



CORPUS CHRISTI WITH ST. JOSEPH PARISH



PARISH PRIEST Fr. Rinda Emmanuel Bamuh

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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) stjosephs Marianhouse@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

FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS – 14th September 2025
COME AND INVITE YOUR FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS

Readings of the Day

1st Reading: Numbers 21:4-9

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 77:1-2. 34-38

(Response): **Never forget the deeds of the Lord!**

2nd Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia.

**We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you,
because by your Cross you have redeemed the world.**

Alleluia.

Gospel: John 3:13-17

The cross on which Jesus, the Son of Man, was lifted up has become the symbol of his victory over the power of evil. He made the instrument of humiliation, torture and death the instrument of our redemption.

WEEKLY MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 13th: 6 pm (SJ): For the intentions of the people of our parish

Sun 14th: 9 am (SJ): RIP of Derek Hopkins

11 am (CC): Thanksgiving for a successful surgery

Mon 15th: 9:30 am (CC): **NO MASS**

Tue 16th:

Weds 17th: 9:30 am (CC): **MASS IN THE MORNING**

Thurs 18th: 9:30 am (SJ): **NO MASS**

Fri 19th: 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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ccsj@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Sunday Reflection

THEME: THE CROSS, OUR HOPE AND STRENGTH

We are celebrating today the feast of the exaltation of the Cross. The cross which was a sign of weakness and failure has become the sign of our power, hope and strength. In the past, the cross was a most cruel and horrible means of torture. Death on a cross was a kind of execution reserved for bandits, rebel slaves, and for those who committed the most brutal crimes. So to declare oneself to be a follower of someone who had been crucified would have been foolish, shameful, and contrary to common sense. Ironically, it is this same cross which is our victory, strength and hope.

Our salvation is gained for us by way of the Cross. That is why the Cross remains a sign of our hope and strength. This was prefigured in the Old Testament by the first reading of today. The Jews suffered and experienced death in the desert because of their complaining attitude against Yahweh. They died because of the fiery serpents among them that bit them. When they came to their senses and pleaded with Moses to intercede for them, God said "Make a fiery serpent and put it on a standard. If anyone is bitten and looks at it, he shall live" (Num 21:8). This was a symbol of the Cross that healed the people in the desert from their distress.

This symbol is realized in the life of Christ when he hung upon the wood of the Cross for the salvation of mankind. This was the greatest sign of God's love for mankind for as St. John tells us in the gospel: "God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him May not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved" (Jn3:16-17). It is this love that made Christ to leave all heavenly glory in order to suffer and die for our sake, our salvation. By his death on the Cross, he has brought victory over the ancient serpent and has given us the sure hope of an inheritance that can never be spoiled.

Today's feast therefore is inviting us to contemplate the Cross which is the symbol of our faith; a symbol of our victory over death. Our veneration and contemplation of the Cross should not be limited just to bowing and kissing the crucifix but should be a sincere and humble desire to suffer for the sake of others. If we must contemplate the Cross, then we need to choose the Cross as the guiding sign for our lives accepting it as part and parcel of our lives as Christians. The cross may come in various forms in our lives: sickness, poverty, misunderstandings, false accusations, marital squabbles, stubborn children, etc. When we face these crosses daily, we should not shun or complain about them but ask God for the graces to carry them daily as his

son did. We must as well pray that these crosses should not weigh us down but bring us closer to Christ. Avoiding any spirituality that shuns the Cross is a battle we must fight daily.

It is sad to see today in some parts of the western world that the cross, which is a symbol of unity is being pushed away and hidden from public view. If you go to my country and into schools and some public spaces, the display of the crucifix is a reminder to us of the place of the cross in our lives and of what Jesus did to win salvation for us. Today something it is not a good thing to have the crucifix in schools or public spaces as it may be offensive to some. This is an utter denial of the very means of our salvation. As we celebrate this feast, I would like us to remember two things:

First, we rejoice that something so terrible should have been transformed into a means of redemption for the whole human race.

Second, we remind ourselves of the fact that Christianity is not an abstract and spiritual religion. It springs from God's direct intervention in the affairs of the world, a real historical event involving real people and, in the end, a real execution on a real cross. We may theorize and theologize all we like; but all our theorizings and theologizings are nothing without the history on which they are based. Take away that history – take away the Cross – and Christianity is nonsense.

By his wounds we have been healed. Therefore, let us pray for the graces to bring healing in the lives of others as we take up our daily crosses to follow Christ. Let the cross shine out in our lives in the way we carry the burdens of life.

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.

NO MASS: There will be **NO MASS** this Monday or Thursday as Father has appointments to catch up with the delegation from Bamenda.

The Wednesday mass will be at 9:30 am this week at CC.

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FINANCE & MORE

COLLECTIONS/INCOME 07/09/2025

ST. JOSEPH: Loose plate £81.70, Envelopes £76.40, Pilgrimage £80, Coffee £10 and Mass Stipend £20

Contactless Collection: General £5 & New Heating £5

CORPUS CHRISTI: Loose plate £127.90, Envelopes £5, Candles £10.35, Mass Stipend £20 and Pilgrimage £20

Contactless Collection: General £25, Mass Intentions £10, Votive Candles £15 & New Heating £31

Online Donation: General £10, Mass Intentions £20 and New Heating System £20

STANDING ORDERS AUGUST £1,513

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 July & August was £221.19. 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.

100 CLUB

We are looking for 2 volunteers from each church to run the 100 Club draw on alternate months from October 2025. Please speak to Fr Emmanuel if you are interested.

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.

THANK YOU

Angela Waldren would like to thank everyone for her presentation of Diocesan Medal. She feels very humbled by this, but thanks her husband for all his support over the years. This medal is for us both.

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

1. **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.
2. **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

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.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION SUNDAY: This is today's second collection. It provides an opportunity to celebrate and give thanks to all involved in making Catholic schools places of enlightenment, as well as to look forward in anticipation of the year ahead. We have set up a Give As You Live campaign to support Education Sunday <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/catholic-education-service-second-collection-2025>

CONTINUATION OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHAPLET OF THE DIVINE MERCY: Saint Faustina, formerly Helena Kowalska was born in a village near Lodz, Poland in 1905. She was a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy. She died at the age of 33 years. She was Canonized by Saint John Paul II. Starting October, every Wednesday and Friday at 3 pm we will be praying the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy at Corpus Christi Church. We are inviting the parents and carers of children at Corpus Christi School to join us. This will be finished in time to collect children. All Parishioners are also invited to join in.

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 ANGELA OR MARION

ANY ENQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT MARION ON

07940 499198

**REMINDER all coach payments to be completed by
Monday 22nd. Itinerary to follow.**



**WE PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND MEMBERS OF
OUR COMMUNITIES INCLUDING:** Barbara Rice-Dunlea, 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, Margaret New, Sean New, Leo Howes 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.**

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.

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.

ST EDMUND'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL OPEN MORNING Saturday 4th October 2025: 9am to 1pm. Come and get an insight into our Outstanding Catholic School in Portsmouth. The morning will be in 2 sessions and book is required.

Session 1 - 9:00am - 11:00am

Session 2 - 11:00am - 13:00pm

For more details please visit:

<https://www.saintedmunds.org.uk/openmorning>

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION (FHC) PROGRAM 2025

Our FHC program this year will take a different approach. Only children of regular and practicing parishioners will 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 25th 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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