



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**

E-mail: olhc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk OR The Parish Office: office@olhcfarnborough.org.uk

Website: www.olhcfarnborough.org.uk

Facebook: Our Lady Help of Christians RC Church Farnborough

Parish Safeguarding Contact: safeguarding.FARNH@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

16th March 2025 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

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.

Last week we heard of the temptations of Jesus while he was in the Desert. This week we are accompanying him to the mountain where Peter, James and John saw Jesus in all his glory, changed from a mere mortal into a glorified, heavenly state.

The Transfiguration takes place days after our Lord had first spoken to his disciples about his coming suffering and death. Jesus had also told them that his followers had to take up their cross daily and follow him. Clearly, their morale would have taken a knock and Jesus now, on the mountain top, gives them a glimpse of his glory and majesty, encouraging and assuring them that his suffering and death, is not the end, but the way to resurrection and eternal life.

Peter suggests that they build tents for Jesus, Moses and Elijah. He is ready to set up camp and stay on the mountain, to hold on to his experience of God's glory. 'Master, it is good that we are here'. He would prefer to avoid the unpleasantness that lies ahead. There is a 'Peter' in all of us: holding on to the format, the structure, the tradition that offers reassurance, wishing to remain in our comfort zone.

We are called to share in Christ's Transfiguration. As Paul assures us in the second reading for today, 'the Lord Jesus Christ will transform our lowly bodies to be like his glorious body'. We should take comfort from the glimpse of glory, the joy that we may experience. But that is not the end.

Jesus came down from the mountain and continued his journey to Jerusalem, to his Passion. Yes, 'it is good to be here', but we are called to take up our cross and follow Jesus down from the mountain. That is true discipleship. And that is the true response to the words of the Father: 'This is my Son: Listen to him'.

If we follow and listen to Jesus, we will share his glory and eternal life.

There is a Special Collection this weekend for the CAFOD Lent Appeal. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, donate online at <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/parishes/virtual-envelope> or call on 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.

Mass Times, Intentions and Events for the Week

Sat 15 th March	10.00 10.30	Mass <i>Reconciliation</i>
Vigil Mass	5.00pm	Mass
2nd Sunday of Lent		
Sun 16 th March	9.30	People of the Parish
2nd Sunday of Lent		
Mon 17 th March	9.30	Peter Byrne RIP
Saint Patrick		
Tue 18 th March	9.30	CWL
Wed 19 th March	9.30	Mass
Saint Joseph		
Thu 20 st March	9.30 7.30pm	Mass <i>Adoration</i>
Fri 21 st March	9.30 11.30	Mass <i>Stations of the Cross</i>
Sat 22 nd March	10.00 10.30	Mass <i>Reconciliation</i>
Vigil Mass	5.00pm	Jacky Kelly RIP
3rd Sunday of Lent		
Sun 23 rd March	9.30	People of the Parish
3rd Sunday of Lent		

ANNIVERSARIES ABOUT THIS TIME Kathleen Lyons, John Tabbener, Ruth Taylor, Eileen Heath, Alfred Turner, Stephen Cooke, Grace Bilyard, Cyril Brown, Ann Clark, Fr Paul McAleer SDB and Daisy Mary Rogers. May they rest in peace.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS & FRIDAY FRUGAL LUNCHEAS The Stations of the Cross will be prayed during Lent on a Friday at 11.30am. This is a powerful way to walk with Jesus during Lent. Join us after Stations of the Cross at 12.00 for a simple meal of soup and a roll.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR MARCH Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS We pray for Pope Francis and for all who are ill, 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.

FRIDAY LENTEN DISCUSSION GROUP Our Friday Evening Lenten 'Lectio Divina' Programme continues on 21st March at 7pm, with the evening devoted to scriptural reading, meditation, prayer and discussion of the Gospel for the following Sunday. Do join us.

THE ROSARY GROUP The New Rota for the Living Rosary is on the Notice Board in the Narthex. The members undertake to pray a decade of the Rosary each day at home for Hope and Peace. If you would like to join the group, please speak to Kate Boardman.

THE CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE – An Invitation The Catholic Women's League is a National and International organisation with one aim to enhance the lives of catholic women and to promote good fellowship in our lives through giving and caring for one another.

The CWL in Our Lady Help of Christians has been active for seventy years and more. We meet every third Tuesday of the month after 9.30 mass in the Narthex. The League was the idea of Margaret Fletcher who saw the need for a community of caring women from all walks of life. Margaret Fletcher was not a Catholic but felt that the ladies of the church who did so much work for parishioners and the church would be better able to continue their good work in a group of likeminded women.

In Farnborough we have a very active CWL and would welcome all women to join. Much work is carried out by us in supporting the day to day running of the church. We organise coffee mornings and tea parties to raise funds for the many charities we support. These are a lot of work but also a lot of fun, we also arrange outings. To be a member of the CWL is a privilege and the warm friendship and support from members is to be valued, especially in times of illness and bereavement.

We would like to encourage all ladies to join us for coffee this
Tuesday, 18th March after the 9.30am Mass.

CATECHISTS LENT DAYS OF PRAYER, FORMATION AND NETWORKING The Vicariate for Evangelisation will be hosting three online events during Lent for Catechists across the diocese. These events offer a chance to connect with other catechists, share experiences, and find inspiration to hand on the faith in our parishes. Each event will begin at 7:30 PM and last for one hour.

Thursday 20th March - Marriage Preparation and Baptism

Thursday 3rd April - Confirmation and RCIA

To sign up for these events, please go to
<https://forms.office.com/e/VkCdj1SWzA>

OPPOSING THE ASSISTED DYING BILL It is important that we continue to encourage our MPs to oppose the moves to legalise assisted suicide. Please write to your MPs to encourage them to focus on the long-term resourcing of hospice care and palliative care rather than on legislation that undermines the value of life.

EASTER CARDS There is a selection of Easter Cards for sale at the Repository counter after Mass on Saturday evening and Sunday morning

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

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.

YOUR PARISH NEEDS YOU!

There are many ways of getting involved in the parish.

MUSICIANS: Do you play an instrument? Would you be able to take some of the burden from Maureen and help provide music at Mass and other celebrations. Having different instruments would enable us to add variety and enrich our celebration of the Liturgy. Please speak to David.

WELCOMING: We are short of welcomers at the Sunday Masses. Can you be the big welcome to all who arrive through the door of the Church? If you would like to participate in this important Ministry, please speak to David May.

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED ALL THE THINGS THAT NEED TO BE PREPARED FOR OUR MASSES? Would you be prepared to come earlier and help to prepare the Church for Mass, check on supplies and do all the little jobs connected with the Sacristy. Might you be one of those people? Please speak to David May.

INCOME FIGURES 14th February to 13th March

Envelopes	£170.00
Loose	£591.50
S/O Gift Aid	£1769.50
S/O Non Gift Aid	£156.00
Total	£2687.00

Thank you

DATES FOR YOUR DARY

18th March	CWL Meeting
21st March	Lenten Prayer & Discussion Evening
22nd March	FHC Session
25th March	Feast of The Annunciation of the Lord
28th March	Lenten Prayer & Discussion Evening
20th April	Easter Sunday
23rd April	CWL Coffee Morning
15th June	Celebration of First Holy Communion