



**Corpus Christi**  
**Wokingham**  
**South Berkshire Pastoral Area**  
**Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth**



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Link for live streamed Masses:

<https://www.facebook.com/Corpus-Christi-Wokingham-100445488273222/>

**1st December 2024: First Sunday of Advent - Year C**



A couple of years ago, Martin Lewis, the 'money saving expert' made a video that went viral. He called on everyone to make a pact not to spend money on gifts that were overpriced or unnecessary. The point was to take the burden from other people who might be embarrassed into buying an expensive gift back, and to release poorer families from buying presents that would put them into debt. The idea was to sidestep the commercialism of Christmas. As Christians this message goes much deeper. Side stepping the commercialism of Christmas obviously isn't about saving money, it's about saving souls.

The trouble with Advent is that Christmas comes at the end. We know that Advent is a time for taking stock, but with Christmas just around the corner, we're far too busy with shopping lists to think about the state of our souls.

It seems obvious that we should spend our lives in preparation for the final judgement day, but it is all too easy to take our eye off the ball. Life heaps demands on us day in and day out. We spend each and every day taking the children to school, going to work, cleaning the house, shopping, cooking, cleaning, fixing the car and paying the bills. At this time of year in particular it is easy to get swamped in the things that the TV adverts convince us we must do before Christmas. We end up feeling trapped and unable to see the bigger picture. All of a sudden, it's too late. We never get to do the things we know we should have done.

The Gospel paints a frightening picture of the end of the world, but it is not meant to terrify us. Rather, the signs of the second coming are there to liberate us. Advent is a time of waiting and of looking forward. We are looking forward not just to Christmas but to the second coming of Jesus. The signs of the second coming are there to liberate us from the material preparations of Christmas and the other things that weigh us down. We are invited to take a step back from our fraught lives and take a long-term view. It would be a pity to get to the other side of Christmas only to realise that a host of fake Santa Clauses had distracted us from contemplating the real direction of our lives.

**Mass Schedule and Intentions**

**Saturday 30th November**

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

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

**5.30pm** *Mary Buttigieg RIP (F)*

**Sunday 1st December - First Sunday of Advent - Year C**

**9am** *Alberto Estares Sr RIP*

**11am** *Pauline Dickens RIP*

**Tuesday 3rd December - St Francis Xavier, Priest, memorial**

**7pm**

**Wednesday 4th December - of the 1st Week of Advent**

**8.30am** *Silent Adoration*

**9.30am** *St Teresa's School Advent Mass*

**Thursday 5th December - of the 1st Week of Advent**

**9.30am** *Jean Blackwell's Intentions*

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

**Friday 6th December - of the 1st Week of Advent**

**9.30am** *Chris Evans RIP*

**10am** *Praying the Rosary*

**Saturday 7th December**

**11am - 12 Noon** *Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)*

**4.45pm - 5.20pm** *Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)*

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

**5.30pm** *Rosaleen and Joseph McLaughlin RIP - 6th Anniversary*

**Sunday 8th December - Second Sunday of Advent - Year C**

**9am** *Brenda and John Gaskell RIP*

**11am** *Minguel and Vitorina Gonsalves RIP*



**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

Fr. Danny McAvoy (Bracknell) - 01344 425729

**Safeguarding Team:** Claire & Jordana

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

**SVP:** 01182 114130

**CTW Rep:** [dougleary91@gmail.com](mailto:dougleary91@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 09.30 to 12.00, Thursday 09.30 to 12.00 and Friday 10.00 to 14.00

Parish Administrator, Hannah Procter, can be contacted on Tel: 0118 978 0348 or email: [wokingham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:wokingham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Corpus Christi Church, 60 Sturges Road, Wokingham, Berkshire RG40 2HE



Please remember all who are sick, especially, Joyce Unwin, Mary Ann Froude, Daniel Sutton, Sarah White, John Butterworth, Kathy Kramers, Neil Harman, Patricia Grayston, Jim Cuthbert, Pam Bedwell, James Phillips, Jean Blackwell and Fr Jim Joyce.

### Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December 2024 For Pilgrims of Hope



The theme for the 2025 Catholic jubilee year is "Pilgrims of Hope." However, we might have to acknowledge that it can be difficult to feel hopeful sometimes. When we consider our divided society, the wars happening around the world, and the everyday challenges that accompany life (finances, health, relationships, etc.), the holiday season can feel more like an impending tsunami.

The definition of a pilgrim is one who journeys to a sacred place, and our challenge is to find our sacred place despite all the 'noise' around us. This month, Pope Francis invites us "..... this Jubilee Year to strengthen our faith, helping us to recognize the Risen Christ in our daily lives, and that it may transform us into pilgrims of Christian hope."



#### Walk With Me Advent Booklets

Make Advent a special time of preparation for Christmas by picking up a Walk with Me Journey of Prayer booklet. There are copies for both adults and children priced at £1.00 each at the back of the Church. Please place the money in the baskets provided or use the Dona machines. Thank you.

## CAFOD Catholic Agency for Overseas Development

The CAFOD online Advent calendar of daily prayer and reflection will offer an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. Join CAFOD as we journey through the season of Advent with our global family. Sign up for daily reflections straight to your inbox at <https://cafod.org.uk/pray/advent-calendar>

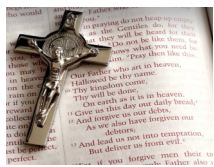
An **advent appeal**, to help the beleaguered people of Ukraine as they face another winter at war, is open for donations - <https://cafod.org.uk/give/appeals/advent-appeal>.

World Gift catalogues are still available from the church porch.

#### The New Lectionary

The new English version of the Lectionary for Mass comes into force in England, Wales and Scotland this weekend. If you wish to follow the Mass readings, please consider buying your own copy of the Sunday Missal. Hard copies are available to buy online from the Catholic Truth Society (CTS) for £19.95 - [Sunday Missal \(Standard Edition\) | Catholic Truth Society](#)

Alternatively, you can download the Universalis app for both Android and Apple products for only £9.99. This covers all dates and once downloaded no internet connection is needed to use it. For more information and the opportunity to have a month's free trial please look at their website [Universalis home page](#).



#### Sacrament of Confirmation Year 8 and above



Any young person who would like to find out about the Sacrament of Confirmation please let us know by contacting the Parish office. We would also warmly welcome catechists to ensure that this can go ahead. Experienced or brand new to this please get in touch and contact the parish office: [workingham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:workingham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



### Corpus Christi Africa Fund (CCAF)

We are pleased to announce that The South Berkshire Singers, along with St Teresa's Catholic Academy Choir, will be giving the annual Christmas Concert in aid of the Corpus Christi Africa Fund at 4.00pm on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2024. Tickets costing £5 will be on sale after each Mass this weekend. We hope that you will support this concert and help us to provide Uji to each child attending Our Lady of Nazareth Primary School in Nairobi in 2025.

#### The Cowshed - Christmas Present Post Box

Please help The Cowshed's Christmas Gifts of Hope Appeal! Your kindness will help bring smiles to children from vulnerable families across Berkshire this Christmas. We will be hosting a donation bin at Corpus Christi from Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> to Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Donations of any **unwrapped new gifts** will be gladly accepted (suitable for children up to 18 years old). Please give if you can.



## Can you help with our 2024 Christmas Appeal?

Every year, The Cowshed helps thousands of children who would not otherwise receive presents and we would love you to help us spread happiness this holiday season with our Christmas Gift Donation Campaign. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of children in need.





### Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) during Advent

To help prepare well for the birth of Our Saviour additional times for Confession will be available during Advent. On Saturdays 7th, 14th and 21st December, Canon Simon will be in the Confessional from 11am until at least 12 Noon and from 4.45pm - 5.20pm.



### MISSIO Supporters/Red Box Holders

Please take a copy of the 2025 Mission Today calendar which you can find at the back of the church. If you would like to make a donation to Missio, you can do so by using the Dona machines or by visiting <http://www.missio.org.uk> Thank you for your support.

**200 Club** - Congratulations to the holder of Ticket No 117, Barbara Robins, who has won the November draw of £50.00.

**200**



### 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 below.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Parish.



### Modern Slavery Talk in the Keenan Rooms on 8th January 2025 at 7.30pm

All Welcome.

Sr Imelda Poole IBVM MBE is coming to talk to us about her work. The organisation she founded works cross border in Albania and the UK supporting victims of human trafficking and raising awareness to address the roots of modern slavery. See more details on the posters in the church porch.



### Defibrillator Training

You may have noticed the new defibrillator that has been installed outside the church. Before we go 'live' we will be offering some familiarisation talks on how to use it and very basic first aid. Ideally we would like a couple of people who regularly attend each of our weekend Masses to volunteer for the training. If you are interested then please contact the parish office.



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.







## *Christmas Mass Times*

- \* Christmas Eve Tuesday 24th December - 4.00pm, 6.00pm and 9.00pm
- \* Christmas Day Wednesday 25th December - 10.00am

The background of the main section is decorated with a border of green pine branches at the top, adorned with gold and red ornaments, stars, and snowflakes. On the right side, there is a large, detailed illustration of a Christmas tree decorated with red and gold ornaments, garlands, and a gold star on top. At the base of the tree are several wrapped gifts in white and red paper. At the bottom center, there are three candy canes. The text is arranged in a clean, festive layout.

# *Christmas*

## *at Corpus Christi*

 *Sunday 15th December 2024*

 *After 9am & 11am Masses*

 *The Keenan Rooms*

*Join us for festive refreshments,  
including mince pies and cakes,  
games for children and a visit  
from St Nick!*



*Corpus Christi Church, 60 Sturges Road,  
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