

CORPUS CHRISTI

WITH

ST. JOSEPH PARISH



PARISH PRIEST Fr. Rinda Emmanuel Bamuh

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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

1st Sunday of Advent - 30th November 2025

COME AND INVITE YOUR FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS

Readings of the Day

1st Reading: Isaiah 2:1-5

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 121:1-2. 4-5. 6-9

(Response): **Let us go rejoicing to the house of the LORD.**

2nd Reading: Romans 13:11-14

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia.

Show us, O LORD, your mercy, and grant us your salvation.

Gospel: Matthew 24:37-44

The Day Of The Lord

Today we rejoice that the night of our long pilgrimage to God's eternal city, the new Jerusalem, will soon be over. The Lord's unending Day is dawning. Already, in the words of Isaiah, we see 'the mountain of the Temple of the Lord' etched against the eastern sky. Let us wake up and stand ready.

WEEKLY MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 29th 6 pm(CC): For Janet Lentieul & all those in Hamilton House

Sun 30th: 9 am (SJ): For the intentions of the people of the parish

11 am (CC): RIP of Elisabeth Handjie

12:30 pm (CC): Baptisms

Mon 1st: 9:30 am (CC): RIP of Odette Djeutcha

Tues 2nd:

Weds 3rd: 7 pm (CC):

Thurs 4th: 9:30 am (SJ):

Fri 5th: 9:30 am(CC):

8 am – 6 pm (CC): First Friday Adoration. Ends wit benediction and 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: STAND READY BECAUSE THE SON OF MAN IS COMING AT AN HOUR YOU DO NOT EXPECT

Last week, we celebrated the solemnity of Christ the King. It was the last week of Ordinary Time Year C (for Sundays) and Cycle I (for weekdays). This week ushers in a new season in the Church's liturgical calendar: Advent. Advent is a time when Christians, as well as non-Christians, around the world use in preparation for Christmas. Advent constitutes the four weeks leading up to Christmas, which the Church gives us to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Jesus' birth. It's a time when we observe the first coming of our Lord in the flesh, while we also look forward to his second coming at the end of time. Each of the four weeks leading up to Christmas has themes chosen over the years to help us prepare for Christ's coming. Even though these themes vary for some people, most scholars focused on hope, peace, joy, and love on the respective four Sundays of Advent. Hope can be described as an eager expectation for something good. It carries the connotation of waiting for an answer to a promise. Peace, on its part, is tranquillity, calmness both within and outside. This does not limit it to the absence of conflict but the presence of something much more significant. The third key theme celebrated on Laetare Sunday is joy, which is an inner sense of well-being. Love takes over on the last Sunday, which is characterised by Christ's coming to teach us how to love. Love, the most important of these themes, is not just something that God shows; it is something that he is; it's a part of his nature and character.

The first week of Advent centres on hope as we have seen. Fortunately for us, we have been celebrating the Jubilee year titled Pilgrims of Hope, which officially ends on 6th January 2026 in Rome. But we will finalise our celebration of the Jubilee year in our parish today with the first Sunday of Advent. But we need to refresh our memories again of what hope is all about. As already suggested, hope is the anticipation of something positive, often involving waiting for a promise to be fulfilled. In Christianity, hope is the confident expectation of God's promises—especially eternal life, redemption, and the fulfilment of His Word—based on His unchanging character and faithfulness. It is not wishful thinking, but spiritual certainty. In Hebrews 11:1, hope is linked with faith, showing that Christian hope is grounded in trust—not in what is seen, but in what God has promised. In this light, it says, "faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." We are always invited to put our hope in God alone and on the promises he has given us.

As we commence our preparation for Advent, reflecting on hope, I would like us to dwell a bit on the words of Jesus in today's gospel passage, which call on each of us to stand ready because the Son of Man is

coming at an hour we do not expect.

The first reading of today launches with a voice of hope from the prophet Isaiah. This comes within the context of a vision he saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. "In the days to come, the mountain of the Temple of the Lord shall tower above the mountains and be lifted higher than the hills. All the nations will stream to it, peoples without number will come to it; and they will say: 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the Temple of the God of Jacob that he may teach us his ways so that we may walk in his paths; since the Law will go out from Zion, and the oracle of the Lord from Jerusalem'" (Is 2:2-3). If we continue with verses four and five, we find that theme of hope running through to justify the coming kingdom of God, which would be inaugurated by the coming of Christ. But if we must be part and parcel of that kingdom, then the words of Jesus in the gospel passage of today make sense to us.

We encounter Jesus in the gospel during the final days of his life, as he gives his last instructions to his apostles and disciples. And in today's passage, he talks of the necessity for watchfulness by calling us to stand ready, since we do not know when he is going to return. This is what brings out the penitential character of Advent and affords us the opportunity to repent and make a good confession in view of welcoming Christ at Christmas. He reminds us that if a householder had known when the burglars would come, he would have been ready, so as not to allow them to take his property. That should be the tendency of all Christians as we keep watch in joyful waiting for the coming of the Son of Man. We do that in joyful hope.

This message is of the utmost necessity as we do not have much time at our disposal. This is strongly suggested by the second reading of today, when St. Paul tells the Romans at the time: "You know 'the time' has come: you must wake up now: our salvation is even nearer than it was when we were converted. The night is almost over, it will be daylight soon – let us give up all the things we prefer to do under cover of the dark; let us arm ourselves and appear in the light. Let us live decently as people do in the daytime: no drunken orgies, no promiscuity or licentiousness, and no wrangling or jealousy. Let your armour be the Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom 13:11-14).

Let us all be ready by preparing for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Let us take time to reflect on our lives and prepare to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation in the coming days at Corpus Christi with St. Joseph, and wherever we find ourselves. Let our preparations also push us to pray more for ourselves and for one another. May the season of Advent be an opportunity to come closer to Christ.

Have a fruitful Advent season to you all!

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FINANCE & MORE

COLLECTIONS/INCOME 23/11/2025

ST. JOSEPH: Loose plate £73.33, Envelopes 32.95£, and Mass Intentions £10

Contactless Collection: General £11 & Mass Intention £0

CORPUS CHRISTI: Loose plate £78.11, Envelopes £30 Candles £3.30, tea/coffee £11.11, cake sale £75.80, mass intention £10, Wintershall £119

Contactless Collection: General £ & Candles £

Online Donation: General £67, Mass Intentions £10 & CC New Heating £25, and candles £10

STANDING ORDERS OCTOBER £1576

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 September & £189.00. 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.

CHRISTMAS SALE

Some of our young parishioners from Corpus Christi have organised a Christmas sale for the four Sundays of Advent for church funds.

They would appreciate donations of religious cards, unbroken toys, stocking filler gifts, and Christmas decorations. Thank you.

(gifts for sale can be given to Terry, Geraldine or Liz who sit at the back of the church on a Sunday.)

RECEIVING COMMUNION - May we politely remind you that when you come to receive the precious body of Christ, you should respond with "Amen", not thank you, or nothing at all! If you do not wish to receive, but would like a blessing, please cross your arms across your chest so that the Minister knows.

RED MISSIO BOXES: Please leave them at the sacristy of both churches ready for collection or give it to Marion for St Joseph and to Terry for Corpus Christi. Thank you for your support.

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 PROGRAMME FOR 2024/2025

- RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS:** If you are not a Catholic or have no religion and wants to become not a Catholic, you can join this program. So far, we have 5 persons currently doing the program. Others are also welcome to enrolled in this programme.
- FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAM 2025/26:** Fourth session today Sunday 30th of November at 9:15 am in Corpus Christi Hall.

WHAT HAPPENS AT ADVENT?: Advent is the time the church has given us to prepare for Christ's coming at Christmas. It consists of four Sundays and have themes that cuts across these Sundays: hope, peace, joy and love respectively. In our church, we usually have rosary, vespers and benediction on the Sundays of Advent beginning at 6pm. All are welcome to be part of it.

During this time of the year, the Gloria is not sung at mass except for solemnities and baptisms may be left out till Christmas.

We normally have penitential services in schools and the parish to accord our members the opportunity to avail themselves for the sacrament of confession.

CONTINUATION OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHRISTMAS VOUCHERS: Once again this year, we will be collecting Christmas shopping vouchers for our less fortunate families from Corpus Christi and St. Paul's Schools. No more than £5 please. We appreciate that this is a difficult time for all, but if you can spare £5 to purchase a supermarket shopping card when you do your weekly shopping, these families will be eternally grateful. Please put the card in the basket on the steps of the altar or in the weekly collection plate.

WINTERSHALL THE NATIVITY JOURNEY

Saturday, 20 December 2025

Payments are now due, to secure your place either pay online to:-

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Corpus Christi & St Joseph, sort code is 30-93-04 and account number 00884996

Or put payment in an envelope with your full name and give to Father Emmanuel

ADULTS	£34.00
CHILD (3yrs to 18yrs)	£17.00
FAMILY of 4 (2 adults & 2 children)	£96.00

Costs include coach travel

More details of timings to follow.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP IN DECEMBER: December's get together will take place on Saturday 13th at 10.30 am. I hope to make this a fun Christmas themed session and am hoping that as many as you can come along as possible.

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY AT ST. JOSEPH'S: We are arranging a children's nativity as part of our Carol Service on Christmas eve from 5.00 pm. If you have children who would like to take part by dressing up to create a nativity scene between carols (no speaking required), please see Gail Edwards or Julie Beadsworth at 9 am Mass at St. Joseph's by Sunday, 12 October. All costumes will be provided.

CHRISTMAS DECORATION IN OUR CHURCHES: This will be done on Saturday 13th of December 2025 in both churches.

GDPR: Last week, Angela and Jenny attended a meeting for Parish Secretaries and Administrators in Basingstoke. Identification of parishioners was a big topic for debate. We were told that we need to have consent for names to be put in the newsletter, so from next weekend, there will be forms for completion for any entries, in particular prayers for the sick.

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

Karen Gardner, Sonia Hopwood, John Micallef, Michael Owen, Sheila Heaward, 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.

END OF JUBILEE YEAR, PILGRIMS OF FAITH

There have been ongoing parish activities during this jubilee year, Pilgrims of Hope, such as recitation of the Jubilee prayer of Hope before the final blessing on Sundays, First Friday adoration, retreats, recollections and pilgrimages, talks, and a call to put faith into action via corporal and spiritual works of mercy. To our reckoning, we have had a fruitful and fulfilling time for us as a parish community. We thank God for those who joyfully and gracefully participated in the activities during this jubilee year.

We shall close the year today in our parish and the Jubilee prayer will no longer be said as a community before the final blessing but we encourage to take copies and continue praying as individuals until 6th January 2026.

Baffins Pantry: Every Sunday, Janette collects the parcels left in the church for Baffins Pantry (just along Tangier Road from the church) and delivers them on Monday. She says: "Can I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their continued generosity towards the Pantry. They have asked us for Christmas goodies this month such as biscuits, chocs, puddings, etc. Let me thank you in anticipation and can I assure you the Pantry is always very grateful for our support". Janette

Parish Pilgrimage to Knock & Co. Mayo – Led by Fr. Rinda Emmanuel. 08th March 2026. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight from Heathrow or Luton, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Full use of leisure facilities. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock Shrine, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre & Kylemore Abbey. Irish music nightly. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact: Fr. Emmanuel to register your interest or complete the form to show your interest

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