



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** Deacon: **Rev. Paul Page-Tickell**

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12th January 2025 - The Baptism 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.

Last Sunday, we celebrated the feast of the Epiphany, the revelation that the Gospel is for everyone. This Sunday, we celebrate the Baptism of the Lord, and with it the Christmas Season comes to an end.

Most of us cannot recall the details of our own baptism, but we will have attended the baptism of our children, grandchildren, and family members and friends. Today, is an opportunity to reflect upon our own baptism and to recognise all its implications. Baptism makes us a Christian. We receive God's grace and are invited to engage in a close personal relationship with God.

Baptism is one of those sacraments that is never repeated. Our Baptism is ongoing - a call to share in Christ's ministry to evangelize the world. The Baptism of Jesus marks the beginning of his public life and ministry. This is the second Epiphany, or revelation of God to mankind in human form, in the person of Jesus Christ

At his Baptism, Jesus' identity is revealed but in Luke's account that revelation is personal and intimate 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased'. This declaration reveals the depth of the Father's love for his Son. Parents will empathise with that sentiment - the love for a child, pride in their performance, achievements, and promise. In Baptism, the Heavenly Father also addresses those words to us: 'You are my child'. And in confidence and in response to that love, we can respond: 'Abba, Father.'

Jesus showed us the importance of Baptism by being baptised by John. Baptism is the beginning of our life in the Eucharistic Community. Our baptism brings us together as children of God: all equal, all loved. We experience God's love for us in our Christian family and it is through our Baptism that we enter that Community.

The gift of Baptism, which ultimately comes from Christ, has opened for us the gates to eternal life. Please pray for all those preparing for Baptism.

Mass Times, Intentions and Events for the Week

Sat 11 th January	10.00 10.30	Reconciliation
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
Mon 13 th January	9.30	Mike Robins RIP
Tue 14 th January	9.30	Sarah May Int
Wed 15 th January	9.30	Ellie Gonsalves Int
Thu 16 th January	9.30 7.30pm	Adoration
Fri 17 th January	9.30	
Sat 18 th January	10.00 10.30	Teresa Thompson RIP Reconciliation
Vigil Mass 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	5.00pm	
Sun 19 th January 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.30	People of the Parish

Adoration on a Thursday evening from 7.30pm is an opportunity to be still and to experience how much we are loved by God.

ANNIVERSARIES ABOUT THIS TIME: William Greninegham, Fr Edward O'Shea SDB, Jack Croombs, Basil Prendiville, Bridget Jacob, Harold Glew, Esther Fannon, Eileen Loader, Margaret Perceval, Hilda Edwards, Brian Alexander, Valeria Ryan, Joan Scheider, Jessie Newson, Robert Luther, Norah Brown, James Lawrence, John Joyce, Mark Bartlett, James Roberts, and Anthony McKelvey. 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.

FAMILY BRUNCH A BIG THANK YOU to those who provided the delicious food for our shared meal last Sunday, to those who attended and to all who worked so hard to make the event so worthwhile. Apart from the pleasure in enjoying different foods and dishes, the big benefit was the way the meal helped build our sense of Community.

JUBILEE YEAR The 2025 Jubilee Year has the theme of 'Pilgrims of Hope' and is a year of hope and trust. We may not be able to make a pilgrimage to Rome and enter through the Holy Door in St Peter's, but we could visit one of the 'Shrine Churches' where the faithful can go on pilgrimage, attend Mass and receive the Sacrament of Penance, and at the same time gain a Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions.

For our Diocese of Portsmouth, the Shrine Churches are: St. John's Cathedral in Portsmouth, St. James's Reading, Sacred Heart Bournemouth, St. Edmund's Southampton, St. Thomas's in St. Helier, Jersey and St. Joseph's in St. Peter Port, Guernsey.

Resources for use during the Jubilee Year may be accessed at: <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/jubilee-year-2025/>

VALENTINE'S DAY BREAKFAST, Saturday morning, 8th February 2025 Bishop Philip will be inviting all the engaged couples of our Diocese - those being married in a church either here or abroad - to come together for a Valentine's Day Breakfast at the Cathedral. Details to follow but for now, if you or anyone you know is getting married next year, make sure you save the date!

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! Please contact David May if there is any news and information you would like to share.

DATES FOR YOUR DARY

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