



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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2nd November 2025 - The Feast of All Saints

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.

This Sunday we celebrate the Feast of All Saints, celebrate the countless men, women and children who are united with God and are sharing in the joy of Heaven. We give thanks for the lives of the saints, for all those whose lives have inspired us by their example, and their ongoing prayers and support

Pope Francis described the Feast of All Saints and the Feast of All Souls, which we celebrate on Monday, as "days of hope." In a reflection on the two feast days, Pope Francis said that "there are moments of difficulty in life, but with hope the soul moves forward and looks toward that which awaits us." The saints are our "brothers and sisters, who are in the presence of God." We can hope to join them there, encouraged the Pope, "through the pure grace of God, if we walk along the path of Jesus."

Today is a reminder, that we are called to be saints. It is through love, faith, and all of God's grace that we find perfection.

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This weekend, Pope Leo XIV proclaim **St John Henry Newman** as the 38th Doctor of the Church.

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BAMENDA SUNDAY: Today we mark and celebrate the close links between the Diocese of Portsmouth and the Archdiocese of Bamenda in northwestern Cameroon, in West Africa. There is a second collection to support the people of Bamenda. Please be generous and keep the people of Bamenda in your prayers. The funds raised in this annual collection support parishes, schools, health establishments and social projects. Baskets for your donations are in the Narthex. You can read more about the partnership with Bamenda in the Bamenda Newsletter at <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/bamenda/>

BLESSING OF GRAVES, Sunday, 2nd November. The graves at Ship Lane Cemetery will be blessed this afternoon after a prayer service starting at 2.00pm.

Mass Times, Intentions and Events for the Week

Saturday 1st November	10.00 10.30	Julie Humphrey RIP <i>Reconciliation</i>
Vigil Mass Feast of All Saints	5.00pm	Frank Panther RIP
Sunday 2nd November Feast of All Saints	9.30	People of the Parish Tea/Coffee available after Mass
Monday 3rd November Feast of All Souls	9.30	Maureen Ratcliffe RIP
Tuesday 4th November	9.30	Deceased members of the Byrne & O'Connell families
Wednesday 5th November	9.30	Judith Yannis Int
Thursday 6th November	9.30 7.30pm	Judith Yannis Int <i>Exposition</i>
Friday 7th November	9.30	All Souls
Saturday 8th November	10.00 10.30	Mass <i>Reconciliation</i>
Vigil Mass Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	5.00pm	Frank & Maureen Panther RIP
Sunday 9th November Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	9.30	People of the Parish Tea/Coffee available after Mass

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS 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.

FRANK PANTHER RIP Frank's Requiem Mass will take place on Tuesday 18, November at 10.30am.

ANNIVERSARIES Freddie Hughes, Ernest Young, Christine Duguid, Kevin McGrath, Colette Astill, George Pearce, John Loader, Violet Brook, Alan McConnell, Joan Wilson, Elizabeth 'Betty' McAuley, Diana Baker, Margaret Hack, Kate Fletcher, Violet Cairns, Angela Veal, Margaret 'Peggy' Wintermyer, Sean Whittle, Margaret Waite, Clara Noyce, James Taylor, Blanche Darwen, Ann Walker, Jean McKelvey, Lydia Clarkson and all with anniversaries at this time. May they rest in peace.

REMEMBRANCE BOOK In November we remember in a particular way, deceased family members, friends, and members of our Parish community. The Book of Remembrance for you to write their names is available in the Narthex on the table beneath the statue to the Sacred Heart. Those whose names are entered in the Book will be remembered at all Masses celebrated during November.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER For the prevention of suicide. Let us pray that those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts might find the support, care, and love they need in their community, and be open to the beauty of life.

TEA PARTY, Saturday 8 November, 2.30pm to 4.00 pm
To mark Cardinal Nichols' 80th Birthday, the Catholic Women's League invites you to join them for Tea and Cakes in the Hall to raise funds for the Prison Advice and Care Trust. Among other initiatives, PACT provides homeless packs for released prisoners. All are welcome.



CHRISTMAS FAIR, Saturday 6 December

5 weeks and counting!!! We still need volunteers for the Tombola, Toys, Christmas Gifts, Crafts and Cake Stalls. We are looking for donations of bottles, fancy goods, Christmas gifts, cakes, toys, (but no jumble please) - and your time. Items for the Fair may be left in the Narthex. If you would like to help in any way, please speak to David May. All ideas and input are welcome. We will have a meeting on **Sunday, 9 November after the 9.30 Mass.**

CHRISTMAS CARDS There is a selection of Christmas Cards for sale at the Repository counter after Mass on Saturday evening and Sunday morning

CAFOD'S WORLD GIFTS CAFOD's range of virtual gifts are a great way of rediscovering what it really means to share the love, peace, and joy of Christmas. Copies of the catalogue are available in the Narthex, or you can buy online at <https://cafod.org.uk/give/world-gifts/christmas-world-gifts>



OUR BOILER We have been advised that the boiler is now obsolete and needs replacing. If you have knowledge of boilers and could help us determine which type of boiler would best suit our needs and budget, please speak to Fr Michael, Joe DeBono or David May.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND RECONCILIATION There is a meeting for parents on Tuesday, 11 November at 7.30pm in the Narthex. Parents of children who will be in Year 3 or above in September 2025 who would like their child to join the programme are asked to complete the application form and return the form to the Parish Office as soon as possible. The form may be accessed from the Parish website or at <https://forms.office.com/e/PpQkDMUWse>

CONFIRMATION The programme is open to young people under the age of 18, who have usually received the Sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, and who are in Year 8 or above at secondary school. The application form can be accessed at the link [Confirmation Application Form 2026](#) or from the Parish Website.



HELP IN THE PARISH

Being part of a family is about being involved. Our Parish Community at Our Lady Help of Christians is no exception.

There are many ways of getting involved in the parish.

WELCOMING: To be that warm welcome as people come through the doors of the Church particularly to those who may be taking their first tentative steps inside the Church.

MUSICIANS: To help provide music at Mass and other celebrations, to add variety and enrich our celebration of the Liturgy.

PREPARATION OF THE CHURCH FOR MASS: To come early and help to prepare the Church for Mass and do all the little jobs connected with the Sacristy.

CATECHISTS: To help the young members of our Parish family prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

SUPPLIES: To check on supplies for the Church, Hall and Kitchen and ensure that we always have sufficient items in store.

MAINTENANCE: To help look after the parish buildings and grounds and carry out minor maintenance work.

SOCIAL GROUP: To help plan and organise social activities.

LITTLE CHURCH: To help our younger Members enjoy, understand, and appreciate the Word of God at their level.

If you can help, please speak to David May or contact the Parish

Office at: office@olhcfarnborough.org.uk

DATES FOR YOUR DARY

8th November	CWL Tea Party for PACT
11th November	First Holy Communion Parents Meeting
6th December	Christmas Fair
4th January 2026	Parish Brunch & Children's Party in the afternoon

FINAL THOUGHT

"The communion of the Church embraces all the faithful, across space and time, in every language and culture, uniting us as the People of God, the Body of Christ, and the living temple of the Holy Spirit." **Pope Leo**