



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

Parish Priest: **Fr. Michael Hynes SDB** Deacon: **Rev. Paul Page-Tickell**

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16th February 2025 - The 6th 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.

Our readings today confront us with a series of choices and consequences for the way we live our lives.

The prophet Jeremiah in the first reading sets the tone: trusting in man or trusting in God. One choice leads to death, the other path leads to life. 'Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord, whose trust is in the Lord'.

Admittedly, letting go and allowing God to take control can be difficult when we may not understand God's plan for us, or are faced with life's unexpected challenges, but faith leads us when we cannot see. God knows and understands us better than our friends, family or even ourselves. We should have the humility to recognise that God's knowledge is so much greater than our own.

Paul continues this theme of consequences. Our faith is based on the premise of the physical resurrection of the body. If there is no resurrection of the dead, there is no salvation or eternal life. Christ's death and resurrection gives purpose and meaning to our lives.

Luke also returns to the theme that actions or behaviours have consequences. His emphasis is that true happiness comes from a loving relationship with God. Jesus contrasts the condition of those who are recognised as successful from a worldly perspective with those who are led by the Spirit and aim for a close relationship with God. It is those who are poor, hungry, sorrowful and persecuted who are blessed.

DISCUSSION AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP

Come and share your reflections, questions, experiences, and insights on our Catholic Faith in a non-judgemental setting. A very warm welcome awaits you at the meeting on Tuesday 25 February at 7.30 pm.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 18th February after the 9.30 am Mass. New members are always welcome.

Mass Times, Intentions and Events for the Week

Sat 15 th February	10.00 10.30	<i>Reconciliation</i>
Vigil Mass 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Sun 16 th February 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.30	Elizabeth Taylor RIP
Mon 17 th February	9.30	Sidney Wilson RIP
Tue 18 th February	9.30	CWL
Wed 19 th February	9.30	Judith Yiannis Int
Thu 20 th February	9.30 7.30pm	Terence Sizer RIP <i>Adoration</i>
Fri 21 st February	9.30	
Sat 22 nd February The Conversion of St Paul	10.00 10.30	<i>Reconciliation</i>
Vigil Mass 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time	5.00pm	Brian Walker RIP
Sun 23 rd February 7th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.30	People of the Parish

ANNIVERSARIES ABOUT THIS TIME

Eva Hall, John 'Jack' Pollicutt, Brian Conroy, Rosanna Raison, Emily Kennedy, Elizabeth May Taylor, Ethna (Julie) Hall, Sidney Wilson, Eleanor Fowlet, Josephine 'Josie' Nicholls, Elizabeth Wesley, David Conlan. Hannah Dawson, Maureen Monk, Eileen Fry, Mary 'Maura' Eyre, Eileen Woodward, Joseph Cush, Joseph Whittingham, Elizabeth Mary Taylor, Sheila Smith, Fr Philip Spratt SDB, William Da Silva, 'Mille' Pollicutt, Mary Bartle, Patrick Slaven, Bro Joseph Carter SDB, Alan Morris, Florence Hassett, Kevin Irwin, David Monk and Fr James McGuire SDB. May they rest in peace.

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.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR FEBRUARY For vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP

Lent, which begins on Ash Wednesday, 5 March 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 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 during Lent starting on 7th March and then on 14th, 21st, 28th and 4th April 7pm-8pm.

WHAT IS LECTIO DIVINA?

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. It is about making the Word of God a living Word in our lives.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THE SESSIONS?

We will READ the scriptures for the Sundays of Lent, one per week, REFLECT on them and RESPOND to them.

This is the time to enter deeply into what God is saying to us through scripture.

We particularly welcome you if you have not done anything like it before. A warm welcome awaits. Do join us.

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

NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH

The Mill Hill Missionaries will offer their annual Novena of Masses and Prayers in preparation for the Feast of St Joseph 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

The Novena Prayer Booklet is available on request for a suggested donation of £1 per booklet to cover costs. 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

PARISH OPEN MEETING

The parish open meeting on Sunday, 2nd March, from 3.00pm is an opportunity to discuss the type of Parish Community we are and the type of Community we aspire to be. We are a diverse group of people and it is important that we share ideas and involvement in making our Community a place where we share God's love for us, where we grow in our understanding and experience of that love and in our faith, where we can share the gifts God has given each one of us as individuals and as a Community, a place where everyone is welcome, accepted and encouraged. We need everyone to engage in that debate. Everyone – young and old and those in-between, are welcome to engage in the discussion.

ROSARY FOR PEACE All parishioners are welcome to join in the recitation of the Rosary after Sunday morning mass at Our Lady's statue in the Church, to pray for Peace in the world and any special intentions.

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.

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK & CO. MAYO

Escorted Jubilee Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 10th March 2025. Please see the poster on the board in the Narthex for more details or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com

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.

INCOME FIGURES 1st February to 13th February

Envelopes	£80.00
Loose	£201.50
S/O Gift Aid	£1535.00
S/O Non Gift Aid	£ 4.00
Coffee	£106.00
Total	£1926.50

Thank you

DATES FOR YOUR DARY

18th February	Meeting of the Catholic Women's League
20th February	FHC Session
25th February	Fellowship and Discussion Group
1st March	FHC Session
2nd March	Parish Meeting
7th March	Lenten Prayer & Discussion Evening
8th March	Reconciliation Service with First Confession
23rd April	CWL Coffee Morning
15th June	Celebration of First Holy Communion