



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 Deacon: Rev. Paul Page-Tickell

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

2nd March 2025 - The 8th 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 last week taught us how we should respond to being mistreated. 'Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful'. The readings this week continue with the theme of how we should love one another.

We will all have experienced those situations when people ignore us, do not wish to listen, or turn away. This will strike a chord with parents and teachers when children do not wish to listen or even care about what we are saying, no matter how sage the advice on offer. Feeling overlooked, ignored, of being invisible, can be difficult, frustrating, and hurtful. This calls for love and patience. What we must not do is be judgemental.

Our readings today warn us against judging others, criticising their behaviour, feelings, motives or actions. They invite us to reflect on our own lives with honesty, on our motivations and behaviour. If we remove the plank in our own eye we may see the love of God in other people more clearly, seeing others as God sees them.

The Gospel challenges us to have a clear vision and to bear good fruit. Jesus uses the imagery of the good tree and good fruit to show that it is how we behave to those around us that is the sign of what is in our hearts.

'Good teaching comes more from actions than words. It has been said that at our passing, people may not remember any of the words we spoke to them, but they will remember how we made them feel: accepted or rejected.' (Abbot Christian Leisy, OSB)

PARISH OPEN MEETING, Sunday, 2 March from 3.00pm

This is your Parish. We need your views

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH For families in crisis. Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

Mass Times, Intentions and Events for the Week

Sat 1 st March	10.00	Mass
Feast of St David	10.30	<i>Reconciliation</i>
Vigil Mass	5.00pm	People of the Parish
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Sun 2 nd March	9.30	Callum Madhoo Int
8th Sunday in Ordinary Time		
Mon 3 rd March	9.30	Mass
Tue 4 th March February	9.30	Mass
Wed 5 th March	9.45	Mass
Ash Wednesday	7.30pm	Mass
Thu 6 th March	9.30	Eileen Kellett RIP
	7.30pm	<i>Adoration</i>
Fri 7 th March	9.30	Mass
	11.30	Stations of the Cross
Sat 8 th March	10.00	Mass
	11.00	Reconciliation Service
Vigil Mass	5.00pm	Mass
1st Sunday of Lent		
Sun 9 th March	9.30	People of the Parish
1st Sunday of Lent		

ASH WEDNESDAY Please note that Mass is at 9.45, when we will be joined by St Patrick's Junior School. Ashes will be distributed at that Mass and at the 7.30pm Mass in the evening. Ash Wednesday is a day of fasting and abstinence.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS We are united in praying for Pope Francis and 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 ABOUT THIS TIME Florence Hassett, Kevin Irwin, David Monk, Fr James McGuire SDB, Eileen Butler, Peter White, Eileen Kellett, Patrick McDonald, Catherine Cooke, Alexander Callaghan and Patrick O'Sullivan. May they rest in peace.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION IN LENT Our Lenten Reconciliation Service is on Saturday, 8th March at 11.am, during which our First Communion Group will be making their First

MY DAY BY DAY The Lenten booklets are available in the Narthex. We also have Infant and Junior booklets to engage children's interest in Lent.

CAFOD FRIDAY FAST DAY LUNCH ON 7th March at 12.00

Join us in the Hall for a simple meal of soup and a roll. We would like to offer a Frugal Lunch each Friday during Lent and would welcome anyone who could offer to make soup. Please let Helen Priestly know if you can help. Thank you.

LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP During Lent you are invited to look more deeply into the scriptures by coming to a Lectio Divina hour each week led by Brother Martin SDB. The sessions will be held on Fridays starting on **7th March from 7pm-8pm**. Do please consider taking part in this prayerful meditation on the Sunday Gospel. The sessions are informal and are based on the traditional practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's Word.

CATECHISTS LENT DAYS OF PRAYER, FORMATION AND

NETWORKING The Vicariate for Evangelisation will be hosting three online events during Lent for Catechists across the diocese. These events offer a chance to connect with other catechists, share experiences, and find inspiration to hand on the faith in our parishes. Each event will begin at 7:30 PM and last for one hour. Catechists can choose from the three events based on their area of catechesis:

Thursday 13th March - Children's Liturgy and First Holy Communion

Thursday 20th March - Marriage Preparation and Baptism

Thursday 3rd April - Confirmation and RCIA

To sign up for these events, please go to <https://forms.office.com/e/VkCdj1SWzA>

OPPOSING THE ASSISTED DYING BILL It is important that we continue to encourage our MPs to oppose the moves to legalise assisted suicide. Please write to your MPs to encourage them to focus on the long-term resourcing of hospice care and palliative care rather than on legislation that undermines the value of life.

Reconciliation. Please keep them and their families in your prayers. All parishioners are encouraged to join them.

THE ROSARY GROUP We invite all our parishioners to participate in this great prayer tradition of the Church and to meditate on the life of Christ.

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.

MISSION TODAY MAGAZINE Please collect the new edition of the magazine from the Narthex.

NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH The annual Novena of Masses and Prayers will run at St Joseph's Church, Maidenhead from 10th - 18th March 2025. You are welcome to join them for Mass at 10.00am every day of the Novena, except Sunday, when Mass is at 11.00. These Masses will be available to follow on Zoom, via the Mill Hill website: www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena

You are welcome to send in your petitions and/ or to request a Novena Prayer Booklet. Please write to the Novena Director at 6 Colby Gardens, Maidenhead, SL6 7GZ, or email novenamhm@gmail.com. Alternately, you may place your petitions in the Petitions Box in the Narthex.

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

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.

NEWS

For news and events around the Diocese please visit Bishop Philip's E-News at

<https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/communications/news/enews/>

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

DATES FOR YOUR DARY

5th March	Ash Wednesday.
7th March	Women's World Day of Prayer
7th March	CAFOD Fast Day Lunch
7th March	Lenten Prayer & Discussion Evening
8th March	Reconciliation Service with First Reconciliation
13th April	Palm Sunday
20th April	Easter Sunday
23rd April	CWL Coffee Morning

15th June

Celebration of First Holy Communion