



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

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27th April 2025 - Divine Mercy Sunday (2nd Sunday of Easter)

POPE FRANCIS

We keep Pope Francis in our thoughts and in our prayers. We give thanks for the many gifts and insights he brought to his ministry of service to the Church. In commenting on the Resurrection, he wrote: "Carry this certainty ahead: the Lord is alive and walks beside you through life. This is your mission! Carry this hope onwards."

. We are the Easter People, People of hope. Rejoice! May he rest in peace.

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.

Today is Divine Mercy Sunday and we are invited to reflect on God's mercy and his love for each one of us. Our Gospel records that famous story when Thomas doubts the Resurrection until he sees the Risen Lord and is invited to touch Jesus' sacred wounds.

Easter is the season of hope, where we rediscover the joy of meeting the Risen Christ.

Pope Francis, when he opened the Holy Jubilee Door at Christmas, reminded us that "as disciples of the Lord, we are called to find our greater hope in him, and then, without delay, carry that hope with us, as pilgrims of light amid the darkness of this world".

He repeated this call when he wrote in his Easter message that "Together with the risen Jesus, those who trust in God become pilgrims of hope, witnesses of the victory of love and of the disarmed power of life".

We are called to be witnesses to the Resurrection, to celebrate the mercy of God, to trust in the divine mercy, and to renew our commitment to showing mercy to others. As Pope Francis commented: "Who am I to judge?"

ANNIVERSARIES ABOUT THIS TIME Norah Fleming, Stuart Dalgleish, Stuart Cox, Anna Power, Minnie Buck, Vera Broadbent, Kelvyn Joyce, Margaret Werrell, Doris Denner, Dominic Clark, John Lawlor, Amy Olcot, Annie Grove, Mary Hinks, Robert Raggett and Fr Italo Thomann SDB. May they rest in peace.

Mass Times and Intentions for the Week

Sat 26 th April	10.00 10.30	Mass <i>Reconciliation</i>
Vigil Mass Divine Mercy Sunday	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Sun 27 th April Divine Mercy Sunday	9.30	Stuart Cox RIP
Mon 28 th April Saint George	9.30	Mass
Tue 29 th April St Catherine of Sienna	9.30	Kathleen & Nigel James Intention.
Wed 30 th April	9.30	Liz & Ray Hampton Intention
Thu 1 st May	9.30 7.30pm	Padraig Conlon Int <i>Adoration</i>
Fri 2 nd May	9.30	Mass
Sat 3 rd May	10.00	Mass
Vigil Mass 3rd Sunday of Easter	17.00	People of the Parish
Sun 4 th May 3rd Sunday of Easter	9.30	Mass

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

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS We pray for the Cardinals as they come together to elect a new successor to St Peter. May they be guided by and be open to the Holy Spirit.

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.

Please continue to pray for all our young people who have received or are preparing to receive the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation. We also pray for their families and their Catechists.

EASTER THANK YOU Thank you to all who were involved in the preparation for celebration of Palm Sunday and the Easter Tridium.

The younger members of our community would also like to thank the Easter Bunny for the Easter Eggs!

CWL COFFEE MORNING Thank you to all those who made the Coffee Morning on 23 April a success. All the proceeds went to Breast Cancer Research

THE ROSARY GROUP The New Rota for the Living Rosary is on the Notice Board in the Narthex. The members undertake to pray a decade of the Rosary each day at home for Hope and Peace. If you would like to join the group, please speak to Kate Boardman.

BINGO NIGHT Saturday 10 May 'Eyes down' Starts at 6.15 pm. All are welcome! Young and old and everyone in between! A wonderful evening for all of us to come together. Please bring a pudding or raffle prize. Bingo tickets £5.

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.

The BIG PARISH CLEAN-UP is back! Saturday, 31st May!!!
In recent years, we have had a very successful day working together to clean the Church, Hall, House and Grounds. So successful, that we would like to repeat the day in May in preparation for the celebration of First Holy Communion. There are areas around the Church, Hall and the grounds that require attention. To that end, we invite the Parish Community, young and old, to come together again on Saturday morning, 31 May to help clean the Church, Hall and House and tidy up the garden? The more members of the Parish Family who can join us, the easier the task and we can make the time we spend together fun and enjoyable. We can offer a cup of tea, coffee, or juice and a biscuit and the satisfaction of working as a Parish Team.

AUTISM AWARENESS MONTH As come to the end of this month we need to reach out to the children and families who are trying to cope with this life altering condition. Children with Autism face many challenges in a world they do not understand and where crowds and noise may terrify them. Our late Holy Father asked us to be inclusive. So we should reach out to these families with love and understanding.

DISCUSSION AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP We will be restarting the Discussion and Fellowship groups. We meet on the fourth Tuesday in each month. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, 27 May**, Come and share your reflections, questions, and insights on our Catholic faith and values. A very warm welcome awaits.

SIGNIFICANT WEDDINGS ANNIVERSARY MASS Any couples celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years are welcome to join Bishop Philip at a Mass of celebration at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke on Saturday 21st June at 11am. Mass will be followed by a buffet lunch. Please email anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk to request a form for you to complete and return.

ASSISTED SUICIDE LEGISLATION - UPDATE The Report stage of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) will now take place on 16th May. The legislation can still be defeated. Please write to your MPs asking them to use this opportunity to vote against the Bill.

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

MY PARISH - YOUR PARISH - OUR PARISH

We appreciate the demands of family life and work and are grateful for those parishioners who help in the parish, but we do need more help in and around the church, sacristy, hall, and grounds. In recent Newsletters we have made a series of appeals for volunteers to help with a number of areas in the Parish where we were looking for support - welcoming, maintenance, music, housekeeping, catechists, social, Little Church. To date, we have received only one positive response. This is disappointing and disheartening. If you can help, please speak to Fr Michael or email the parish office on office@olhcfarnborough.org.uk

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Financial contributions to the Parish may be made by placing a donation in the collection basket, 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

NEWS

For news and events around the Diocese please visit Bishop Philip's E-News at <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/communications/news/enews/>

THE NEWSLETTER We are happy to share news and information about our Parish in the Newsletter. Please contact David May if there is any news and information you would like to share.

DATES FOR YOUR DARY

10th May	Bingo
20th May	CWL Meeting
27th May	Discussion and Fellowship Meeting
31st May	Parish Big Clean
8th June	Feast of Pentecost (Parish Brunch)
15th June	Celebration of First Holy Communion

