



Corpus  
Christi

## Corpus Christi

Wokingham

South Berkshire Pastoral Area

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth



Corpus  
Christi

Parish Priest: Canon Simon Thomson JV

Telephone: 0118 978 0348

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Website:- [www.corpuschristi-wokingham.org](http://www.corpuschristi-wokingham.org)

Link for live streamed Masses: <https://www.facebook.com/Corpus-Christi-Wokingham-100445488273222/>



### **22nd February 2026: First Sunday of Lent - Year A**

If we imagine that temptation never seems to come our way, could it be that we're not worth the devil's attention? We tend to think of temptation as something that will lead us into a life of crime or immorality, but temptation is simply anything that threatens to take us away from God. If temptation never seems to come our way, perhaps it's because we are not trying to be close to God in the first place.

Many of us fail to recognise temptation, and the reason we fail is because we don't really know who we are or what we're about. It's surprising that we can get so far on in years without being about to answer simple questions like "What are you doing for God?" "How would you like to be remembered?" The reason we struggle with questions like these is because as human beings we are governed hugely by self-interest. Self-interest is essential for survival and it's in all of us, but as Christians we have to put self-interest on a back burner and put in the time and effort into defining who we really would like to be. Once we have achieved this, then the devil's temptations are suddenly crystal clear. After all, we can't be tempted away from our path in life if we've no idea what our path in life is. If we have no plan, we are hardly worth the devil's attention.

When we choose to give up something this Lent, perhaps it should be something that reflects the path we have chosen and the temptation we are trying to transcend. If we decide to give up red wine for instance, with the intention of dropping a couple of dress sizes, God won't be hugely impressed and the devil won't be remotely interested. If we give up wine because we have identified that it is stopping us from doing some important work of God's making, our Lenten journey will take on a life changing significance. Jesus gives us an important clue; "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" When we make our daily choices ask, "Is this about me.... or is it about God?"

[Image: Adobe Stock - Portsmouth Diocese e-News Issue 522]

### **Mass Schedule and Intentions**

#### **Saturday 21st February**

**5pm - 5.20pm** *Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)*

**Vigil Mass (First Mass of Sunday)**

**5.30pm** *For CAFOD*

#### **Sunday 22nd February - First Sunday of Lent**

**9am** *Vi Griffiths RIP (F)*

**11am** *Richard Bennett RIP*

#### **Tuesday 24th February - of the 1st Week of Lent**

**7pm** *Justin Buttigieg RIP*

#### **Wednesday 25th February - of the 1st Week of Lent**

**8.30am - 9.30am** *Silent Adoration*

**9.30am**

**10am** *Praying the Rosary*

#### **Thursday 26th February - of the 1st Week of Lent**

**8am** *Maureen Oliver RIP*

**8 - 9pm** *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

#### **Friday 27th February - of the 1st Week of Lent (Lenten Fast Day)**

**7.30am**

**7pm** *Stations of the Cross*

#### **Saturday 28th February**

**5pm - 5.20pm** *Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)*

**Vigil Mass (First Mass of Sunday)**

**5.30pm** *Vivian Laydon RIP - 10th Anniversary*

#### **Sunday 1st March - Second Sunday of Lent**

**9am** *Fr Jim Joyce RIP*

**11am** *Michael Murphy RIP and Eileen Murphy RIP*

(F) Foundation (P) Perpetual

### **St Teresa's Catholic Academy**

Easthampstead Road, Wokingham, RG40 2EB Tel: 0118 9784310

Head Teacher: Mrs Nikki Peters

Website: [www.st-teresas.wokingham.sch.uk](http://www.st-teresas.wokingham.sch.uk)



### **Important Contacts**

#### **Other Priests of the Pastoral Area:**

Fr Marcus Brisley (Crowthorne & Sandhurst) - 01252 876820

[crowsand@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:crowsand@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Fr. Danny McAvoy (Bracknell) - 01344 425729

[office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org](mailto:office@bracknellcatholicchurch.org)

**Safeguarding Team:** Claire & Jordana

[safeguarding.wok@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding.wok@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**SVP:** 01182 114130

**CTW Rep:** [dougcleary91@gmail.com](mailto:dougcleary91@gmail.com)

**Parish Steering Group:**

[ccsteering.wok@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ccsteering.wok@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



Parish Office Opening Times - Tuesday 10.00 to 14.00, Wednesday and Thursday 09.30 to 12.00, and Friday 10.00 to 14.00

Parish Administrator: Hannah Procter



Please remember all who are sick, especially, Joyce Unwin, Mary Ann Froude, Daniel Sutton, John Butterworth, Kathy Kramers, Neil Harman, Jim Cuthbert, James Phillips, Rita King, Norma Pover, David Thomas, Derek Davey and Maria Howse

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Giuseppe Itta, who has passed away, and for his family at this time of sorrow.  
Details of Guisepe's Funeral Mass are still to be confirmed.



**Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let Your perpetual light shine upon him.  
May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.**



### Lenten Extras 2026

- 1. Friday Mass time Changes** - On the **Fridays** of Lent Mass will be at the earlier time of 7.30am. This gives those going to work or to school the opportunity to start the day with a time of quiet reflection.
- 2. Stations of the Cross** - On **Fridays** at 7pm why not come and walk the Way of the Cross as we recall Jesus' Passion and death?

### Wokingham Half Marathon - British Heart Foundation

Parishioner Lindsay Meerabux is running the Wokingham Half Marathon this **Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2026** to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation. Lindsay knows first-hand how vital the work and research of the BHF is, following heart surgery at the end of 2024. He also very generously donated the life-saving defibrillator located outside the church.

Please help support Lindsay by sponsoring him - every pound makes a difference.

Thank you.

[https://www.justgiving.com/page/lindsay-meerabux-1?utm\\_medium=FR&utm\\_source=SM](https://www.justgiving.com/page/lindsay-meerabux-1?utm_medium=FR&utm_source=SM)



# CAFOD A better world needs all of us

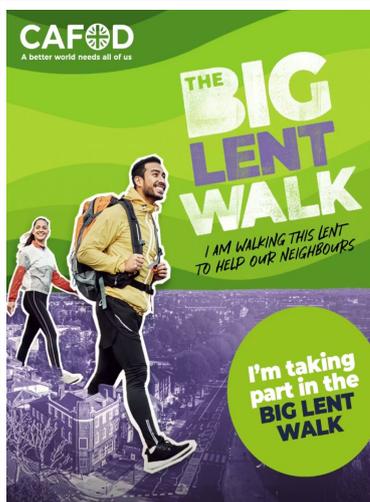
**CAFOD Lent Fast Day** is on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February** when we're asked to be good neighbours by fasting and giving what we save to help others put food on their tables. Your donations can support families growing crops in difficult conditions - such as on flood-resistant floating gardens in South Sudan or by using solar-powered water pumps in Zimbabwe in times of drought.

Please collect a green CAFOD envelope from church and donate to the special collection next weekend or go *online* by scanning the **QR** code or at <https://cafod.org.uk/fundraise/parishes/virtual-envelope>. Or tap your card on the parish dona machine. Or text **CAFODLENT to 70085** to donate £10. THANK YOU.

This Lent, a group of generous CAFOD supporters will be matching *online* donations - doubling the impact of your generosity!



You and your friends will be very welcome at a **Soup Lunch** served in the Keenan Rooms on fast day, **Friday 27<sup>th</sup>** from 12.15pm with donations to CAFOD - *please tick the notice on the board in the Keenan Rooms lobby to help assess numbers attending.*



### CAFOD Big Lent Walk 2026

The Corpus Christi Youth Group are taking part in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk 2026. During the 40 days of Lent, they will be walking, running, or strolling a total of 200km to raise money to support our neighbours around the world who are facing poverty.

Any donations would be greatly appreciated. You can donate via the link below or by using the Dona machines at the back of the church.

[Corpus Christi YG The Big Lent Walk is fundraising for CAFOD](#)



### Corpus Christi 200 Club

Congratulations to the holder of Ticket No 121, Steve Opalka, who has won the February draw of £50.00.

### UCM - Day of Recollection

The Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM) invites you to a Day of Recollection on **Saturday 7th March 2026**. The Day will be led by Msgr Canon Jeremy Garratt. The theme will be Romans 12:12.



UCM

Full details of the Day and sign up sheets are on the Parish notice board at the back of the church and the UCM noticeboard opposite the Keenan Rooms.

# WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

A service for everyone!

## Friday 6 March

*I will give you rest, come*

World Day of Prayer 2026 Ecumenical Service  
March 6th at 10am

The 2026 service is being prepared by the Christian women of Nigeria with the theme "I Will Give You Rest: Come"

Matthew 11:28-30

This year the service will be held at All Saints Church, Wiltshire Road, Wokingham, RG40 1TN on Friday 6th March at 10.00am. Refreshments will be served after the service.

All are welcome!

More information: [www.wdp.org.uk](http://www.wdp.org.uk)

Nigeria 2026



**INFORMED PRAYER PRAYERFUL ACTION**  
24-7 365 Days a year Prayer movement Ecumenical International Women-led  
[www.wdp.org.uk](http://www.wdp.org.uk) Registered Charity Number 233242

### Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026

Bishop Philip has announced the 2026 Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes and invites you to join him. The pilgrimage will start at London Heathrow on **Monday 6th July and run until Friday 10th July.**

If you would like to know more about joining the Bishop in Lourdes this year click [here](#) for a booking form or email [lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church  
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth



### The Financial Support of our Parish

To support the parish financially please consider setting up a monthly standing order. If you are a tax payer and can help further by using 'Gift Aid', please ask the parish office for a form.

#### Bank Details:

A/c Name: CDP Wokingham Corpus Christi,

Sort Code: 30-93-04,

A/c No: 00891666

Or if you prefer not to have a regular standing order, please consider using the digital collection plates or the QR code.

Thank you for your ongoing support.



### Message of Thanks from Our Lady of Nazareth School

Fr Gabriel Kirangah, Director of Our Lady of Nazareth School in Nairobi, has written the letter below to Canon Simon and to you, our parishioners, to express his heartfelt gratitude for your continued support of the Uji Programme.

Thank you for your ongoing generosity and prayers.



#### Our Lady of Nazareth Comprehensive School

C/o The Marianists – East Africa Region  
P.O. BOX 50504 – 00200 | Nairobi, KENYA  
Office Tel +254 20 2411978, +254 725 962340  
Email: [marianists-oln@sm-mef.co.ke](mailto:marianists-oln@sm-mef.co.ke)

15<sup>th</sup> February, 2026

Dear Canon Simon,

Warm greetings from all of us at Our Lady of Nazareth Comprehensive School.

In line with our school feeding program, the Uji (porridge) - we write to express our heartfelt appreciation for your tireless efforts over the years in engineering and sustaining this program. Today, over 3,000 children from ages 3 to 16, across our pre-school, special unit, primary section, and junior school, come to school assured of their first meal of the day: a hot cup of porridge that marks the beginning of a bright day filled with learning and activities.

This simple yet powerful meal has become a beacon of hope for many children living in Mukuru informal settlement, who long to belong to our school because they know they will be nourished and cared for. Some of our very bright children even carry extra containers to take porridge home for their younger siblings who have not yet started school - a touching testimony to the far-reaching impact of this program.

As the school community, together with the Marianists and our administration, we are deeply grateful to you, the Christians, and the friends of Corpus Christi Parish for your relentless and continued support. We gratefully acknowledge receipt of Uji 2026 funds from the Lent 2025 Appeal amounting to **Kenya Shillings 3,425,325.00 (equivalent to £20,000)**. This generous contribution ensures that the provision of Uji remains constant and that no child will lack their favorite meal.

Please accept our warmest thanks and prayers for you, your parishioners, and your families. May God bless you abundantly and grant you good health as you continue to champion the cause of our children.

Fraternally yours,

Fr. Gabriel Kirangah, SM



DIRECTOR - Our Lady of Nazareth Comprehensive School  
Email: [gkirangahsm18@gmail.com](mailto:gkirangahsm18@gmail.com)



**Job Vacancies** - Please follow the link for details of our [current vacancies](#) in the Diocese of Portsmouth and how to apply.

### Mass Intentions

If you would like to have a Mass offered for a particular intention then please contact the parish office. Please detail who the Mass is to be offered for together with your name and contact details. Often Mass Intentions are for the deceased but a Mass can be offered for any good intention e.g., in thanksgiving for some happy event, for someone who is sick. It is traditional, though totally without obligation, to make an offering (a Mass stipend) to the priest who celebrates the Mass. Mass stipends make up part of a priest's annual income.



**Praying the Rosary** - The Rosary is said after morning Mass each **Wednesday**, whenever possible. This will be led by parishioners on a rotational basis.



Children **should not** go unaccompanied to the toilet during Mass and should be with an adult at **all** times. This is for their own safety. Thank you for your cooperation.

Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church  
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