, so if you donate £100, that can mean £125 in real terms.

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

- PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FOR THE NEXT BAPTISMAL PREPARATION SESSION:** This is now Saturday 25 October 2025 in St Joseph main Hall at 11 am.
- RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:** Next 13 sessions already going on online.

MARRIAGE HELP - Retrouvaille helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: 17th-19th Oct. www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 0788 7296983

TEA AND COFFEE AT CC: The kitchen at CC school is under renewal and cannot be used for tea and coffee. But we have arranged a corner in the hall where tea and coffee can be prepared and served. Those in the hospitality team should especially take note.

HOLIDAY: Fr Emmanuel will be away for his holiday from the 27th till 31st of August 2025. There will be **NO WEEKDAY MASSES** while he is away.

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION: This will be on the 5th of September from 7 am till 6 pm. Mass will be at 6 pm on that day.

CONTINUATION OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

CORPUS CHRISTI WITH ST. JOSEPH PARISH PILGRIMAGE 4TH OCTOBER 2025 BOURNEMOUTH ORATORY

**IT IS NOW TIME TO SECURE YOUR PLACE BY
PAYING £20.00pp**

**ONLINE TO 30-93-04 00884996
(PILGRIMAGE AS REFERENCE)**

**BY CASH PLEASE PUT INTO ENVELOPE MARKED WITH
NAME/S AND TELEPHONE NUMBER**

GIVE TO FATHER OR MARION

**ANY ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT MARION ON
07940 499198**



ITENERARY TO FOLLOW

PARISH FUNDRAISING 2025

SUNDAY, 24TH OF AUGUST – The Outdoor/Cultural Mass will be held at Corpus Christi School today. After the mass, there will be food tasting and display for a donation at the hall. Money will go to Corpus Christi Church new heating system. Thank you for your support.

APPEAL FOR VOLUNTEERS: We are appealing for volunteers at Corpus Christi and St. Joseph's as catechists for children's liturgy, welcomers, choristers, tea/coffee, cleaners, etc. Please, if you can help, contact the parish priest or Joy Cagape CC or Angela Waldren SJ in the first instance.

READERS: The leader of the Corpus Christi Readers' club, Tom Blair, wants to reboot the readers rota so we can have an up-to-date list of members. Old and new readers can email or text (names and telephone number) to Tom on tpblair1946@gmail.com or on 07738 227922 if they wish to continue reading or to join. Readers must be baptised and communicants.

BAMENDA BISHOP AND DELEGATIONS: They will be here in Portsmouth from the 5th of September 2025. The Bishop will be here until the 10th of September while the rest of the delegations will stay until the 19th of September 2025. They will all be staying at Corpus Christi Presbytery. We appeal for food, drinks etc. to keep them going. Let us all welcome them.

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

Gail Edwards, Karen Gardner, Sonia Hopwood, Catherine Fuggle, John Micallef, Michael Owen, Sheila Heaword, 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, Terry Walmsley, Pretty Mukuhlane, Clare Hill, Frances & Ron Little, Anna Pagano, Ann Del Rosario, 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

The ongoing parish activities during this jubilee year, Pilgrims of Hope are as follows. 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.

1. Jubilee prayer and the prayer of hope bookmark will be said after every mass throughout the jubilee year.
2. A Parish Jubilee pilgrimage – see notice opposite.
3. 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.
4. Closing of the jubilee year in Advent 2025.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (FHC) PROGRAM 2025

Our FHC program this year shall take a different approach. Only children of regular and practicing parishioners would be enrolled for the program this year and we shall need a maximum of 30 children for Corpus Christi and the rest will go over to St. Joseph. Forms will be collected from both churches, and the registration will all be done and submitted on the same day during a meeting with prospective candidates and parents on Thursday 26th September 2025 at 6pm at the Corpus Christi church. The parents will have a greater role to play in the primary instruction of the children especially on memorising basic prayers and the responses at mass. Once we are convinced that this has been done properly, then the children will begin with the sessions after a retreat.

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