CORPUS CHRISTI WOKINGHAM

NEWSLETTER

8th November 2026 - Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

Fr Benjamin writes....

I remember earlier in the year being grumpier than I usually am, complaining about the post being late, muttering under my breath about incorrect grammar in publications, and the coffee never tasting right. Everything was wrong. I was tetchy to be sure, and tired from meetings, appointments, lots of driving and doing general odds and ends. It struck me at the end of the day that, although I had been working for the Church all day, offering Holy Mass, doing Tribunal work, attending committees and visiting people I had not truly prayed. I had even forgotten Morning Prayer, the Divine Office which, when ordained Deacon I had promised to recite on behalf of the Church and the world!

It was striking how empty I had become, simply because I had not taken the time be with the Lord, centred on Him and laying my heart open to Him and His Presence. I was empty of Grace, and so had become emptier in love and mercy, and hollow in spirit. Thankfully, this was nothing God could not fix, and after a Holy Hour in front of the Blessed Sacrament, a *Mea culpa!* and moments of silence I was renewed and filled with that Grace my soul had been thirsting for.

No-one knows what the oil in the Virgin's lamps stands for in the parable of today's Holy Gospel. Being a parable, the oil could represent many things, or different things for different people at particular times. What is clear is the oil represents something of God, and that it is not an option if we desire God in our hearts.

Do all you can, therefore, to be wise and prudent with the Grace of God which He makes available but never forces us to accept. Rejuvenate yourselves with regular prayer, fill yourselves with Him by partaking of the sacraments, especially of Confession and Holy Eucharist, and call constantly on the Holy Spirit for small things and great. Yes, it may all take time, but it is better to give this time – as we do to eating and hydrating and washing – as an essential part of our being than to risk losing our eternity, our sense of God.

Parish Office and Contacts

Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Sturges Road, Wokingham, RG40 2HE
South Berkshire Pastoral Area
Telephone: 0118 978 0348 Office e-mail: **wokingham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk**
Website: www.corpuschristi-wokingham.org
Parish Priest: Fr Benjamin Theobald
Parish Administrator: Hannah Procter
Parish Finance Administrator: Sue Nind
Safeguarding Team: Claire and Jordana - **safeguarding.wok@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk**
SVP: 01182 114130
Churches Together Wokingham Representative: Doug Cleary - **dougcleary91@gmail.com**
Link for live streamed Masses: **https://www.facebook.com/Corpus-Christi-Wokingham-100445488273222/**
Parish Office Opening Times
Tuesday 10.00am to 2.00pm, Wednesday and Thursday 9.30am to 12.00, and Friday 10.00am to 2.00pm

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**

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday 7th November
10.30am *Mass of Anointing*
4.30pm - 5.20pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)
Vigil Mass (First Mass of Sunday)
5.30pm *Vincent Cardozo RIP*

Sunday 8th November - Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
9am *Kathleen Corey RIP*
11am *Rosealeen and Edward Joseph McLaughlin RIP*

Monday 9th November - The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica, feast
9.30am
10am *Praying the Rosary*

Tuesday 10th November - St Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor of the Church, memorial
9.30am

Thursday 12th November - St Josaphat, Bishop, Martyr, memorial
7pm *Deceased Members of the Temple and Tomlin Families*
8 - 9pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Friday 13th November - Feria
9.30am *Thomas Eddleston RIP*
10am *Divine Mercy Chaplet*

Saturday 14th November
10.30am *Mass for the Bereaved*
4.30pm - 5.20pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)*
Vigil Mass (First Mass of Sunday)
5.30pm *Mrs Aurora Gonsalves RIP*

Sunday 15th November - Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
9am *Brenda Klassen RIP*
11am *Richard Bennett RIP*

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) is also available for 30 minutes before each weekday Mass

Mass Intentions - If you would like to have a Mass offered for a particular intention, please contact the parish office. Please provide the name of the person or intention for whom the Mass is to be offered, together with your own name and contact details.
Mass intentions are often offered for those who have died, but a Mass can be offered for any good intention, for example, in thanksgiving for a happy event or for someone who is sick or in need of prayer.
It is traditional, though entirely voluntary, to make an offering (known as a Mass stipend) to the priest who celebrates the Mass. Mass stipends form part of a priest's annual income.



Please pray for Mary Ann Froude, Daniel Sutton, John Butterworth, Kathy Kramers, Jim Cuthbert, James Phillips, Norma Pover, David Thomas, Derek Davey, Carolyn Davies, Trudi Whelan and Ann Nemeth.

The Financial Support of our Parish

To support the parish financially we can take digital donations via the Dona collection plates at the back of the porch, by scanning the QR code or via the Parish Bank Account. Thank you for your continued support.

CDP Wokingham Corpus Christi Sort Code: 30-93-04 Account Number: 00891666

Parish Notices

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Brenda Whitehouse who passed away on Monday 2nd November, and for her family at this time of sorrow.
The details of Brenda's Funeral are yet to be confirmed.

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



Church Heating - Important Notice



Unfortunately, one of our church boilers has broken down and needs to be replaced. This is not something that can be fixed overnight, but we are hopeful that the replacement will be completed by Christmas.
In the meantime, we kindly ask everyone to dress warmly and wrap up well when attending Mass, as the church may be colder than usual.
Thank you for your patience and understanding while we work to resolve this issue.

Mass of Anointing

On **Saturday 7th November at 10.30am**, we will celebrate a Mass of Anointing.
The Mass is intended especially for those experiencing physical or mental health difficulties, those in need of spiritual support, and those of advancing years. We will come together in prayer, asking for healing, comfort and strength for ourselves and one another.
Tea and coffee will be available in the Keenan Rooms after Mass, and everyone is welcome to stay.
Parking will be available in the school playground but if you need a lift to attend, please contact the SVP on **01182 114130** and leave a message, or email **suzettesymons@gmail.com**.

Remembrance Sunday
Sunday 8th November at 10:45 am

You are warmly invited to join us for our annual Remembrance Sunday service on **8th November at 10.45am**, ahead of the 11.00am Mass.
For those attending Mass who are unable to join the Remembrance service, please note that we will observe the two-minute silence at 11.00am.



**"At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them."**



LiveSimply - COP31 in Turkiye 9-20 November

The Holy See signed up to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement and does make a unique contribution. Its interventions consistently frame the climate crisis not simply as an environmental or technical problem, but as a matter of justice, human dignity and the collective protection of our common home - while governments inevitably negotiate through the lens of national interest. Read more at **https://cafod.org.uk/news/campaigning-news/holy-diplomacy-the-role-of-the-holy-see-at-cop**
If you would like an update from the talks: register for a webinar going out live on Tuesday 10th November at 6pm - a recording will be available.
https://www.bigmarker.com/cafod/cop31

Mass for the Bereaved

Have you lost a loved one, recently or some time ago? You are warmly invited to a special Mass for the Bereaved on **Saturday 14th November at 10.30am.**

This will be an opportunity to remember and pray for our departed family members and friends. You are welcome to bring a framed photograph of your loved one to be placed on the sanctuary during Mass.

Parking will be available in the school playground and refreshments will be served afterwards in the Keenan Rooms. All are welcome.

9am Mass - Sunday 15th November



Join us for the 9am Mass on Sunday 15th November, when the wonderful Chamber Choir from St Teresa's Catholic Academy, led by Mrs Krystle Hewitson, will be leading us in song.

We look forward to welcoming them and sharing in the joy of their music.



The Cowshed – Tree of Hope Appeal

We are delighted to be taking part once again in The Cowshed's Tree of Hope Project, a wonderful initiative supporting over 2,500 local children living in very vulnerable circumstances, including those in temporary accommodation, domestic abuse refuges or experiencing financial hardship.

The project aims to provide each child with a carefully chosen sack of brand-new Christmas gifts, tailored to their individual interests.

Following the success of last year's joint project with St Teresa's Catholic Academy, we are pleased to be working together again this year. The school's Tree of Hope is displayed in the school reception, and a second tree is available in church for parishioners to take part.

We warmly invite you to choose a tag from the Tree of Hope, purchase the gift described and place it unwrapped under the tree, with the original tag attached. Every gift, however big or small, will make a real difference to a child this Christmas.

Please note that **the final date for donations is Friday 20th November**, allowing time for all the gifts to be delivered to The Cowshed, where their wonderful team of elves will begin wrapping them ready for Christmas!

We appreciate that times are difficult for many, but by working together as a parish and school community, we can help bring a little joy, hope and Christmas magic to children and families who need it most.

Thank you, as always, for your generosity and support.

Fire Evacuation Drill



Please be aware that a fire evacuation drill will take place **at the end of all Masses on the weekend of 21st/22nd November.**

The drills are being carried out to ensure everyone's safety and to familiarise us with the correct evacuation procedures in the event of an emergency. They will be overseen by a retired London Fire Officer, with Fire Marshals on hand wearing high-visibility jackets to guide and assist everyone.

At the end of Mass, once Fr Benjamin and the Altar Servers have left the sanctuary, the fire alarm will sound. Please remain calm and follow the instructions given by the Fire Marshals

A few important points to remember:

- Please leave the church promptly and in an orderly manner using the doors at the back of the church only.
- Please exit towards either Sturges Road or the school playground.
- Please leave hymn books and Mass cards on the pews; these will be collected after the exercise.
- Once outside, you are free to go your own way.

We appreciate your cooperation and understanding. These exercises are an important part of ensuring the safety of everyone. Thank you.



Important Fire Safety Notice - Choir Loft Access

Please ensure that the choir loft door, located in the church porch, is kept clear and unobstructed at all times. Please do not stand in front of the doorway or leave prams, pushchairs or any personal belongings in this area.

This doorway is an essential access and exit route for members of our choir. Any obstruction could create a serious fire safety risk and delay a safe evacuation in an emergency. Thank you for your cooperation.

Christmas Fayre

Immaculate Conception Church Hall Sandhurst, GU47 9BS - Saturday 21st November, 10am - 4pm

Come along and join us for some festive fun at our Christmas Fayre! There will be lots to enjoy, including a tombola, raffle, gifts, cakes and lots more! Refreshments will also be available.

Everyone is very welcome. We look forward to seeing you there!



Carol Concert

South Berkshire Singers and St Teresa's Academy Choir warmly invite you to a special Carol Concert in aid of the Corpus Christi Africa Fund.

📅 **Sunday 6th December 2026** 🕓 **4.00pm**

Join us for an afternoon of beautiful Christmas music, followed by festive Christmas refreshments. Tickets: £10 for adults | Children go free but **must** book tickets.

We look forward to celebrating the joy of Christmas with you! ✨

Corpus Christi Africa Fund (CCAF)

How to book:

Tickets are available now at https://www.ticketsource.com/south-berkshire-singers and will be on sale at the back of church after all masses on 14/15th and 28/29th November (cash or Dona machine). Please buy your tickets early as we always sellout!



Could you walk alongside someone discovering the Catholic faith?

RCIA • SOUTH BERKSHIRE PASTORAL AREA

Many people across our pastoral area of Bracknell, Crowthorne & Sandhurst and Wokingham are exploring the Catholic faith through RCIA.

You don't need to have all the answers.

You don't need a theology degree; you just need an open heart.
Our RCIA process is seeking sponsors to walk alongside those exploring the Catholic faith. Being a sponsor isn't about knowing all the answers—it's about being a friend, a listening ear, and a companion on the journey.
If you love your faith and have a heart for others, we would love to hear from you.
Guidance, preparation and ongoing support will be given.

Will you walk with someone?

Contact Doug at dougcleary91@gmail.com

An initial conversation carries no commitment.

ATTENTION PLEASE!

Children During Mass

For the safety of our children, children must not go to the toilet unaccompanied during Mass. They should remain with a parent, carer, or other responsible adult at all times. We kindly ask all parents ensure that this is followed, even if a child feels able to go alone.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation in helping us keep all our children safe.

Polite Request

We kindly ask that no notices or flyers are placed on the church noticeboard, and that no leaflets or other literature are left on the cupboards in the church porch, without prior approval from the Parish Office.

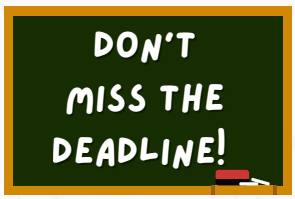
Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

Gift Aid

If you are able to Gift Aid your donations to the parish, we would be very grateful for your support. Gift Aid allows the parish to claim an additional 25p for every £1 donated, at no extra cost to you.

If you are eligible, please scan the QR code to complete the Gift Aid declaration electronically.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support of our parish.



Newsletter Submission Deadline

To ensure we have sufficient time to review and finalise the newsletter on Friday, we kindly ask that all materials be submitted by Thursday evening.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.