



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 – 12am

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14th July 2024 - 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear friends,

Welcome to Our Lady Help of Christians.

Today's readings invite us to reflect upon our call to be prophets, evangelists, and disciples.

In the first reading, Amos was surprised to receive a calling from God and claimed he was not qualified to be a prophet. How often do we deploy similar objections to our personal call to proclaim the good news of the Gospel "I do not have the skill, the education, the understanding to be a prophet". On the face of it, the prophets and the disciples were a surprising collection of individuals: fishermen, tax collectors, tent makers, court officials, priests, shepherds, and like Amos, a simple herdsman who worked in the vineyards. God saw things differently.

We are all different (thankfully), and we can take comfort from Paul in his letter to the Ephesians, when he reminds us of the dignity of our calling. We have been chosen before the creation of the world to be His sons and daughters.

As in last week's reading, not everyone is excited when prophets and apostles come to town. We see this theme repeated this week when Amos is prevented from seeing the King and told to go home. Mark describes how Jesus sent the disciples to minister in his name, to preach repentance, the recurring theme of God's love for His people. Jesus also warned the apostles that some would not be interested in their message. The possibility of rejection is not an excuse for inactivity.

Like Amos, like the prophets, like the disciples we are sent by God to be shepherds of our brothers and sisters. Every person who is baptized and confirmed receives directly from Christ a mandate to share in the Lord's prophetic mission.

The familiar words of St Theresa of Avila are very apposite:

Christ has no body but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,
Yours are the eyes through which he looks
Lovingly on this world,
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,

Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world.

Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,

Yours are the eyes; you are his body.

Christ has no body now but yours.

ANNUAL LEAVE Fr Michael is away from Monday, 15th July to Wednesday, 31st July. There will be no weekday Masses, Monday to Friday and Saturday mornings, during this period.

Mass Times and Intentions for the Week

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| Sat 13 th July | 10.00 | |
| Vigil Mass 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 17.00 | |
| Sun 14 th July 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 9.30 | People of the Parish |
| There are no weekday Masses or Adoration this week. | | |
| Sat 20 th July Vigil Mass 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 17.00 | Eileen Brown Int |
| Sun 21 st July 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time | 9.30 | People of the Parish |

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

BAPTISM: We welcome into the family of the Church Serena Anastasia, Henry Oliver and Elliot Arthur Byrne who were baptised last Sunday. We congratulate their families.

SEA SUNDAY Today, the Church prays for all those who live and work at sea. Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all our lives, but they often work in difficult, hazardous conditions Seafarers can lead hard and dangerous lives. The teams of chaplains, sponsored by Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea), provide practical help and pastoral care to seafarers in the UK and around the world.

There is a Special Collection for Stella Maris. You can donate by visiting www.stellamaris.org.uk/donate, by texting 'SEA' to 70460 to donate £5., or in church. Gift Aid envelopes are available in the Narthex. This collection is vital to enable Stella Maris to continue its important work, so please give generously. Thank you.

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.

ANNIVERSARIES ABOUT THIS TIME: Fr Christopher Harris SDB, Bridget Parris, Eileen Rawlins, Anthony McDonough, Fr James Conway SDB, Fr Michael Blackburn SDB, Margaret McKay Willatts, Innocenza Sebastian, Joan Carter, Wilfred Page, Mary Whittle, Kathleen Bowen, Jane Rodgers, Catherine Young, Fr Alfred Pilbeam SDB, John Wiffen, Dorothy Morley, Antony Rawlins and Bruce Sinclair. May they rest in peace.

THE HOLY FATHER'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JULY: During July, Pope Francis is encouraging us to pray for the pastoral care of the sick. *We pray that the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick confer to those who receive it and their loved ones the power of the Lord and become ever more a visible sign of compassion and hope for all.*

THE ROSARY is prayed after Sunday morning mass at Our Lady's statue in the Church.

NEW MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH FAMILY. You are very welcome. If you have recently settled in Farnborough, please complete the Parish Registration form to allow us to keep our records up to date. The form is available in the Narthex and on the Parish Website.

SOCIAL GROUP We have recently held two very enjoyable social events. We would like to build on their success by holding more events. To that end, we are looking to form a Social Group to plan and organise future activities. Would you be a member of such a group? Please speak to Helen Priestley, Anne-Marie Maher-Williams or David May.

HALL HIRINGS We are hoping to open the Hall for parties, functions etc. To make it possible, we need an individual or group of people prepared to take Hall bookings, and manage the use of the Hall, including opening and closing after use. Again, please speak to a member of the Parish Council.

DISCUSSION AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP We meet on the fourth Tuesday in each month at 7.30 pm. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 30 July, Come and share your reflections, questions, and insights on our Catholic faith and values. A very warm welcome awaits.

MASS INTENTIONS: If you would like a Mass offered for your intentions, please 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. Please write your telephone number on the envelope so we can call you if your requested date is already booked. You can also email your Mass intention to olhc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

FARNBOROUGH FOOD BANK Currently, they need biscuits, variety packs of cereals, custard packets, deodorants male and female, jars of bolognaise sauce, bags for life, laundry pods, long life juice, long life semi skimmed milk, pot noodles, small jars of coffee, small long life fruit juice (200 ml), small tins of ham, sponge puddings, spray battles of all-purpose cleaner, tinned corned beef, tinned meat, tinned spaghetti, tinned hot dogs, tins of meatballs, tuna, toothpaste and washing up liquid. Please be as generous as you can. There is a collection point in the Narthex.

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.
Queries please email: accounts@olhcarnborough.org.uk.
If you are a UK Taxpayer please ensure your donations are covered by a Gift Aid Declaration. Forms are available in the Narthex, or you can download the form off the Website.

BOOKS! Your next read!! There are a range of books available in the Hall for a donation. Funds raised are sent to CAFOD.

THE NEWSLETTER NEEDS YOU! We are happy to share news and information about our Parish in the Newsletter, but we need one key ingredient – your input! Please contact David May if there is any news and information you would like to share.

DATES FOR YOUR DARY

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| 14th July | Second Collection - Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris) |
| 28th July | World Day of Prayer for Grandparents and the Elderly |
| 30th July | Discussion and Fellowship Group |
| 15th August | Feast of the Assumption of Our Lady - Holy Day of Obligation |
| 7th September | Special Anniversary Mass at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke |
| 7th September | March for Life, London |
| 14th September | Parish 'Big Clean' |
| 15th September | 'Adoremus', the National Eucharistic Congress |
| 21st September | Bingo |
| 22nd September | Parish Brunch (24 th Anniversary of the Consecration of our Church) |