



OUR LADY HELP OF CHRISTIANS

A PARISH OF THE CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH IN THE CARE OF THE SALESIANS OF DON BOSCO

1a Sherborne Road, Farnborough, Hampshire GU14 6JS Telephone: 01252 545364

Office Hours: 10am – 12pm

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Hynes SDB

E-mail: olhc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk OR The Parish Office: office@olhcfarnborough.org.uk

Website: www.olhcfarnborough.org.uk

FaceBook: Our Lady Help of Christians RC Church Farnborough

Parish Safeguarding Contact: safeguarding.FARNH@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

26th October 2025 - The 30th 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.

In the Gospel today we hear the familiar story of two men who went to the Temple to pray. The men come from opposite ends of the social spectrum but by the end of the Parable Jesus has reversed their positions. One is shown to be a religious fraud; the other is described as 'righteous'.

The Pharisee follows a strict observance of the Law of Moses and comes from a mindset that despises anyone who didn't measure up to their self-defined standards of righteousness. By contrast, the Tax-Collector is an outcaste, despised for working for the Romans. Both men come to the Temple to pray, but their prayers take very different directions and form.

The Pharisee prayed to impress. He lists his religious accomplishments, but his prayer is sterile. He fasts and gives alms, but he lacks love. 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men.' His self-deception and self-satisfaction are tangible. He did not need God, he thought he was good enough. In contrast the tax-collector recognises in his prayer his weaknesses, his failings, his need for God's help and forgiveness. 'God, be merciful to me a sinner'.

When we come into the presence of the Lord, where do we stand? How do we see ourselves - alongside the Pharisee or with the tax-collector. We would hope to identify with and aspire to be like the tax collector but at times we can also be like the Pharisee, content in our observances, in our attendance at Mass, reception of the Sacrament, while at the same time complaining and identifying the flaws of those around us.

We can take comfort from knowing that God loves the Pharisee and the Tax-collector. He looks into our heart, he knows us as we are. He sees beyond our outward actions and when we pray there is little point in pretending to be something we are not.

We all aspire to be Saints. We are saints in the making. What is key is that in developing our personal relationship with Jesus we accept that we are sinners, that we need his help, forgiveness and mercy.

Mass Times, Intentions and Events for the Week

Saturday 25th October	10.00 10.30	Judith Yannis Intention <i>Reconciliation</i>
Vigil Mass 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Sunday 26th October 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.30	Debbie DeBono RIP Tea/Coffee available after Mass
Monday 27th October	No 9.30 Mass	
Tuesday 28th October Saints Simon and Jude	9.30	Judith Yannis Intention
Wednesday 29th October	9.30	Brian Walker Intention Tea/Coffee available after Mass
Thursday 30th October	9.30 7.30pm	Grace & Fred May RIP <i>Exposition</i>
Friday 31st October	9.30	Judith Yannis Intention
Saturday 1st November	10.00 10.30	Julie Humphrey RIP <i>Reconciliation</i>
Vigil Mass Feast of All Saints	5.00pm	Mass
Sunday 2nd November Feast of All Saints	9.30	People of the Parish Tea/Coffee available after Mass

FRANK PANTHER died on Thursday. We keep him and the family in our prayers.

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 Nora Burke, Ellen Curry, Thomas Connelly, Leslie Curry, George Still, Phillip Cantwell, Grace May, Eileen Hack, Freddie Hughes, Ernest Young, Christine Duguid, Kevin McGrath, Colette Astill and all with anniversaries at this time. May they rest in peace.

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

BINGO NIGHT - Saturday, 1 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 'pud' for the Pudding Table.

TEA PARTY, Saturday 8 November, 2.30pm to 4.00 pm To mark Cardinal Nichol's 80th Birthday, the Catholic Women's League invites you to join them for Tea and Cakes in the Hall to raise funds to purchase Homeless Packs for Released Prisoners. All are welcome.

CHRISTMAS FAIR, Saturday 6 December

We are looking for volunteers to organise or help with an activity or stall. Amongst others, we need volunteers for the Tombola, Bottle, Raffle, Toys, Christmas Gifts and Cake Stalls. We will so have our Christmas Raffle.

As well as the above stalls, there will be Refreshments, Children's Activities, and Father Christmas.

Please start putting your donations of bottles, fancy goods, toys etc and Raffle prizes in the box 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.**

☺☺☺☺

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 2006](#) or from the Parish Website

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA) Are you interested in becoming a Catholic or wish to exploring what the Catholic Church believes and teaches. If so please speak to Father Michael.

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

HELP IN THE PARISH

Your Parish needs YOU! Please share your time and talents. Being part of a family is about being involved. Our Parish Community at Our Lady Help of Christians is no exception. We are always looking for people who will share their talents with the Lord and the Parish community.

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 buildings and grounds.

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

☺☺☺☺☺

SUPPORT YOUR PARISH Our sincere thanks to you for your regular weekly contributions. 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.

INCOME 27th September to 24th October 2025

Harvest Family Fast Day £189.30; Contactless £90.54; Envelopes £65.00; Loose Plate £327.60; S/O Gift Aid £1764.00; S/O Non Gift Aid £76.00; Closer to Christ £860.97 **Thank you**

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

DATES FOR YOUR DARY

1st November	Bingo Night
8th November	CWL Tea Party for 'Homerless Packs for Released Prisoners'
11th November	First Holy Communion Parents Meeting
6th December	Christmas Fair
4th January 2026	Parish Brunch & Children's Party in the afternoon