



Corpus Christi

Corpus Christi Wokingham

South Berkshire Pastoral Area
Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth



Corpus Christi

MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS

N.B. All Masses will be livestreamed unless otherwise stated

Thursday 7th October - Our Lady of the Rosary, Memorial
10am

Friday 8th October - Feria
10am

Saturday 9th October - Vigil Mass
5pm - 5.20pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
5.30pm Dennis and Margaret Dent 65th Wedding Anniversary - in Thanksgiving

Sunday 10th October
Twenty-Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time
10am Joao Rui Fernandes Freitas RIP and Joao Fernandes RIP

(F) Foundation Mass
(P) Perpetual Mass

The church will be open for public attendance for each weekday Mass, unless otherwise stated. The church doors will be opened 15 min before Mass starts.

Saturday 2nd October - Vigil Mass
5pm - 5.20pm Sacrament of Reconciliation
5.30pm Purificacion Mendoza RIP

Sunday 3rd October
Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time
10am Nick and Sue Nind 25th Wedding Anniversary - in Thanksgiving

Tuesday 5th October - Feria
7pm Munir Shaby (F)

Wednesday 6th October - Feria
10am Steven Nemeth RIP

Mass Intentions - If you would like a Mass to be offered for a particular intention then please contact the parish office.

Important Contacts

Other Priests of the Pastoral Area:

Fr Marcus Brisley

(Crowthorne & Sandhurst) - 01252 876820

Fr. Danny Mc Avoy

(Bracknell) - 01344 425729

Fr Kevin Bidgood

(Ascot) - 01344 620591

Safeguarding Team: Claire & Jordana

Tel: 0773 185 1296; email

safeguarding.wok@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

SVP: David Thomas 07786 492948 ;

davidrthomas@sky.com

Parish Office Opening Times :- Wednesday 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

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No. 246871

Parish Priest: Canon Simon Thomson
Assistant Priest: Father Anthony Ikhenoba
Telephone: 0118 978 0348
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/>

3rd October 2021: Twenty-Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year B



Today the Pharisees ask Jesus, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?" Jesus' answer is a resounding 'no!' "What God has joined together, let no one separate." At a time when divorce was rife, this must have been a difficult thing for Jesus' audience to digest.

What should we take from this gospel? What should church goers who have been through painful divorces make of these words? What should church goers who have suffered unhappy first marriages and then re-married make of Jesus' teaching?

One thing is for sure. Any interpretation of this gospel should err on the side of compassion rather than condemnation. Another thing is for sure, without twisting Jesus' words to suit our own modern lifestyle, we have to look at why Jesus spoke these words in the first place and the spirit in which they were spoken. At the time Jesus spoke these words marriage was very one sided. It was the man's prerogative to choose divorce and he could choose this option for little or no good reason. At a time where women were financially dependant on their husbands, divorce could leave them pretty much destitute. Marriage was something easily entered into and easily broken. When Jesus spoke to the Pharisees in today's gospel he was doing something ground breaking. He was elevating the importance of marriage and raising the status of women.

So were Jesus' words relevant then but not now? Well no! Marriage is still something that many don't take seriously. Many go into marriage without really considering their vows. There are far too many who are ready to give up on marriage at the first hint of hard times or at the onset of boredom. It is to these people that Jesus is speaking in today's gospel.

On the other hand, if Jesus was here today could he really condemn people to stay put in marriages where physical or mental abuse threatens the wellbeing of a spouse or a child? Would Jesus insist on people soldiering on in loveless or deeply unhappy marriages? Some people choose divorce as an easy option, but for the majority divorce is rarely embarked upon happily. It is nearly always painful for all involved. Could Jesus really condemn these people?

"What God has joined together, let no one separate." It has the ring of law, yet as with all laws, it is the spirit of the law that is all important. We find the clue to Jesus' words in his declaration that Moses permitted divorce "...because of the hardness in man's heart." The answer to the debate is held in our own heart. If we make decisions based on our own self gratification or self interest we become hard hearted and are in real danger of making poor decisions. If we make decisions grounded in love and compassion, God will surely be there to help us through.



Please remember all who are sick, especially, Joyce Unwin, Hugh Dwan, Mary Ann Froude, Daniel Sutton, Joseph Nemeth, Sarah White, John Butterworth, Pat Hall and Sr Veronica.

Covid-19 Reminders

We ask you to remain vigilant and help prevent spreading the virus.

- ◆ Please do not enter the church if you have COVID symptoms
- ◆ Please sanitise your hands when entering
- ◆ Wearing a face covering, in our enclosed space is advised
- ◆ Please be considerate of co-worshippers and respect personal space
- ◆ Maintain 1 metre distance where possible

**Please note that you no longer need to book seats online for weekend masses
Thank you for your cooperation**

Pope Benedict's Prayer Intention for October 2021 - Evangelisation

We are reminded this month that proclaiming the Gospel is the main task of the Church. **On World Mission Sunday (24th October 2021)** we are asked to renew our commitment to evangelisation.

Evangelisation has become an increasingly complex activity in our modern world and unsurprisingly many of us feel deterred. For those of us feeling not up to the task, St. Peter speaks directly to us in his first letter. "Now who is going to harm you if you are enthusiastic for what is good? But even if you should suffer because of righteousness, blessed are you. Do not be afraid or terrified with fear of them, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts. Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence, keeping your conscience clear". This month we are asked to join in Pope Benedict's prayer "... **We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavour of the Gospel.**"



October - Month of the Rosary



The month of October each year is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary. This is primarily due to the fact that the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated annually on October 7th. It was instituted to honour the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the Rosary by the faithful.

St Francis, Ascot, Fatima Devotions Knights of St Columba, Home Rosary Praying Group: Monday 4th October to Friday 8th October at 1.30pm. 30 minutes of praying the rosary as requested by Our Lady. Zoom ID: 78610994185 Password for each day: rosary



Thursday 7th is the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The Knights will be leading A day of Rosary at St Francis Ascot church and there will be no Zoom session on that day.

CAFOD Family Fast Day



Fast, pray and give weekend. Thank you.

To help those communities affected by the worst impacts of the climate crisis, please donate online here: <https://cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis> or by using an envelope available in church which can be posted directly to CAFOD (freepost) or placed in the baskets this

The Corpus Christi Parish pantomime returns! Oh yes it does!

Having sadly had to skip a year due to COVID, we are delighted to be back preparing for the 2022 edition. We are of course making a few changes so that we can have a safe environment for everyone. Rehearsals will start in mid-October 2021, with shows in mid-March 2022. If you are interested in taking part in any capacity, please let us know by completing this simple form: [Click here](#) Failing that, please contact parishpantocc@gmail.com.



Global Hunger Appeal - Christian Aid is urgently calling for our support to help the 41 million people around the world who are facing extreme hunger. £25.00 could buy food for a family for a month. Consider donating online at www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/emergencies/global-hunger-emergency-appeal

Corpus Christi 200 Club - Congratulations to the holder of Ticket No 190, who has won the September draw of £50.00.

The Financial Support of our Parish - To continue supporting the parish financially please consider setting up a monthly standing order via internet banking. If you are a tax payer and can help further by using 'Gift Aid', please ask the parish office for a form. *Our account details: Sort Code 30-93-04 A/c no. 00891666; A/c name: PRCDT Wokingham Corpus Christi* - Or if you prefer not to have a regular standing order, you may like to use this link. Thank you. <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/corpus-christi-wokingham-catholic-parish>

Our newsletters are also available on our new **website** where you may check mass times and all parish information: <http://www.corpuschristi-wokingham.org>