



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** Deacon: **Rev. Paul Page-Tickell**

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Website: www.olhcfarnborough.org.uk

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9th February 2025 - The 5th 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.

Through our Baptism we become members of the Body of Christ, the Church. As such we are called to be active participants in the mission of the Church, to proclaim the good news of salvation and to witness in our lives to the presence of God in the world. This Sunday, the readings invite us to reflect on how Jesus calls us to follow him, and what we are doing to respond to that call.

A commentator described this Sunday as 'Excuses Sunday'. This strikes a chord. There will be times when we may be less enthusiastic, less motivated, or hesitant, in our engagement in the life of the Church. We come up with excuses to explain that lack of engagement: I am not qualified, gifted, have the confidence, temperament, or skill set necessary for the tasks involved.

In the readings this Sunday, Isaiah, Paul and Peter feel they have very good excuses for not accepting God's call. Isaiah says he is 'a man of unclean lips.' Paul felt that he was unworthy to be an Apostle, because he 'persecuted the Church of God', and Simon Peter confesses that he is 'a sinful man'. We can relate to their sense of being unworthy of the mission God is giving them. We can also take comfort from their discomfort.

First, we should not pretend to be something we are not. God loves us where we are, with all our faults, failings, and weaknesses. God knows us better than we know ourselves. God will consider us worthy and that is all that counts. What is important is how we respond to God's invitation.

If we put our complete faith and trust in God, he will transform our lives. Paul points the way: from persecutor of the Church, he 'worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me'. In the passage from the Gospel the climax is not the size of the catch but Simon Peter's response; he leaves everything to follow Jesus. Our lives will be transformed if we trust in God, listen to Jesus and answer his call.

Despite any reservations, we should trust in God, and shout with Isaiah "Here I am! Send me'.

Mass Times, Intentions and Events for the Week

Sat 8th February	10.00 10.30	Maria D'Souza RIP <i>Reconciliation</i>
Vigil Mass 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	5.00pm	
Sun 9th February 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.30	People of the Parish
Mon 10th February	9.30	
Tue 11th February		No Mass
Wed 12th February	9.30	
Thu 13th February	9.30 7.30om	<i>Adoration</i>
Fr 14th February SS Cyril & Methodius	9.30	
Sat 15th February	10.00 10.30	<i>Reconciliation</i>
Vigil 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	5.00pm	People of the Parish
Sun 16th February 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time	9.30	Elizabeth Taylor RIP

Adoration on a Thursday evening from 7.30pm is an opportunity to be still and to experience how much we are loved by God.

World Day of Prayer for the Sick: 11th February

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

Claire Stone, John Wintermeyer, Antoinette Sammut, Maria Dudley, Monica Turner, Ivor Prentice, Eva Hall, John 'Jack' Pollicutt, Brian Conroy, Rosanna Raison, Emily Kennedy, Elizabeth Taylor, Ethna (Julie) Hall, Sidney Wilson, Eleanor Fowlet, Josephine 'Josie' Nicholls, Elizabeth Wesley, David Conlan. Hannah Dawson, Maureen Monk, Eileen Fry and Mary 'Maura' Eyre. May they rest in peace.

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.

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.

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE

The CWL meets on the third Tuesday in each month after the 9.30 am Mass. Their next meeting will be on Tuesday, 18th February. New members are always welcome.

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.

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

JUBILEE YEAR

For details and resources for the Jubilee Year please visit the diocesan website:

<https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/jubilee-year-2025/>

The theme for the Jubilee Year is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. As part of the Jubilee Year, we will be undertaking Pilgrimages. One idea is for us to visit Catholic Churches in our neighbourhood. Further details to follow.

MASS INTENTIONS

The Sacrifice of the Mass is the greatest possible prayer of intercession. To request a Mass to be offered within the parish, please speak to Fr Michael, or 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. You can also email your Mass intention to olhc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

PARISH OPEN MEETING

There will be a parish open meeting on Sunday, 2nd March, from 3.00pm to which all are welcome. It will give us an opportunity to reflect together on all aspects of parish life and what type of Parish we wish to be.

The parish is the central place in which the Catholic community comes together to celebrate and share in the Mass, liturgies, sacraments, formation and life of the Church.

JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK & CO. MAYO

Escorted Jubilee Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 10th March 2025. £799.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, Quiet Man Museum. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 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.

NEWS

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

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

We are happy to share news and information about our Parish in the Parish Newsletter. Please contact David May if there is any news and information you would like to share.

DATES FOR YOUR DARY

11th February	World Day of the Sick
18th February	CWL Meeting
20th February	FHC Session
1stb March	FHC Session
2nd March	Parish Meeting
5th March	Ash Wednesday
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