



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 – 12am

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7th July 2024 - 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear friends,

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians. It does not matter if this is your first visit or you have been coming to for some time, we extend a warm welcome.

We are called by our Baptism to be missionaries, to be prophets, to proclaim the 'good news' of the Gospel. This call is to us as individuals, and as a Christian community, to witness to the truths of our Catholic faith. More than ever, we need to speak up, defend, and promote the values that we, as people of faith, care about. We are called to be prophets but, as today's readings warn us, we can expect to find hardship and rejection when we proclaim the good news of the Gospel.

The first reading today sets the tone. We hear how God sends Ezekiel speak to the people. This was not going to be an easy task, and God warns Ezekiel that most of the people will almost certainly refuse to listen to him and accept his message.

The Gospel passage takes us back to the challenge of rejection. Here it is the people of his 'hometown', his neighbours and friends, the people Jesus grew up with, those who knew his family, who could not accept him. They recognised his considerable wisdom, and they also acknowledge his extraordinary power as a healer, but because of that familiarity, they rejected him. He was a carpenter. He was one of them. Mark comments that Jesus 'was amazed at their lack of faith'. The key is faith. Are we prepared to listen with the ears of faith? Do we judge others based on their background?

In our second reading, Paul reflects on the difficulties and hardships he experienced. He has also faced rejection. He accepts his 'weaknesses' as an opportunity for God to show his power in his missionary work. "I am content with weaknesses ...for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong." We can achieve great things if we allow God to work through us.

Like Ezekiel and Paul, we should be obedient to God's call to proclaim His word and not be discouraged from proclaiming our Christians values because of the fear of rejection, lack of confidence, or perceived weaknesses in our understanding of our shared faith. God is with us! Trust Him!!

Mass Times and Intentions for the Week

Sat 6 th July	10.00	
Vigil Mass 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	17.00	
Sun 7 th July 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.30	People of the Parish
Mon 8 th July	9.30	
Tue 9 th July	9.30	
Wed 10 th July	9.30	Dinney & Mary Prathibha (13 th WA)
Thu 11 th July Saint Benedict, Abbot, Co-Patron of Europe	9.30	
Fri 12 th July	9.30	
Sat 13 th July	10.00	
Vigil Mass 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time	17.00	Catherine Crooke RIP
Sun 14 th July 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.30	People of the Parish

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

READINGS AT MASS You can view the readings for the masses at <https://universalis.com/mass.htm>

ADORATION - Thursday 7.30-8.30pm This is an opportunity to be still before the Blessed Sacrament and experience how much we are loved by God. You are welcome to attend all or part of Adoration.

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS All those who are sick, 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.

ANNIVERSARIES ABOUT THIS TIME: Dolores Worlock, William Carver, Frederick Wyeth, James Merdell, Catherine Crooke, Fr Christopher Harris SDB, Bridget Parris, Eileen Ursula Rawlins, Anthony McDonough, Fr James Conway SDB, Fr Michael Blackburn SDB, and Margaret McKay Willatts. May they rest in peace.

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY: During July, Pope Francis is encouraging us to pray for the pastoral care of the sick. *We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.*

SEA SUNDAY – Sunday, 14th July. Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all of our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions. Sea Sunday is Sunday 14th July. It is when the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Your support will make a big difference to seafarers and fishers in need.

There will be a Special Collection next weekend for Stella Maris (The Apostleship of the Sea). You can donate in church, by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate or by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5. Thank you.

A SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS on Saturday 7th September at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke at 2pm. Any couples celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years are welcome to attend. Please email anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for an application form.

BINGO Thank you to the those who organised our Bingo evening on Saturday, 29th June. A very enjoyable evening. We hope repeated this in the future.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 'GOING FORTH' MASS. Our young people took a major role during the Mass and received their Certificates. Congratulations again to them and thanks to their Catechists. They enjoyed the party!!

MARCH FOR LIFE UK London Saturday, 7th September. There are many attempts now to further liberalise abortion in the UK, whether that's 'pills by post' abortions, abortion up to birth, decriminalisation, buffer zones or censorship on pro-life students at universities, and to silence those offering any alternative viewpoint. The dangers of these situations are being highlighted by the theme for this year's March for Life which is 'Abortion isn't Healthcare'. Join thousands at this family-friendly event. Find out more at www.marchforlife.co.uk

COFFEE & CHAT Everyone is welcome in the Hall after the Mass on a Saturday evening, Sunday morning and the 9.30 Mass on a Wednesday for tea and coffee. It is a great opportunity to get to know fellow parishioners.

DISCUSSION AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP We meet on the fourth Tuesday in each month. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 30 July, Come and share your reflections, questions, and insights on our Catholic faith and values.. A very warm welcome awaits.

MASS INTENTIONS: If you would like a Mass offered for your intentions, please write your intention and date you would like on an envelope, enclose your donation and either give it to Fr Michael or put it through the door of the Parish House. Please write your telephone number on the envelope so we can call you if your requested date is already booked. You can also email your Mass intention to olhc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

FARNBOROUGH FOOD BANK Currently, they need biscuits, variety packs of cereals, custard packets, deodorants male and female, jars of bolognaise sauce, bags for life, laundry pods, long life juice, long life semi skimmed milk, pot noodles, small jars of coffee, small long life fruit juice (200 ml), small tins of ham, sponge puddings, spray battles of all-purpose cleaner, tinned corned beef, tinned meat, tinned spaghetti, tinned hot dogs, tins of meatballs, tuna, toothpaste and washing up liquid. Please be as generous as you can. There is a collection point in the Narthex.

SUPPORT YOUR PARISH Financial contributions to the Parish may be made by placing a donation in the collection or 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.

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

If you are a UK Taxpayer please ensure your donations are covered by a Gift Aid Declaration. Forms are available in the Narthex, or you can download the form off the Website.

THE NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU! We are happy to share news and information about our Parish in the Newsletter, but we need one key ingredient – your input! Please contact David May if there is any news and information you would like to share.

DATES FOR YOUR DARY

14th July	Second Collection - Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris)
30th July	Discussion and Fellowship Group
15th August	Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady - Holy Day of Obligation
7th September	Special Anniversary Mass at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke
7th September	March for Life, London
15th September	'Adoremus', the National Eucharistic Congress