



# 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 Tel: 01252 545364

Office Hours: 10am – 12pm

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Hynes SDB

Parish Deacon: Rev. Paul Page-Tickell

E-mail: [olhc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:olhc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) OR The Parish Office: [office@olhcfarnborough.org.uk](mailto:office@olhcfarnborough.org.uk)

Website: [www.olhcfarnborough.org.uk](http://www.olhcfarnborough.org.uk)

Facebook: Our Lady Help of Christians RC Church Farnborough

Parish Safeguarding Contact: [safeguarding.FARNH@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.FARNH@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## 3rd November 2024 - 31st 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 theme running through today's readings is that of Love. In the passage from Mark's Gospel, Jesus links love of God, love of our neighbour, and love of ourselves.

When Jesus is asked what the greatest commandment is, he refers to the words we hear in the reading from Deuteronomy: Love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, and strength. Then Jesus adds 'and love your neighbour as yourself'. Two commandments for the price of one. A Bargain!

Loving God comes first, but if we keep that commandment, we must keep the second. Our love for God is inseparable from love of ourselves and love of our neighbour. Loving God means loving him wherever we meet him. We cannot love God and not love those around us. This love for others is not an abstract concept.

How do we express our love for others? Jesus identifies himself with those around him – those in need, the poor, the outcast, the sick. As Paul tells us, Jesus as the Eternal High Priest, sacrifices himself out of love for us. That is the example we are called to follow.

Loving others can be demanding, yet that is what we are called to do. We are called to spread and proclaim God's love in our thoughts, our words, and our actions. The call to proclaim God's love is not an invitation to close our minds, be self-centred and sit on our hands. How do we as a Parish and as individuals, respond to the commandment to love others? Do we create the environment that welcomes, supports and encourages each other to grow in the love of God?

As young member of the family keeps reminding me: caring is sharing.

-----

**BAMENDA SUNDAY 3 NOVEMBER:** Today we mark and celebrate the close links between the Diocese of Portsmouth and the Archdiocese of Bamenda. For those of us who are not geographers, Bamenda is the Provincial

capital of North West Cameroon in West Africa. There is a second collection to support the people of Bamenda. Please be generous and keep the people of Bamenda in your prayers. The funds raised in this annual collection support parishes, schools, health establishments and social projects. Baskets for your donations are in the Narthex. Donations may also be made online at

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/donate?cid=136990#amount>

### Mass Times and Intentions for the Week

Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	10.00	
Vigil Mass	5.00pm	
<b>31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>		
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	9.30	People of the Parish
<b>31<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>		
Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30	Vicky Harris RIP
Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30	
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30	
Thu 7 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30	
Fri 8 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30	
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup> November	10.00	
<b>Dedication of the Lateran Basilica</b>		
Vigil Mass	5.00pm	People of the Parish
<b>32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>		
Sun 10 <sup>th</sup> November	9.30	
<b>32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>		

### Confessions: Saturday after 10.00 am Mass

**BLESSING OF GRAVES, Sunday, 3rd November.** The graves at Ship Lane Cemetery will be blessed this afternoon after a prayer service starting at 2.00pm.

**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.

**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.

**ANNIVERSARIES ABOUT THIS TIME:** Nora Burke, Ellen Curry, Thomas Connelly, Leslie Curry, George Still, Phillip Cantwell, Grace May, Eileen Hack, Freddie Hughes, Frank Young, Christine Duguid, Kevin McGrath, George Pearce, John Loader, Violet Brook, Alan McConnell, Elizabeth 'Betty' McAuley, Diana Baker, and Margaret Hack. May they rest in peace.

**REMEMBRANCE BOOK** A Remembrance Book is available in the Narthex for you to write the names of deceased members of your family and friends. Those whose names are entered in the Book will be remembered at all Masses celebrated during November.

**THE ROSARY** The new Rota for the Living Rosary to pray for Peace is on the Notice Board in the Narthex.

**ADORATION - Thursday 7.30-8.30pm** A time for silent reflection before the Blessed Sacrament. You are welcome to attend all or part of Adoration.

**COFFEE & CHAT:** Now that the evenings are darker, we will suspend tea and coffee on a Saturday evening. Service will resume in the Spring. Refreshments will continue on Sunday mornings and after the 9.30 Mass on a Wednesday.

**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.** 5 weeks and counting!!! Now is the time to put aside the bottles, fancy goods etc. 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. We still need volunteers for the Tombola, Toys, Christmas Gifts, Crafts and Cake Stalls. The Fair will take place from 11.00 to 1.30 pm. After the 9.30 Sunday Mass next Sunday, we will have a short meeting to prepare for the Christmas Fair and bring the planning and your ideas together. If you would like to help in any way, please come along or indicate your willingness to help.

**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](http://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk)

**NEW LECTIONARIES** It is important that all Ministers of the Word become familiar with the New Lectionary before it is formally introduced at the beginning of Advent. We will be holding a couple of sessions for current, 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.

**'OPPOSE ASSISTED SUICIDE** Love, joy and hope are the essence of our Christian faith: the recognition that God loves us, the love we have for God, and the love we share with others. As Catholics, we have a duty to protect the vulnerable in our society at whatever stage of their lives, and to promote the sanctity of all human life. The 'Assisted Suicide Bill which has its Second Reading in Parliament on Friday, 29 November, is diametrically opposed to those values.

Copies of Bishop Philip's Pastoral Letter, highlighting reasons why Assisted Suicide is wrong, are available in the Narthex. His letter may also be read online at

<https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/oppose-assisted-suicide/>

Our Bishops are encouraging us to contact our Members of Parliament to ask them to oppose assisted suicide becoming law. We should not overlook the impact a personal letter can have on the understanding and attitude of members of Parliament.

**ENCYCLICAL LETTER:** Pope Francis has issued his fourth Encyclical Letter since becoming Pope. The letter is entitled: 'Dilexit Nos – He loved us' and is an invitation to understand and come close to the human and divine love of the Heart of Jesus.

The Encyclical is a timely reminder that with all the uncertainty and turmoil that surrounds us, 'His open heart has gone before us and waits for us, unconditionally, asking only to offer us his love and friendship'. The Encyclical can be downloaded at

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2024/10/Dilexit-Nos-ENG.pdf>

**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.

**WEEKLY MASS COLLECTIONS 19th to 30th October 2024**

CAFOD	£166.40
World Mission	£143.50
Envelopes	£60.00
Loose	£217.50
S/O Gift Aid	£215.00
S/O Non Gift Aid	£10.00

**Total £812.40**

**Thank you**