



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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5th October 2025 - The 27th 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.

The Readings today invite us to reflect upon Faith and how it works in our lives. In the first reading Habakkuk appears to be surrounded by violence and destruction and God seems to be indifferent. We can empathise with Habakkuk's cry: 'O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear?'. There will have been times when we have also demanded a response from God, when events are outside our control, in our individual circumstances, perhaps in an illness, uncertainty, in relationships. At those times, God can appear to be distant, but his plan is not necessarily our plan, and the passage encourages us to have faith. Always remember that God is in control.

Paul in his letter to Timothy reminds us that we should 'fan into flame the gift of God', 'for God gave us a spirit not of fear, but of power and love and self-control'. This is not to discount the reality that at times we can feel battered and at times overwhelmed during our struggles. We can join with the Apostles as they call to the Lord 'Increase our faith!'. Lord, help me trust in you.

As Jesus explains in the passage, we hear from Luke's Gospel, if we only have the faith the size of a mustard seed, we can do great things. Uprooting a mulberry bush is one option but imagine what we could do in sharing with others the love of God and enabling those around us to experience that love.

God has given us as individuals and as a community, many gifts, but how well do we use those gifts for the benefit of those in our community, to share proclaim the Good News of the Gospel, and bring the love of God to those around us. It is always easy to make excuses - lack of time, of understanding, too young, too old, of being complacent.

Trust in the Lord. Even if our faith is only as big as a mustard seed, it is faith that converts ordinary things of daily life into extraordinary signs of God's love. Faith is a gift given to us by God: it is up to us to allow that gift to grow and bear fruit.

Mass Times, Intentions and Events for the Week

Saturday 4th October	10.00 10.30	Mass <i>Reconciliation</i>
Vigil Mass 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	5.00pm	People of the Parish Tea/Coffee available after Mass
Sunday 5th October 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.30	Mass Tea/Coffee available after Mass
Monday 6th October	9.30	Mass
Tuesday 7th October	9.30	Mass
Wednesday 8th October	9.30	Mass Tea/Coffee available after Mass
Thursday 9th October	9.30 7.30pm	Mass <i>Exposition</i>
Friday 10th October	9.30	Mass
Saturday 11th October	10.00 10.30	Mass <i>Reconciliation</i>
Vigil Mass 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	5.00pm	Gregorio Fernandez Int Tea/Coffee available after Mass
Sunday 12th October 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time	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.

ANNIVERSARIES Bridie Parker, Amilea Hambly, David L'Estrange, Bro Neil McElwee SDB, Patricia Vernon, Philip Astill, Joan Luther, Shirley Sullivan, Esther Shepherd, Bridie Bugden, Carol Short, Douglas Taylor, Elizabeth Morrin and all with anniversaries at this time. May they rest in peace.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR OCTOBER For collaboration between different religious traditions. Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

THE ROSARY FOR PEACE The whole month of October, the Church invites us to reflect on the life of Christ by praying the Rosary. In a General Audience on 24 September, Pope Leo commented “I invite everyone, each day of the coming month, to pray the Rosary for peace - personally, in the family, and in community”.

The Holy Father has also announced that he invites the faithful in Rome to gather in St. Peter’s Square on Saturday, 11 October 2025 at 6:00 pm to pray the Rosary. That day also marks the 63rd anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council, which Pope St. John XXIII opened on October 11, 1962. We may not be able to join Pope Leo in St Peter’s, but we can join him in prayer and recite the Rosary with him on Saturday.

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.



HARVEST FAMILY FAST DAY. Please return CAFOD Family Fast envelopes this weekend. You can also give on the CAFOD website, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFOD to 70560 to donate £10.



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY 2025, Sunday 12 October
On World Mission Sunday, the Holy Father invites all Catholics to support Missio – his charity for world mission – through a special collection. 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.

To donate, use the Missio envelopes, call 020 7821 9755 (office hours) or visit missio.org.uk to give a gift, set up a Direct Debit and Gift Aid your donation if possible.

In commenting on World Mission Sunday shortly before he died, Pope Francis reminded us that as followers of Christ, we are called to spread hope, especially in difficult times. He highlighted Jesus as the ultimate model of hope, who brought healing and comfort to those in need. The Church continues this mission today, reaching out to the suffering and sharing God’s love. Pope Francis called on everyone, young and old, to participate in this mission with faith and commitment, trusting in God’s guidance.

BINGO NIGHT - Saturday, 2 November 6.30pm All are welcome! Young and old and everyone in between! A wonderful evening for all of us to come together. A Ploughman’s Supper will be provided but please bring a ‘pudd’ for the Pudding Table.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND RECONCILIATION Our next course will begin later this year, so parents of children who will be in Y3 or above in September 2025 are asked to complete the application form at <https://forms.office.com/e/PpQkDMUWse> or from the website, fill in the details and return the form to the Parish Office as soon as possible.

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. Please speak to Fr Michael if you are interested in joining a programme.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) is for adults who are thinking of becoming a Catholic or wish to exploring what the Catholic Church believes and teaches. This preparation, if you so wish, can lead to the reception of the sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and the Eucharist in the Catholic Church. If you are interested, please speak to Father Michael.



CHRISTMAS FAIR, Saturday 6 December We are looking for volunteers willing to organise or help with an activity or stall. Amongst others, we need volunteers for the Tombola, Toys, Christmas Gifts and Cake Stalls. In the meantime, please start putting aside the bottles, fancy goods, toys etc and Raffle prizes. If you would like to help in any way, please speak to David May. All ideas and input are welcome.



HALL HIRE The hall is available for Hire for parties, celebrations and special events. For details and availability, please contact Olein Webster at: olhchallhire@gmail.com

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.



We are happy to share news and information about our Parish in the Parish Newsletter.

Please note there is no Newsletter for 12th October

DATES FOR YOUR DARY

11th October	Join with Pope Leo in the Rosary for Peace
19th October	World Mission Sunday
2nd November	Bingo Night
8th November	CWL Charity Tea
6th December	Christmas Fair