



CORPUS CHRISTI WITH ST. JOSEPH PARISH

CHARITY NO: 1199568



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) 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

The Baptism of the Lord – 11th January 2026

COME AND INVITE YOUR FAMILIES, NEIGHBOURS & FRIENDS

Readings of the Day

1st Reading: Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 28:1-4, 9-10

(Response): **The LORD will bless his people with peace.**

2nd Reading: Acts 10:34-38

Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia, alleluia.

The heavens were opened and the voice of the Father thundered:

"This is my beloved Son; listen to him".

Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17

The Baptism Of The Lord

The Father anointed his beloved son, Jesus, with the Holy Spirit and with power, to bring healing and peace to all the nations.

WEEKLY MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sat 10th: 6 pm(CC): RIP of Ronnie Heywood

Sun 11th: 9 am (SJ): For the intentions of the people of the parish

11 am (CC): For great awakening convention & AFCM UK awakening missions

Mon 12th: 9:30 am (CC): **NO MASS** For great awakening convention & AFCM UK awakening missions

Tues 13th: For great awakening convention & AFCM UK awakening missions

Weds 14th: 7pm (CC): **NO MASS** For great awakening convention & AFCM UK awakening missions

Thurs 15th: 9:30 am (SJ): **NO MASS** For great awakening convention & AFCM UK awakening missions

Fri 16th: 9:30 am(CC): **NO MASS** For great awakening convention & AFCM UK awakening missions

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 BAPTISM OF JESUS

Today, we are celebrating the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, following the celebration of the solemnity of the Epiphany on Tuesday 6th January 2026. This feast marks the end of the Christmas season and the beginning of Ordinary Time. That is why tomorrow morning we begin the first period of Ordinary Time, Cycle II. As we observe this feast, I invite us to reflect carefully on the baptism of Jesus and our own baptisms, considering how well we have lived out our baptismal promises. We will do this by asking ourselves: why was Jesus baptised?

Every religion during the time of Jesus practiced some form of baptism. Baptism was not originally a practice of Judaism but was introduced by the Essene community. These were individuals who saw corruption within the practice of Judaism; in other words, they disapproved of how people were living out their Jewish faith. As a result, they left their ordinary daily lives and retreated into the deserts, living there in strict observance of Judaism. They were the ones who began the practice of baptism in Judaism as a sign of repentance. John the Baptist, who is considered to be an Essene, practiced baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins as well. Those willing to leave behind their old sinful ways and embrace a new life in God were baptised. Now, the question is: if John's baptism was a baptism of repentance, why would Jesus, who was without sin, agree to be baptised?

There are three reasons I wish to uphold for permitting Jesus to receive baptism despite his divine state.

1. Jesus was baptised to fulfil all righteousness (Mt 3:15). In the account of Jesus' baptism by Matthew, which we used this year (Year A), we are told that when Jesus approached for baptism by John, John initially refused because he did not see himself worthy to baptise the Lord. He felt he was the one who should receive baptism from Jesus. Jesus insisted he needed to baptise him, saying that the purpose of the baptism was to fulfil all righteousness. Through this act of righteousness, he was fulfilling the words of the prophets in the Old Testament and providing us with an example of obedience to follow. Therefore, when we choose to be baptised, we are also committing to a righteous way of life, a life of complete obedience to God. That is why at baptism we renounce Satan and all his works, his plays, and empty promises. But do we live this out daily?

2. Jesus was baptised because he wanted to fully identify himself with fallen humanity. Philippians 2:6-7 tells us that although Jesus was God, he did not consider his equality with God something to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a servant, becoming man in all things but

sin. As he identified himself with us in everything except sin, he had to free us from sin. Taking baptism at the hands of John was still part of his identification with man and man's liberation from sin through baptism (2 Cor 5:21). In a sense, he was showing us what we need if we are to follow him. This shows us that for us too, to identify with the Lord means staying clear from sin, which baptism has washed away.

3. Finally, Jesus' baptism was an epiphany. We celebrated the feast of the Epiphany on Tuesday, 6th January, and on that day, we saw that the feast was meant to unveil Jesus to the world as the Light to the world, the Messiah expected by the Jews. As Luke recounts in the Year C gospel for this feast (Lk 3:15-16, 21-23), Jesus' manifestation occurs while he was at prayer. At that moment, the heavens opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in the form of a dove, while the Father's confirmation of Jesus was heard: "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you" (Lk 3:21-22). These words from God himself about Jesus confirm his mission, as expressed by Isaiah in the first reading today: "Here is my servant whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom my soul delights. I have endowed him with my spirit that he may bring true justice to the nations" (Is 42:1). Overall, for Jesus to be the beloved of God, it also requires total obedience to God's will, which he sought through prayer throughout his life. We, as baptised children of God, also need to ask ourselves whether we are God's beloved children. Do we seek God's will for us each day in prayer?

As we celebrate the feast of the Lord's baptism, let us reflect on our own baptism and consider whether we have forsaken our old ways of sin and embraced a new life of righteousness. If not, then, using well-known Pentecostal language, we must be born again. Let us, in this sense, make use of the Sacrament of Confession and begin anew with the Lord. May Christ's baptism energise us for his work.



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FINANCE & MORE

COLLECTIONS/INCOME 04/01/2026

ST. JOSEPH: Loose plate £160.95, Envelopes £33.15, Candles £117.59 and Mass Stipend £10

Contactless Collection: General £40 and Votive Candles £3

CORPUS CHRISTI: Loose plate £207.64, Envelopes £35, Christmas Offering £10, Candles £20, Coffee £15.05 and CRIB £25

Contactless Collection: General £35, New Heating £10 & Votive Candles £5

Online Donation: General £102, Christmas Offering £25 & CC New Heating £40

CHRISTMAS EVE/DAY COLLECTIONS

ST JOSEPH: Christmas Offering £671.45, Hall Rent £798, Coffee £13 and CRIB £46

CORPUS CHRISTI: Christmas Offering £806.81, Candles £16.69, Coffee £14.15 and CRIB £21.05

STANDING ORDERS NOVEMBER £2455

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 November and December amounted to £118.39. 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 OFFERING: The Parish Priest wishes to render immense thanks to all those who generously donated towards the Christmas Collection which was an opportunity for Parishioners to acknowledge the dedication, service and witness he offers in our parish. May God abundantly bless you all and replenish the source.

WORD OF THANKS: Alex and George would again like to thank everyone for supporting their Advent sale. Final total from the sale was £312.50. A last donation rounded the figure to £320.

PLEASE NOTE: Fr. Emmanuel will be away for his Christmas break from Monday, 12th to Monday, 19th of January 2026. There will be **NO WEEKDAY MASSES** while he is away.

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 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:** Next session will be on Sunday 11th January 2026 at 9:15 am in Corpus Christi Hall.
- BAPTISMAL PREPARATION DATES FOR 2026:** There will be a baptismal preparation sessions at St Joseph Hall, Tangier Road Copnor PO3 6JL on the following dates:

Sat 17th Jan 2026

Sat 16th May 2026

Sat 19th Sept 2026

Sat 31st Oct 2026

NB: All Sessions start at 11.00am until 12.30.

ST JOSEPH CHURCH: Starting this Sunday 11th of January 2026, we will be singing the psalm and the alleluia.

CONTINUATION OF ANNOUNCEMENTS

Over 60 Singers to Gather in Portsmouth for Major Gregorian Chant Course Beginning 10 January 2026

Portsmouth is set to resonate with the timeless sound of sacred music as more than 60 participants gather this Saturday, 10 January 2026, for the opening session of the Portsmouth Gregorian Chant Course, hosted at St John's Cathedral.

Bringing together both beginners and seasoned singers, this three-part workshop series offers a rare opportunity for participants to deepen their understanding of Gregorian chant, explore ancient repertoire, and develop interpretative skills under expert guidance.

A Public Sung Mass Featuring a 60-Voice Choir
The first workshop will culminate in a sung Mass at 15:00, during which course participants will form a choir of more than sixty voices to perform the chants they have studied. [The Mass, held at St John's Cathedral, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3HG, is open to the public.](#)

The Portsmouth Gregorian Chant Course consists of three workshops, held on the second Saturday of each month: 10 January, 14 February, and 14 March 2026.

THE MOVE TOWARDS ONE PARISH: Following some months of discussion by the planning group to this end, on which each of the current parishes is represented, the latest update is that a website will be created and cards distributed giving information about service times and activities throughout all the Catholic churches on Portsea island.

It was also suggested that the name for the proposed One Parish should be open to suggestions from all. "Christ the Light of the World" is one suggestion put forward. Please feel free to write down or email alternative suggestions to Father Emmanuel.

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations): To comply with data protection regulations, we are no longer allowed to identify people in the newsletter, on rotas etc, unless we have their written permission.

Please take a consent form from the back of either church and sign it if you are willing for your full name (forename and surname) to put identified. This means that if you request a listing in the "prayers for the sick" in the newsletter, we will need to have permission either from the person themselves or a family member.

FRIENDSHIP GROUP IN 2026: The group meets every second Saturday of the month at 10.30 am – 12 noon in the church hall at St. Joseph's. Not only is there time to meet up with others, make new friends and have a coffee/tea and a piece of cake, there are activities, like quizzes, etc.

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

Karen, Sonia, John, Michael, Sheila, David, Nicky, Janet, Helen, Dawn, Eileen & Joe, Vanessa, Debbie, Jenny, Colin, Angie, Aileen Mary, Lolo, Leonard, Tom & Joan, Ellen, John, Maureen, Philip, Margaret & Brian, Jim, Giuseppe, Kamila, Terry, Pretty, Clare, Frances & Ron, Anna, Margaret, Sean, Leo 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.

SAFEGUARDING: Is there anyone in St. Joseph's who could take on the role of Safeguarding. If you can, please speak to Fr. Emmanuel or Angela Waldren. You don't need experience as training can be given.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY: This will be on the 18th to 25th January 2026. The resources can be found via <https://ctbi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/WPCU-2026-English-Pamphlet.pdf>

CHRISTMAS DECORS AT CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH: It will be down today after the 11 am mass. Your help will be greatly appreciated.

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

HOPE IN ACTION PORTSMOUTH: Hope into Action empowers churches to end homelessness. We provide houses with support for people who've experienced homelessness, in partnership with local churches. Our churches empower the lives of our tenants, and are also blessed by the relationships they form. We train and equip volunteers to engage with and mentor those living in the house, whilst providing the necessary professional support. In this way, the church can provide a positive community to someone who needs it the most. Find out more on our website: Hope into Action Portsmouth | Hope into Action UK

We are hoping to recruit a group of volunteers from Corpus Christi with St Joseph, and will be coming to talk to the congregation on 18th of January 2026 after the mass.

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