



Corpus Christi Wokingham

South Berkshire Pastoral Area
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth



Parish Priest: Canon Simon Thomson JV
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Office e-mail: wokingham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Website:- www.corpuschristi-wokingham.org

Link for live streamed Masses:

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

8th September 2024: Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B



It seems the older we get, the more we learn to keep our mouths shut! Over the years we have learned that speaking from the heart can get us into trouble. Perhaps saying what is on our minds might not earn us the reputation we would like. It might not fit in with our sophisticated image to admit that we are afraid, or neurotic, or in need of help. We tend to avoid issues that we've learned to keep private... money, relationships, and religion are possibly the top three subjects we have learned to keep to ourselves.

Today's gospel reading gives us at first impression a straightforward account of the healing of a deaf man. After a few more readings however, we realise that the point of the miracle is a sign that Jesus was the Messiah. It was a sign that the Jews of that time would have expected of a Messiah. It had long been prophesied that the ears of the deaf would be unsealed, and that the tongues of the dumb would sing for joy. More than this, by choosing a Gentile as the subject of his miracle, Jesus is telling us that there is no discrimination when it comes to God's salvation.

When it comes to matters of faith, many of us have a bit of a speech impediment. Sadly, in this day and age, people who talk openly about their religious beliefs can be viewed as odd, and so we keep our mouths shut. On matters of conscience that are difficult to speak out on, we become selectively deaf. Today's gospel points out the wrong in keeping our beliefs private. Time and time again, Jesus shows us that God's love is available to everyone without prejudice. Time and time again Jesus shows us that love and acceptance can open up whole new possibilities in broken lives. Our faith cannot be limited to one hour on a Sunday morning. We are invited to 'open up' and share the possibilities God offers with everyone we meet.

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday 7th September

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

Vigil Mass (First Mass of Sunday)

5.30pm *Gracy Peter RIP*

Sunday 8th September - Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

9am *Pat Fitzpatrick RIP*

11am *Melville D'Souza RIP*

Thursday 12th September

8 - 9pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Saturday 14th September

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

Vigil Mass (First Mass of Sunday)

5.30pm *Mark Mendoza RIP*

Sunday 15th September - Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9am *Ed Ossawy - For Healing*

11am *Richard Bennett RIP*

N.B. Please note there will be no Masses between Tuesday 10th and Friday 13th September inclusive.



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

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

SVP: 01182 114130

CTW Rep: dougcleary91@gmail.com

Parish Steering Group:

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

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, Joy Phillips, Kathy Kramers, Neil Harman, Patricia Grayston, Jim Cuthbert, Pam Bedwell, James Phillips and Fr Jim Joyce.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of former parishioner Finbarr Cronin, who passed away on Wednesday 4th September, and for his family.



*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.*

Welcome

Please give a warm and friendly welcome to Fr Bernie Luna who will be joining us at Corpus Christi this weekend and will be saying Mass in Canon Simon's absence.

Second Collection - Catholic Education Service

Our Second Collection this Education Sunday is for the Catholic Education Service, which acts on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference to support Catholic education. Catholic schools make up 10% of the national total of maintained schools in England and Wales, educating over 850,000 pupils.

One of the Diocese of Portsmouth's priorities is working with children and young adults. We serve by providing places of education, university chaplaincy, parish youth ministry and opportunities for social action. We have responsibility for the Diocese of Portsmouth's 71 Catholic Schools across several sectors; 44 Voluntary Aided Schools, 12 Academies, and 15 Independent Schools, which together provide education and faith formation for almost 32,000 pupils from age 5 to 18. If you would like to donate please use the digital collection plates or baskets located in the church porch or donate online : [Catholic Education Service Second Collection 2024 | Give as you Live Donate](#)



CALLED & GIFTED

"Are you wondering whether the Called and Gifted process is for you? Then don't miss Gerry Penfold, the diocesan lead for C&G, who will be speaking at all masses about it the weekend of 7th and 8th September. He has been involved in teaching the programme during the last 10 years it has been available in the Portsmouth Diocese".

Canon Simon is inviting you to take part in the Called and Gifted process. There will be a Teaching day on Saturday, 19th October 2024, 8:30am - 4:30pm at Corpus Christi Church, Wokingham.

God has a purpose for your life and has equipped you for your mission. In your baptism and confirmation, you received gifts that our world needs. Do you know yours? Learn more about your gifts and your unique mission in God's plan as you are guided through a 3-step process by a trained team.

Who can benefit from this process?

- **Anyone** asking, "What does God want me to do?"
- **Parents** who want to help their children live their faith and recognise their charisms.
- **People in transition** who might be changing jobs, adjusting to an empty nest, returning to the workplace or retiring.
- **New or returning Catholics** who want to explore what it means to live their faith fully as an adult.
- **People** wondering, "How can I follow Jesus' plan for my life, in this time and place?"

For more details and to sign up, follow this link <https://bit.ly/CCCGP>

Please register by Sunday, 22nd Sept to reserve your space. The cost is £41 per person and includes the 3-step process, a resource book and 6 months of online access. We don't want the cost to be a barrier to taking part, so if you need help with the cost, please contact the parish office. We look forward to welcoming you.



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.

If you are in need of a lift to mass, please contact the parish office so that the parish can assess the need for this service.



Weekday Mass

If you would like to attend weekday Mass in Canon Simon's absence next week please see the schedule below for the churches in the Pastoral Area:

Monday 9th September: 9.30am at the Church of the Holy Ghost, Crowthorne

Tuesday 10th September: 10am at St Jospeh's, Bracknell

Wednesday 11th September: 9.30am at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst & 10am at St Jospeh's, Bracknell

Thursday 12th September: 9.30am at the Church of the Holy Ghost, Crowthorne and 10am at St Jospeh's, Bracknell

Friday 13th September: 9.30am at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst and 12 noon at St Jospeh's, Bracknell



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 9th– 22nd September is celebrating the 30th anniversary of Fairtrade products going on sale in UK for the first time. The Fairtrade Foundation awards the Fairtrade mark to goods which guarantee a fair price plus a premium paid to their producers - growers of coffee and cacao beans, sugar cane and bananas, cotton workers and gold miners. This premium allows producers to make a real difference to their communities in providing support for education, training, clean water, resilience to climate change – whatever is needed. We are invited to BE the CHANGE by choosing Fairtrade and encouraging others to do likewise and campaigning for fairer trade regulations <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/media-centre/blog/30-ways-to-celebrate-30-years-of-fairtrade/> Our parish continues to show its support in using Fairtrade products such as *Kingdom* coffees and biscuits and *Clipper* teas for refreshments. Test yourself by trying our short **Fairtrade Quiz** (please see attached).



International Picnic 2024

Our international picnic takes place on Sunday 15th September at 12.15pm in the presbytery garden and school grounds! If you would like to bring a shared dish, don't forget you can sign up for that by using the QR code at the back of the church or contact the parish office. Please bring your own picnic, chairs, picnic blankets and your own plates cups and cutlery as there are limited supplies in the Keenan Rooms. Tea, coffee and squash will be available from the hatch. The ice cream van will make a visit again at around 2pm! We look forward to an afternoon celebrating the diversity of our parish and some delicious food!



Mass of the Anointing of the Sick

Mass for those who are sick with anointing at Corpus Christi on Saturday 28th September at 10.30am. Tea and coffee will be available in the Keenan Rooms after the Mass. If you need a lift to church please call SVP 0118 2114130 or email: suzettesymons@gmail.com



Parish Volunteer Fair

There will be a Parish Volunteer Fair on the weekend of 28th and 29th September after each Mass. Information will be available about the various groups in the Parish. The purpose of the fair is to advertise the groups and hopefully to recruit more members to support them. Any group wishing to participate, please contact Hannah in the Parish Office. Thank you.

Parish Steering Group

Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes to shape the future of our parish? At the beginning of 2023, a group of parishioners was asked to pray and discern with Canon Simon about God's plan for Corpus Christi. From this, we developed a vision: "**Build the kingdom of God, guided by the Holy Spirit in a loving and welcoming community.**"

The Parish Steering Group (PSG), previously the parish pastoral council, is working to bring this vision to life. We've been involved in initiatives like the Welcoming Ministry, the Parish Picnic, overseeing Confirmation and developing a new Baptism preparation program. We are looking at ways to fill gaps in our pastoral care, such as taking the Eucharist to the sick and setting up a service to offer lifts to mass for the elderly and infirm.

In order to support the Bishop's 10-year plan, "You Will Be My Witnesses", we helped to kick-start a closer working relationship between the parishes by organising the first pastoral area meeting in April 2024 at Corpus Christi church. Following this, a separate group with representatives from each parish, was set up to lead this initiative.

The PSG is made up of Canon Simon, Deacon Ben, Deputy Head of St Teresa's Paris Finnegan and parishioners Sue Nind, Nicola Cleary, Stefan Dahmann, Denise Oduntan, Jordana Onegi, Graham Powell, and Ursula Skrakowski (Chair). Our group is evolving to reflect the diverse talents and perspectives of our parish community.

We hope you like what is happening in the parish and we pray that you will all want to get involved in some way so that we can build a stronger parish community together.

All offers of help and suggestions are welcome. Please approach any PSG member individually or contact us via email, ccsteering.wok@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



Could you provide accommodation in Wokingham Town for a Soulscape Intern?

An 18 year old Christian young woman is coming from Weymouth to Wokingham to work as an intern for local Christian schools charity Soulscape, but is in urgent need of some accommodation!
She is hoping to get a part time job and is happy to contribute to living costs. She is also able to cook and has no dietary requirements. She does not drive so will be using public transport or walking, so somewhere close to town would be desirable.
She is planning to serve with Soulscape from September through to July. Might you be able to give her a room, for all or part of that period?
For more details please contact Nick Hudson at the Baptist Church on 0118 9787174.

Off To Uni'? Check out the Chaplaincy

Chaplaincies obviously vary from university to university but more often or not the chaplaincy is a daily social drop-in and hub, used by a wide variety of students and staff, and commonly regarded as a "home from home". You can get yourselves hot drinks read the papers, meet others, or sit with your books and laptop. All are made welcome.

Astra Recycling

Please help St Teresa's School if you can and use the textile recycling bin that has been installed in the playground. As well as keeping unwanted textile out of land fill, the school will receive a payment for each kilo collected.
Access to the bin will be at the weekend when the carpark is open for Mass.
Below is a list of acceptable items. Please ensure that everything is securely bagged before putting it in to the bin.

Astra Recycling Recycle can take: Clothes, shoes, bedlinen, accessories (such as belts, hats, gloves, scarves and handbags) as well as soft toys.
They can't take: Duvets or cushions, off cuts, used underwear or socks, carpets or curtains.



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Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

Leave your mark – Do something amazing today by supporting your family, friends & faith with a Gift in your Will

The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth has partnered with market-leading solicitors and will-writing providers to offer anyone over 18 to easily write or update a basic simple or mirror Will for free. Whether you would like to write your Will in person, online or over the 'phone you will be expertly supported through the process. You are under no obligation to leave the Diocese a gift in your Will, but a gift of this kind is an opportunity to make a lasting gift to God and His Church.

Making or updating a Will is an expression of profound confidence that Jesus Christ is the resurrection and the life; it is a mature and thoughtful way of acknowledging our own mortality. Making provision for the Church in our Will is a continuation and crown of the service we ourselves may have offered over many years, in terms of our time, our talents and our treasure. It is following in the footsteps of all those whose generosity in generations past has bequeathed us the Church we know and love today. It reminds us that through baptism we belong to the great communion of saints, united with the Lord as a member of His Church both on earth and in heaven. Once you have considered your loved ones, you may choose to leave a legacy to a specific cause, Pastoral Area or parish in the Diocese; or, as good stewards, we will apply any gift given for the Diocese's general charitable purposes where there is the greatest need. Do please get in touch if you would like further information by emailing fundraising@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk