



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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10th November 2024 - 32nd 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.

All of us have gifts which God has generously given us. How generously do we, in turn, use those gifts to the glory of God and for the benefit of our neighbour?

This weekend we mark Remembrance Day and the sacrifices made by so many on our behalf. It is appropriate, therefore that today's readings speak to us of sacrifice. We hear the stories of two women who give everything they have. On many levels, they epitomise the self-sacrifice that we commemorate this weekend.

The widow in the first reading, as preparing to share a final meal with her son and then facing starvation, die. Then Elijah arrives on the scene and asks her for the small amount of food she has left. To his request for help, she does not hold back, which leaves her with nothing. The widow in Mark's Gospel gives her last two pennies, as Jesus commented, 'her whole livelihood'. Both women have given their all. What also unites them is trust – their trust in God. And they were blessed!

Can we say that we give our all? Or do we hold back on our use of the opportunities God has given us. The question we should be asking ourselves is: Are we fully committed to love God and our neighbour? What can I give?

HOLY HOUR FOR THE DIGNITY OF HUMAN LIFE Wednesday, 13 November at 5.30pm.

On Wednesday, the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales will gather before the Blessed Sacrament for an hour to pray for the dignity of human life and to unite in compassionate action in the light of the bill passing through parliament that seeks to legalise assisted suicide. "We would encourage Catholics, in their churches or in their homes, to join in prayerful solidarity with the Bishops to create a powerful moment of prayer throughout our lands promoting the intrinsic dignity of every person." In unity with our Bishops and fellow Catholics, our Church will be open that afternoon for prayer and reflection.

Mass Times, Intentions and Events for the Week

Sat 9 th November Dedication of the Lateran Basilica	10.00	
Vigil Mass 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	5.00pm	
Sun 10 th November 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.30	People of the Parish
Mon 11 th November	9.30	Colette Astill RIP
Tue 12 th November	9.30	Colette Astill RIP
Wed 13 th November	9.30 5.30pm	Julie Humphrey RIP Holy Hour
Thu 14 th November	9.30	Ann Walker RIP
Fri 15 th November	9.30	
Sat 16 th November St Edmund of Abingdon, Patron of the Diocese	10.00	
Vigil Mass 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Sun 17 th November 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.30	

Confessions: Saturday after 10.00 am Mass

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: George Pearce, John Loader, Violet Brook, Alan McConnell, Joan Wilson, Elizabeth 'Betty' McAuley, Diana Baker, Margaret Hack, Kate Fletcher, Violet Cairns, Angela Veal, 'Peggy' Wintermyer, Sean Whittle, Margaret Waite, Clara Noyce, James Taylor, Blanche Darwen, Ann Walker, Jean McKelvey, and Lydia Clarkson. May they rest in peace.

REMEMBRANCE BOOK In November we remember in a particular way, deceased family member, friends, members of our Parish community. The Book of Remembrance for you to write their names is available in the Narthex. Those whose names are entered in the Book will be remembered at all Masses celebrated during November.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR NOVEMBER For Anyone Who Has Lost A Child. We pray that all parents who mourn the loss of a son or daughter find support in their community and receive peace and consolation from the Holy Spirit.

WRITE TO YOUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT We are called to action, to protect the vulnerable in our society at all stages of their lives, and to promote the sanctity of all human life. In addition to prayer, write to your member of Parliament asking them to oppose assisted suicide becoming law. We should not overlook the impact a personal letter can have. There is still time.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND RECONCILIATION The sessions begin on **Thursday, 14th November**. There will be an introductory Meeting for the parents on **Tuesday 12th November at 7.30pm** in the Parish Narthex.

CHRISTMAS FAIR, Saturday, 7th December from 11.00am. 4 weeks and counting!!! Thank you for your offers of help and ideas. We still need volunteers for the Tombola, Toys, Christmas Gifts, Crafts and Cake Stalls. We are looking for donations of bottles, fancy goods, Christmas gifts, cakes, toys (but no jumble please) - and your time. Items for the Fair may be left in the Hall. This is an opportunity for everyone to come together – young, old and those in between.

CHRISTMAS CARDS There is a selection of Christmas Cards, Advent Calendars, Candles etc for sale at the Repository counter after Mass on Saturday evening and Sunday morning

CAFOD'S WORLD GIFTS World Gifts are CAFOD's alternative charity gifts that transform lives. Perfect for Christmas, you can choose a unique, virtual gift that will make a real difference to a family living in poverty. Copies of the catalogue are available in the Narthex or visit the World Gifts Website at: worldgifts.cafod.org.uk

PARISH BRUNCH, Sunday 24th November. We will celebrate the Feast of Christ the King and mark the end of the Liturgical year with a brunch after the 9.30 Mass. Please bring along a plate or dish of food to share. We are a multi-cultural parish, and this is a chance for you to show off your national cuisine to fellow members of the parish in a shared meal

THE NEW LECTIONARY In preparation for the introduction of the New Lectionary at the beginning of Advent, the Bishops' Conference is recommending 3 videos provided by the Archdiocese of St Andrews and Edinburgh on

Fr Paul Denny on "Why is the new lectionary important?"
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjCcYGDC5Mk>

Bishop Hugh Gilbert on "Introducing the English Standard Version"

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VmjpV0xkWg>

Fr Adrian Porter SJ on Proclaiming the Word

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shuALIEpUGk>

If you are wishing to gain an insight as the new Lectionary, these are the resources for you!

We will be holding a couple of sessions for current and new readers and anyone drawn to this important Ministry. Please make it a priority to attend one of these sessions. The first session will be on **Tuesday, 19 November at 7.00** in the Church.

ADVENT GROUPS The season of Advent, and the start of the Church's New Liturgical Year, begins on 1st December. Advent is a spiritually powerful time and, echoing our lives, a time of longing, of awaiting that deep fulfilment in us only God can bring. You are invited look more deeply into the scriptures by coming to a Lectio Divina hour each week led by Brother Martin SDB.

WHAT IS LECTIO DIVINA? It is a traditional practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's Word. It is about making the Word of God a living Word in our lives.

At each session we will READ the scriptures for the Sundays of Advent, REFLECT on them and RESPOND to them. These are informal and prayerful sessions and we particularly welcome you if you have not done anything like it before. Now is the time to step forward into a deeper relationship with God in His holy season. The sessions will be held on Friday, 29th November 6th, 13th and 20th^h December 7pm-8pm.

Please speak to Anne-Marie Maher-Williams if you have any questions.

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.

DATES FOR YOUR DARY

12th November	Meeting with Parents of the First Holy Communion Group
13th November	Holy Hour for the Dignity of Human Life
14th November	FHC First Session
19th November	Session preparing for the new Lectionary
24th November	Parish Brunch - Feast of Christ the King
29th November	Advent - Lectio Divina
7th December	Christmas Fair