



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

A PARISH OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH IN THE CARE OF THE SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO

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21st April 2014 - 4th Sunday of Easter

Dear friends,

A very warm welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians.

The focus for the readings this weekend is on Jesus, the Good Shepherd. In the passage from John's Gospel, Jesus repeatedly calls himself the Good Shepherd, a shepherd who is prepared to lay down his life for his sheep.

This Sunday is The Day of Prayer for Vocations, and we are encouraged to pray for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. While the emphasis is on vocations to the Priesthood and the Religious life, it is also an opportunity for us as individuals and as a community to reflect on our relationship with Jesus and His personal invitation and call to be a disciple.

Our primary vocation is to Love – to love God and those around us perfectly. From that start point, each one of us has a unique vocation from God; each of us is called to proclaim the Good News and carry God's love to all those we encounter in the wider community. Vocations to marriage, to ordained ministries and to the religious life are all necessary to the mission of God's Church. Through our Baptism we are called to serve. How do I respond to that call?

Here I am, Lord

Is it I, Lord?

I have heard You calling in the night

I will go, Lord

If You lead me

I will hold Your people in my heart.

This weekend we welcome Bro. Sixtus and Bro Reuben, who are students studying for the Priesthood. They will be speaking at our Parishes in Farnborough about their vocation. I am sure you will give them a warm welcome. We are also fortunate that Bro Martin, another student for the priesthood, is currently working at the Salesian College and in the Parish. Please keep them in your prayers.

This weekend there is the annual collection for the Clergy Training Fund. The Fund looks after the training of students for the priesthood in our Diocese. The Fund also supports the ongoing formation of our ordained priests.

Mass Times and Intentions for the Week

Sat 20 th	10.00	
Vigil Mass 4th Sunday of Easter	17.00	
Sun 21 st 4th Sunday of Easter	9.30	People of the Parish
Mon 22 nd	9.30	
Tues 23 rd St George. Martyr	9.30	
Wed 24 th	9.30	
Thu 25 th St Mark, Evangelist	9.30	Eileen (Ellen) Kellett RIP
Fri 26 th	9.30	
Sat 27 th	10.00	
Vigil Mass 5th Sunday of Easter	17.00	Stuart Cox RIP
Sun 28 th 5th Sunday of Easter	9.30	People of the Parish

Confessions: Saturday after 10:00 a.m. Mass.

ADORATION - Thursday 7.30-8.30pm Silent Adoration on Thursdays begins with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and time for silent reflection. It is an opportunity to be still and experience how much we are loved by God. You are welcome to attend all or part of Adoration.

COFFEE & CHAT Please stay for tea, coffee and a chat after the Mass on a Saturday evening, Sunday morning and the 9.30 Mass on a Wednesday. Please do join us!

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Those who are sick and those who are mentioned in our *Parish Book of Prayer Intentions* in the Narthex.

Those whose anniversary are about this time:

Antonia James, Paul Bartlett, Irene Newcombe, Bro Alan Garman SDB, John Molloy, Bob Corless, Marian Dearlove, Fr Laurence Martin SDB, Violet Hartshorne, Stuart Dagleish, Stuart Cox, Anna Power, Minnie Buck, Margaret Werrell, Doris Denner and Dominic Clark and all with anniversaries at this time. May they Rest in p Peace.

BAPTISM

Please keep Adaline Rose Funnell & Iris Ophelia Funnell in your prayers, who will be baptised into Christ's family on Sunday 21st April at 12noon in our Church.

DAY FOR EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS. The Diocesan Liturgy Commission is organising a training day for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion on Saturday, 4th May. This will be held at St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX. Basingstoke. The day will run from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm and will include some light refreshments. It is for anyone who has performed this ministry in the past, is actively ministering or anyone interested in being part of this ministry. Please enrol now if you would like to attend by emailing liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

THE LITURGY

It is in the shared Eucharist, gathered around the Lord's table that we experience fully God's love and sense of Community. You can explore the Liturgy in more detail with the Diocesan 'Liturgy Project' at www.theliturgyproject.com.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR APRIL

Let us pray that the dignity and immense value of women be recognised in every culture, and for an end of the discrimination they experience in different parts of the world.

THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE

Concerned with life issues? The Vatican has issued the declaration '*Dignitas Infinite*' on Human Dignity, which condemns some of the grave violations of human dignity. In the light of calls being made for the legalisation of abortion up to birth, assisted suicide and the ban on pro-life speech in our country this is an important document.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE UNBORN CHILD

Earlier this month the European Parliament voted to make abortion a fundamental human right. While it is not binding on the member states, it highlights the challenge to the fundamental truth that everyone has a right to life. SPUC is a grassroot organisation that campaigns for the protection of life from conception to natural death. More information can be found on their website: <https://www.spuc.org.uk/About-Us/What-We-Do>

CWL COFFEE MORNING – Tuesday, 23 April: 10 am-12 noon

12.00 The CWL are holding a Coffee Morning on 23rd April to mark St George's Day. after the 9.30 Mass. Tickets are £3 and all proceeds go the charity. There will also be Raffle.

THE ROSARY GROUP

You are welcome to join the rosary after Sunday morning mass at Our Lady's statue in the Church, to pray for Peace in the world and any special intentions.

LIVING AS A CATHOLIC We are hoping to establish a 'Discussion and Fellowship Group'. If you are interested in exploring and discussing our faith with fellow Catholics, please let David May know and we will move forward with this initiative.

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2024 – The pilgrimage leaves for Lourdes on Monday 22nd July, returning Friday 26th July, Flights from Gatwick. Further details can be found on the poster and booking form in the Narthex. Contact details: Mobile:07780221686 or email: Lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

FARNBOROUGH FOOD BANK In donating to the Food Bank we are helping to meet a vital need and expressing in practical terms 'love of our neighbour'. Currently, they need plain microwave rice sachets, tinned hot dogs and tinned meatballs, variety packs of cereals, pork luncheon meat/ corned beef, small cartons of fruit juice, 1tr cartons of semi-skimmed milk, packets of breakfast bars, tinned spaghetti, mug shots, potato crisps. They **do not need** tinned soup, tinned baked beans, tinned vegetables, tinned rice puddings, baby food, toothpaste, packets of dried rice or pasta, skimmed milk, and chocolate breakfast bars. Please be as generous as you can and hold this ministry in your prayer. There is a collection basket in the Narthex.

PARISH FINANCES

Gift Aid Declaration Forms are available in the Narthex for any parishioners who have not completed a form. If you are a UK Taxpayer please ensure your donations are covered by a gift aid declaration.

Queries please email: accounts@olhcfarnborough.org.uk.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

23 rd April	Feast of St George - CWL Coffee Morning
4 th May	Day for Eucharistic Ministers - St Bede's, Basingstoke
9 th May	Feast of the Ascension of the Lord (Holy Day of Obligation)
11 th May	Second Collection - Catholic Communications Network
19 th May	Feast of Pentecost (Parish Brunch)
15 th June	Second Collection - Day for Life
2 nd June	Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Celebration of First Holy Communion)
29 th June	Feast of SS Peter & Paul (Holy Day of Obligation) - Second Collection - Peter's Pence
30 th June	Celebration with our First Holy Communicants

