



# 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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## 19th January 2025 - 2nd 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.

Weddings are one of the happier occasions which bring family, loved ones and friends together. They are a joyful celebration of family, of love, of commitment, of friendship. They are an important element in creating and supporting family relationships.

The wedding feast in Cana is a familiar story. It marks the first public miracle worked by Jesus and places Jesus at the centre of family life. We know the names of some of the guests – Mary, Jesus, and his disciples – but the names of the bridal party are not recorded. Instead, the focus of the story is on the interaction between Mary and her Son. The passage tells us much about their relationship.

Although a guest at the wedding celebration, Mary notices that the wine, a key ingredient to the festivities, is running low. What we see is her compassion and concern for the needs of others. What does she do? She takes the problem to her Son, and Jesus performs his first miracle at her request.

What is central to the story is Mary's faith and complete trust in her Son. The wedding at Cana is the start of Christ's ministry, and yet Mary is fully confident that he can help them. Her words to the servants resonate for us. 'Do whatever he tells you'.

Like the water, our lives can be transformed if we put Jesus at the centre of it and ask Mary to intercede for us with her Son. The miracle at Cana also shows us that God is involved in all aspects of our lives.

Last Sunday we celebrated the Baptism of the Lord. As a result of our Baptism the Holy Spirit gifts each of us a distinct gift which we are to use for the benefit and service of others.

The list which Paul presents in the second reading is not exhaustive. What is important is that we use the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the gifts the Holy Spirit has given to us individually, to build up and support the community.

### Mass Times, Intentions and Events for the Week

Sat 18 <sup>th</sup> January	10.00 10.30	Reconciliation
Vigil Mass <b>2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	5.00pm	Teresa Thompson RIP
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup> January <b>2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9.30	People of the Parish
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30	
Tue 21 <sup>st</sup> January	9.30	
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	9.30	Michael Leech RIP
Thu 23 <sup>rd</sup> January	9.30 7.30pm	Adoration
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30	
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup> January <b>The Conversion of St Paul</b>	10.00 10.30	Reconciliation
Vigil Mass <b>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	5.00pm	
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup> January <b>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	9.30	People of the Parish

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

"The time you spend with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the best time that you will spend on Earth." **-Mother Teresa**

### WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 18<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> January

2025 will mark the 1,700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council held at Nicaea. This commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the common faith of Christians as expressed in the Creed formulated at that Council. The theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 is based on a text from the Gospel of John: "Do you believe this?" (John 11:26). The prayers and reflections for use during the week are available at:

<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity/>

**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:** Margaret Perceval, Hilda Edwards, Brian Alexander, Valeria Ryan, Joan Scheider, Jessie Newson, Robert Luther, Norah Brown, James Lawrence, John Joyce, Mark Bartlett, James Roberts, Anthony McKelvey, John Reid, Eileen Luther, Florence Gregory, Jack Leigh, Aileen Joyce, Raymond Le Bourgeois, Thomas McKeegan, David Boardman, Lucy Belcher, Catherine Murphy, Margaret Quigley and Fr John Corcoran SDB. May they rest in peace.

**BAPTISM** We welcome Oliver Davies who was baptised last Sunday into the family of the Church. Please keep Oliver, his parents, Godparents and family in your prayers.

**THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION FOR JANUARY** For the right to an education. Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

**CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE** The next meeting will be on Tuesday, 21st January after the 9.30 am Mass. New members are always welcome.

**PARISH OPEN MEETING** There will be a parish open meeting on Sunday, 2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Further details in the coming weeks.

**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](mailto:olhc@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**DISCUSSION AND FELLOWSHIP GROUP** The next meeting will be on Tuesday 28 January at 7.30 pm. Would you like to know more about our Catholic Faith? Come and share your reflections, questions, experiences, and insights in a non-judgemental setting. A very warm welcome awaits you and we look forward to seeing you.

**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.

**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.

**THE NEWSLETTER!** Please contact David May if there is any news and information you would like to share.

#### DATES FOR YOUR DARY

18th January	Start of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
21st January	Meeting of the Catholic Women's League
28th January	Fellowship and Discussion Group
8th February	Day for Engaged Couples - Portsmouth Cathedral
2nd March	Parish Meeting
8th March	Reconciliation Service with First Confession
15th June	Celebration of First Holy Communion