



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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20th October 2024 - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

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.

Where do we set the bar for defining 'greatness'? A list of commonly held concepts of greatness would probably include success, wealth, power, position, status, prestige, influence, and leadership. Certainly, reading of world history shows that these have been factors used to define 'great men and women'. Our readings today offer a very different set of values. We are to become the servant of all and give our lives for others.

The Prophet Isaiah describes the pain of the Servant of God, who takes on suffering for the good of others. Paul in our second reading continues the same theme: Jesus offered himself as ransom to liberate us from the slavery of sin.

Today's Gospel reminds us that 'the Son of Man himself did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.' In the same way, through our profession of faith, we are called to serve others offering himself as ransom to liberate us from the slavery of sin.

In his response to James and John, who lobbied for positions of influence in the Kingdom of God, Jesus teaches us that the values we should be measured against are based on service to others: 'Anyone who wants to become great among you must be your servant'. The message is clear and unambiguous.

Our call as Christians, is to offer ourselves at the service of others without minding the challenges we may face in doing so. That is true greatness!

Today we celebrate **World Mission Sunday**. The theme this year is "Go and invite everyone to the banquet!" This day of prayer, solidarity, and giving unites Catholics worldwide to share the Good News of God's love which has the power to transform lives and heal our world. The retiring collection will support mission projects worldwide. Please give what you can. Gift Aid envelopes are available in the Narthex. Visit www.missio.org.uk for more information.

Mass Times and Intentions for the Week

Sat 19 th October	10.00	
Vigil Mass	17.00	
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Sun 20 th October	9.30	People of the Parish
29th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Mon 21 st October	11.00	Healing Mass
Tue 22 nd October	9.30	
Wed 23 rd October	9.30	
Thu 24 th October	9.30	
Fri 25 th October	9.30	
Sat 26 th October	10.00	
Vigil Mass	17.00	People of the Parish
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Sun 27 th October	9.30	
30th Sunday in Ordinary Time		

Confessions: Saturday after 10.00 am Mass

Please note that there is no 9.30 am Mass on Monday.

There is a Healing Mass at 11.00

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

ADORATION - Thursday 7.30-8.30pm A time for silent reflection before the Blessed Sacrament. 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.

For an end to violence and war in the Middle East, the release of all hostages and a peaceful and just settlement of the causes of the conflict.

ANNIVERSARIES ABOUT THIS TIME: Bridie Bugden, Carol Short, Douglas Taylor, Elizabeth Morrin, Seán Power, Kathleen Brennan, Maureen Bailey, Fr John Dawson SDB, Maureen Soulsby, Nora Burke and Ellen Curry. May they rest in peace.

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER For a shared mission. Let us pray that the Church continues to sustain a synodal lifestyle in every way, as a sign of co-responsibility, promoting the participation, communion and mission shared by priests, religious and lay people.

HEALING MASS, Monday, 21st October at 11.00 am The St Vincent de Paul Society invite you to a special Autumnal Healing Mass for our Senior Parishioners, followed by a Buffet with Tea in the Hall. Please contact John Power on 07934453276 if you need transport to the Church.

DISCUSSION AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP, Tuesday, 29th October at 7.30 pm Do you want to understand more fully the structure of the Mass and how the Mass makes Jesus present to us? Come and join us on as we continue to deepen our understanding with the help of the programme 'Understanding the Mass', presented by Fr Francis Cole OFM. At our previous meeting we looked at the Introductory Rites and the Liturgy of the Word. We will continue our journey by looking at the next episode, 'Preparing the Gifts'. If you are unable to join us or wish to see what we have been discussing, the video can be seen on You Tube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7fix1hJJB0&t=34s> A very warm welcome awaits you and we look forward to seeing you.

OPPOSITION TO ASSISTED SUICIDE Cardinal Vincent Nichols, President of the Bishops' Conference, has issued a Pastoral letter calling on Catholics to play an active role in opposing assisted suicide. He offers three key points for Catholics to be aware of and calls on the faithful to be fully engaged in the debate and to write to their MP to oppose assisted suicide being rushed into law. The Cardinal warns "The questions raised by this bill go to the very heart of how we understand ourselves, our lives, our humanity. Every human being is made in the image and likeness of God. That is the source of our dignity, and it is unique to the human person. The suffering of a human being is not meaningless. It does not destroy that dignity." Cardinal Nichols' letter can be read at: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/10/241013-Pastoral-Letter-VN-Assisted-Suicide.pdf>

CHRISTMAS FAIR Saturday, 7th December. If you are interested in helping to organise this event, please speak to a member of the Parish Council. Your ideas and input are welcome.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND RECONCILIATION There will be an introductory Meeting for the parents of children wishing to prepare for First Holy Communion on Tuesday 12th November at 7.30pm in the Parish Narthex. The first session for the children will start shortly. If your child is in year 3 or over this September and would like to make their First Holy Communion next year, please complete the application form online as soon as possible at https://forms.office.com/e/_PpQkDMUWse The form can also be accessed on the Parish Website.

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.

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.

WEEKLY MASS COLLECTIONS 14th September to 11th October

Envelopes	£80.00
Loose Plate	£279.87
S/O Gift Aid	£1819.00
S/O Non-Gift Aid	£76.00
Closer to Christ	£655.58
Collection for Catholic Education	£71.80
Collection for Home Mission	£82.81
Bingo	£144.35
FHC Books	£110.00
Total	£3319.41

Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DARY

21st October	SVP Healing Mass
29th October	Fellowship and Discussion Group
1st November	Feast of All Saints - Holy Day of Obligation
12th November	Meeting with Parents of the First Holy Communion Group
14th November	FHC First Session
24th November	Parish Brunch - Feast of Christ the King
7th December	Christmas Fair