



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

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5th January 2025 - The Epiphany of the Lord

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.

Today we celebrate the great feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. The shepherds return to the fields and the Wise Men arrive to honour and worship the baby Jesus.

The wise men, or magi, or kings, stand in for all the peoples of the earth. The feast of the Epiphany reminds us that Jesus comes not just for one group of people. Today's feast has been described as 'the feast of God telling us that he wants to be known and loved by all peoples, regardless of age, background, ability, race, or language'.

Central to the feast is the issue of inclusion versus exclusion. Today, we are a Church, a community of people from many different backgrounds and places, gathered in the presence of Jesus. Everyone is welcome around the table of the Lord's Supper.

The wise men were pilgrims searching for the truth. Like the wise men we are also invited to go on pilgrimage, following the path he offers, so that we too can come to meet him, recognise him, and worship him. The Epiphany is an invitation to trust God and step out with confidence on our own journeys of faith.

In Matthew's Gospel we see wise men coming from the east, following a star. What star are we following on our pilgrimage of hope and faith?

The travellers ended up at the Crib, and offer their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh to the child Jesus - gifts which reveal the identity of the baby, and which link the birth of a baby to Calvary. What gifts are we bringing to the Lord?

The wise men were changed by their encounter with Jesus. When we encounter Jesus, how do we respond to his invitation to follow him?

Do join us after the 9.30 am Mass today for a **Family Brunch** to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany of the Lord.

Mass Times, Intentions and Events for the Week

Sat 4 th January	10.00	
Vigil Mass The Epiphany of the Lord	5.00pm	
Sun 5 th January 1st Sunday of Advent	9.30	People of the Parish
Mon 6 th January	9.30	
Tue 7 th January	9.30	
Wed 8 th January	9.30	Ellie Gonsalves Int
Thu 9 th January	9.30 7.30pm	Adoration
Fri 10 th January	9.30	
Sat 11 th January	10.00	
Vigil Mass The Baptism of the Lord	5.00pm	Hilda Deffains RIP
Sun 12 th January The Baptism of the Lord	9.30	People of the Parish

Confessions: Saturday after 10.00 am Mass

ANNIVERSARIES ABOUT THIS TIME: Mary King, Edward Irwin, Albert Tattersall, Michael Morrin, Catherine Connolly, Ivy Yeoman, Cecily Doble, Bob Filby, Kathleen Davis, Robert Head, Martin Reader, Spencer Jones, Fr John Thomson SDB, Mary Hussey, Hilda Deffains, Michael Wilkin, Margaret Corless, William Greninegham, Fr Edward O'Shea SDB, Jack Croombs, Basil Prendiville, Bridget Jacob, Harold Glew, Esther Fannon, Eileen Loader, and Margaret Perceval. May they rest in peace.

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.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY **For the right to an education.** Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

GIFTS & CARDS Fr Michael writes: Many thanks for your Christmas cards and gifts this Christmas, especially for your generous Christmas Offering. They are very much appreciated.

CHRISTMAS THANKS: Thank you to those who put so much time and effort into the preparation of the church for the great celebration of the Birth of Christ.

A special thank to the young people and leaders for their enthusiasm in presenting the story of the Visitation of Our Lady to her cousin, Elizabeth, to the young readers and enthusiastic percussion section. Hopefully, the young people will be able to assist at the celebration of Mass on a regular basis.

JUBILEE YEAR 2025 – PILGRIMS OF HOPE

On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of Saint Peter’s Basilica and officially inaugurated the 2025 Jubilee of Hope.

During his Christmas evening Mass, he invited us to pray, so that this Jubilee may “strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope.”

“As disciples of the Lord, we are called to find our greater hope in him, and then, without delay, carry that hope with us, as pilgrims of light amid the darkness of this world. Sisters and brothers, this is the Jubilee. This is the season of hope in which we are invited to rediscover the joy of meeting the Lord. The Jubilee calls us to spiritual renewal and commits us to the transformation of our world, so that this year may truly become a time of jubilation.

Taken from the homily at mass on Christmas Eve and opening of Holy Door.

The Jubilee will conclude with the closing of the same Holy Door on 6 January 2026, the Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord.

CATHOLIC WOMEN’S LEAGUE The CWL meets on the third Tuesday in each month after the 9.30 am Mass. Their next meeting will be on Tuesday, 21st January. New members are always welcome.

MASS INTENTIONS The Sacrifice of the Mass is the greatest possible prayer of intercession. To request a Mass to be offered within the parish, please speak to Fr Michael, or 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. You can also email your Mass intention to olhc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

THE ROSARY GROUP The New Rota for the Living Rosary to pray for Peace is on the Notice Board in the Narthex. If you would like to join, please speak to Kate Boardman.

All parishioners are welcome to join in praying 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.

DISCUSSION AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP The next meeting will be on Tuesday 28 January at 7.30 pm. Would you like to know more about our Catholic Faith? Come and share your reflections, questions, experiences, and insights in a non-judgemental setting. A very warm welcome awaits you and we look forward to seeing you.

COFFEE & CHAT Everyone is welcome in the Hall after the Mass on a 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.

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

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

5th January	The Epiphany of the Lord - Parish Brunch
11th January	First Holy Communion Session
21st January	Meeting of the Catholic Women’s League
28th January	Fellowship and Discussion Group
8th February	Day for Engaged Couples - Portsmouth Cathedral
2nd March	Parish Meeting
8th March	Reconciliation Service with First Confession
15th June	Celebration of First Holy Communion