

South East Hampshire Pastoral Area
Jesus Prince of Peace
St Michael and All Angels Catholic Church, Leigh Park

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth charity number 1199568

Parochial Administrator: Rev. Fr. James Lewis

Assistant Priest: Rev. Fr. Tom Hiney

Parish telephone number: 023 9248 4323

Deacon Rev. Nick O'Neill noneill@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary Ellen McCarthy office@stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk

Safeguarding Ministry: 023 9248 4323 safeguarding@stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk

BACS details Lloyds Bank CDP Leigh Park St Michael 30-93-04 Account number: 00882004

Our Website: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/parish/st-michael-and-all-angels-leigh-park/>



Ten Lepers, by James Christensen

Fr. Tom writes...

"There is an obstacle that often prevents us from recognizing Christ's presence in our daily lives: the assumption that joy must be free from suffering. The disciples of Emmaus walk sadly because they hoped for a different ending, for a Messiah who did not know the cross. Although they have heard that the tomb is empty, they cannot smile. But Jesus walks alongside them and patiently helps them understand that pain is not the denial of the promise, but the way through which God has manifested the measure of his love."

This powerful quote can be found in the General Audience that was given last Wednesday by Pope Leo in St Peter's Square. Anyone visiting Rome can apply for a ticket to attend a General Audience, held most Wednesdays, and a summary is always given at the end in English and other major languages, with a full text in English available online soon afterwards. Church doctrine, from era-defining Council documents to short General Audience talks, is one of the great untapped treasures of the Catholic Church which, thanks to the Internet (such a destructive influence in many ways, but still an incredible resource if used with prudence) has never been more accessible.

Did you know, for instance, that there was a significant Vatican document on Artificial Intelligence published in January called *Antiqua et nova*? I was asked to speak about it to the Royal Navy's AI team in Portsmouth this year, so thoughtful is it in applying ancient principles to this brand-new development in human ingenuity. The Church has always valued good reasoning (philosophy) as well as theology, and – armed with both – can think very clearly about the issues of our day. If you want to know why the Church holds the positions it does on subjects like Assisted Suicide, go beneath the headlines and arguments, and read the original documents where it lays out its position. Many documents are addressed to 'people of goodwill'; that is, anyone willing to listen to what the Church has to say.

All Papal (sometimes known as 'Magisterial') documents are free to read and, together with details on how to book tickets for a General Audience for those fortunate enough to go to Rome, can be found on the Vatican's website, Vatican.va. There are also some really interesting Catholic podcasts coming out of America at the moment. I discovered The Just One Small Thing Podcast on a car journey recently after dealing with a family member diagnosed with Alzheimer's. It had a really helpful episode on care for the elderly. And Pope Francis's final encyclical, *Dilexit Nos* (He Loved Us), is a superb, life-giving answer to the question: what does it mean when we say God loves us? It's not short, but, as with many of the longer Vatican documents, you can buy a book version in English from the Catholic Truth Society (ctsbooks.org) if you don't want to read online.

Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary times 12th October 2025

Parish Mass Book page 149

Scripture Readings at Mass

2 Kings 5:14-17 *Naaman returned to Elisha and acknowledged the Lord.*

2 Timothy 2:8 -13 *If we hold firm we shall reign with Christ.*

Luke 17:11-19 *No one was found to return and give praise to God, except this foreigner.*

Our Liturgies this week

Reconciliation; in the half hour prior to Mass

Saturday 11th October

St John XXIII, Pope

NO MASS TODAY

12th October

Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30 am Mass for Nora Fallon RIP

Monday 13th October, Feria

Tuesday 14th October, Feria

Wednesday 15th October

St Teresa of Avila, Foundress, Doctor of the Church

10.15 am Mass Kieran Smith INT

10.45 am Adoration

Thursday 16th October, Feria

Friday 17th October

St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop, Martyr, memorial

Saturday 18th October

St Luke, Evangelist, Feast

12 Noon Mass Margaret Cumpsty INT

19th October

Twenty Nineth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9.30 am Mass for Keith Myers RIP and his family

Rosary group meet on Monday's at 10am. Everyone is welcome.

We welcome Millie who was baptised last weekend.
Please pray for Millie and her family

Alpha 2025-26

Alpha is wonderful for anyone who has questions, is seeking to grow in their faith or wants to experience a greater sense of belong in our communities.

The Alpha course sessions started last week and will take place for 10 weeks. Each evening begins with a delicious hot meal and opportunities for developing new friendships. This is followed by an engaging presentation on the Christian faith and the opportunity, in small groups, to share your thoughts and raise questions in a supportive and non-judgemental environment. If you haven't done alpha before and feel this could be a good opportunity for you, please email office@stmichaelsleighpark.org.uk and find out more.

Youth Alpha & Sacrament of Confirmation for Young People

3.45-5pm at Sacred Heart

We are beginning the journey for those that would like to consider receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation next Summer with the exciting, new youth alpha series. This is open to all young people that are in year 8 and above from September 2025. There will be an opportunity to enrol in early January for further faith-based interactive sessions to prepare to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

We are delighted that Bishop Philip will be Confirming our young people with the Holy Spirit at the Sacred Heart Church, Waterloo, on Tuesday 2nd June at 7pm.

If you would like to receive more information about this opportunity, please e mail:

confirmation@jesusprinceofpeace.org.uk and provide your name, age, and a parent's e mail address and mobile.

Fr Anthony Fyk, invites you to formation morning for **Readers** will take place on **Saturday 18th October** and all readers, experienced and new, are very welcome to attend. This day will include a session on Lectio Divina. Anyone wishing to attend either day should register via liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Click on the image for a poster. Why not visit our [Liturgy Project website](#) to see what else the Diocesan Liturgical Formation Team has to offer.

