



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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Office Hours: 10am – 12pm

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Hynes SDB

Parish Deacon: Rev. Paul Page-Tickell

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4th May 2025 - 3rd Sunday of Easter

Dear friends,

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians. Everyone is welcome, no matter who you are or where you are on your faith journey.

As the cardinals prepare to open the Conclave on Wednesday to elect a successor to St Peter, it is appropriate that the readings for Sunday remind us of what it means to be a follower of Jesus.

In today's Gospel, Jesus asks Peter three times if Peter loves him. Peter is aware of his failings. He had denied knowing Jesus three times, and he acknowledges his weakness, 'You know everything Lord, you know that I love you'. Jesus' response is to charge Peter with the responsibility for feeding my lambs, tending my sheep and feeding my sheep.

In reflecting on this passage, Pope Francis said: "Being a Christian is a summons to realise that God's love is greater than all our shortcomings and sins. God is love, a love that bestows itself, that calls and surprises".

How do we respond as when Jesus asks us: 'Do you love me?'

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

We pray that the Cardinals will be guided by and open to the Holy Spirit to choose a successor of St Peter who will lead the Church with wisdom, love, holiness and understanding.

We pray for all who are ill, those who are housebound, those who are unable to join us in person at our celebration of the Eucharist, those who are mentioned in our Parish Book of Prayer Intentions and all who have asked for our prayers.

Please continue to pray for all our young people who have received or are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation. We also pray for their families and their Catechists.

ANNIVERSARIES ABOUT THIS TIME Annie Grove, Mary Hinks, Robert Raggett, Fr Italo Thomann SDB, Doreen Reid, Marguerita 'Rita' Murphy, Eileen Pearce, Claudette Goldsmith, Victor Archard, Alfred Walk, Fr James Pilling SDB, Joseph Dooner, Gladys Wakefield, Peter King, John Warburton, Thomas Applegate, Fr James Gibbons SDB, Audrey Phoenix, Margaret Morris, Brian Crabtree, Antonia 'Toni' Mann. May they rest in peace.

Mass Times and Intentions for the Week

Sat 3 rd May	10.00	Mass
Saints Philip & James	10.30	<i>Reconciliation</i>
Vigil Mass	5.00pm	People of the Parish
3rd Sunday of Easter		
Sun 4 th April	9.30	Mass
3rd Sunday of Easter		
Mon 5 th May	9.30	Mass
Tue 6 th May	9.30	Mass
Wed 7 th May	9.30	Mass
Thu 8 th May	9.30 7.30pm	Fr Dan Donohoe SDB RIP <i>Adoration</i>
Fri 9 th May	9.30	Mass
Sat 10 th May	10.00 10.30	Mass <i>Reconciliation</i>
Vigil Mass	17.00	People of the Parish
4th Sunday of Easter		
Sun 11 th May	9.30	Mass
4th Sunday of Easter		

RED MISSIO BOXES Through the Red Box Scheme, Missio helps provide support to missionaries in area of poverty and conflict. Last year your donations through the Red Boxes amounted to £608.83. Thank you.

Please speak to Kate Boardman if you would like a Red Box. If you already hold a Red Box, please bring it to Church so that it can be emptied and your donation counted. This is a tangible way of uniting with the Missionary Church

SIGNIFICANT WEDDINGS ANNIVERSARY MASS Any couples celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years are welcome to join Bishop Philip at a Mass of celebration at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke on Saturday 21st June at 11am. Mass will be followed by a buffet lunch. Please email anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to request a form for you to complete and return.

BINGO NIGHT Saturday 10 May 'Eyes down' Starts at 6.15 pm. All are welcome! Young and old and everyone in between! A wonderful evening for all of us to come together. Please bring a pudding or raffle prize. Bingo tickets £5.

THE ROSARY GROUP The New Rota for the Living Rosary is on the Notice Board in the Narthex. The members undertake to pray a decade of the Rosary each day at home for Hope and Peace. If you would like to join the group, please speak to Kate Boardman.

SALESIAN COLLEGE OPEN MORNING Saturday 10 May 2025

Lower School Entry: This is an opportunity to for the whole family to familiarise yourself with the College. You will hear from the Headmaster, senior staff and students; there will be an opportunity for a tour of the College and immerse yourself in activities in different departments, and, have a conversation with our Admissions Team over refreshments in our Refectory.

Sixth Form Entry: This event is a fantastic opportunity to explore our campus, meet our Sixth Form Leadership Team, staff and students, and learn more about transitioning to our Sixth Form.

To book your place, please click

<https://www.trybooking.com/uk/events/landing/77127?>

A BIG THANK YOU!

CWL Coffee Morning 23 April Our thanks to fellow parishioners who supported the recent Coffee Morning with their attendance or donations. We are pleased to tell you all proceeds, amounting to £120, will be donated to Breast Cancer UK for research.

Lenten Frugal Lunches The Frugal Lunches held on Fridays during Lent raised £230 for CAFOD. Thank you to all those involved, to those who prepared the lunches and those who came and help raise much needed funds for CAFOD.

THE PARISH BIG CLEAN - Saturday, 31st May!!!

There are areas around the Church, Hall and the grounds that require attention. Would you be prepared to spend an hour or so on Saturday, 31 May helping tidy up the grounds and give the Church and Hall a 'Spring Clean' in preparation for Pentecost and our celebration of First Holy Communion.

The more members of the Parish Family who can join us, the easier the task and we can make the time we spend together fun and enjoyable. We can offer a cup of tea, coffee, or juice and a biscuit to keep you going and the satisfaction of working as a Parish Team.

DISCUSSION AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP We will be restarting the Discussion and Fellowship groups. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 27 May, Come and share your reflections, questions, and insights on our Catholic faith and values.

ASSISTED SUICIDE LEGISLATION - UPDATE The Report stage of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) will take place on 16th May. The Report Stage is where MPs have a final chance to make amendments to the Bill. The important final vote by MPs takes place at Third Reading. This could happen directly after Report Stage on 16 May.

It is now clear that this Bill is being rushed through without proper scrutiny and without fundamental questions surrounding safeguards being answered. This is a deeply flawed legislation with untold unintended consequences.

We are invited to write to our MP, even if we have done so before, and ask them to vote against this Bill. We need to encourage and persuade those who voted for the Bill in November to change their vote and oppose it at Third Reading. And, of course, we need to make sure that the MPs who voted the right way before do so again. So, wherever your MP stands, please write to your MPs asking them to use this opportunity to vote against the Bill.

INCOME FIGURES 12th March to 25th March

CAFOD	£15.20
Holy Places	£137.50
Easter Offering	£857.50
Envelopes	£30.00
S/O Gift Aid	£244.00
S/O Non Gift Aid	£10.00

Total **£1294.20**

Thank you

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financial contributions to the Parish may be made by placing a donation in the collection basket, by standing Order or BACS transfer. Please use the Parish Sort Code: 30-93-04 and Account Number: 00877868

Name: CDP Our Lady Help of Christians.

Gift Aid Declaration Forms are available in the Narthex, or you can download the form off the Website

NEWS

For news and events around the Diocese please visit Bishop Philip's E-News at

<https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/communications/news/enews/>

DATES FOR YOUR DARY

10th May	Bingo
10 th /11 th May	Special Collection for the Clergy Training Fund
20th May	CWL Meeting
27th May	Discussion and Fellowship Meeting
31st May	Parish Big Clean
8th June	Feast of Pentecost (Parish Brunch)
15th June	Celebration of First Holy Communion

