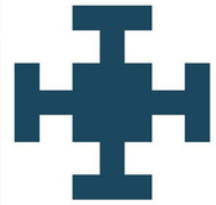


CORPUS CHRISTI WOKINGHAM

NEWSLETTER



*18th October 2026 - Twenty-Ninth Sunday in
Ordinary Time Year A*

Gospel Reflection - Matthew 22:15-21

We live our lives torn in many directions. From the moment we wake up there are a hundred and one claims on our time. We have to look after our homes and our families. We have to go to work and deal with a whole range of tasks from the very important to the totally banal. We have to fill in forms, pay bills, make calls, answer emails, maintain the car, and pick up the shopping. If we're very lucky we might just squeeze in a bit of leisure time.

The Pharisees and the Herodians in today's gospel decided to set a trap for Jesus. "Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor," they asked, "or not?" they were confident that they had put Jesus in a 'no win' situation. If Jesus said "taxes should be paid to Caesar, then this was something akin to treason. If however Jesus said that the taxes should be paid, he would be denounced by the strict Jews. Jesus replied, "Give to the emperor, the things that are the emperor's and to God the things that are God's."

It is tempting to imagine that Jesus might have been talking about compartments. We imagine a compartment for things belonging to Caesar, and a compartment for things belonging to God. Of course, there could be no such compartments, because as we know everything comes from God, so everything must belong to God. So had Jesus really answered the question, or merely sidestepped it? Perhaps today we struggle with Jesus' answer as much as the Pharisees and Herodians must have done. Perhaps we see life as a conflict between God's claim on us and all life's other claims in just the way God's enemies were suggesting. Perhaps we try to put God into a Sunday morning compartment and even that will conflict with the children's football and the D.I.Y. What Jesus tells us today is liberating. Once we learn to allow God into every corner of our lives our lives become whole instead of torn and fragmented. Once we know that our only loyalty is to God there can be no conflict.

Parish Office and Contacts

Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Sturges Road, Wokingham, RG40 2ES
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

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

Readings at Mass - 29th Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

First Reading	Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
‘I have grasped the right hand of Cyrus to subdue nations before him.’ Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: ‘For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other.’	
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 96(95):1, 3. 4-5. 7-8. 9-10a, c. R7b
<i>Ascribe to the Lord glory and power.</i>	
Second Reading	1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b
‘Remembering your faith, love and hope.’ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: grace to you and peace. We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labour of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.	
Gospel	Matthew 22:15-21
‘Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’ At that time: The Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle Jesus in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, ‘Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?’ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, ‘Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.’ And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, ‘Whose likeness and inscription is this?’ They said, ‘Caesar’s.’ Then he said to them, ‘Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.’	

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Welcome Back Fr Jeremy!

Please join us in giving a warm and friendly welcome to Fr Jeremy Garratt, who will be joining us at Corpus Christi this weekend. Fr Jeremy will be celebrating the Masses in Fr Benjamin's absence, and we are delighted to have him back with us again.

Saturday 17th October

4.30pm - 5.20pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Vigil Mass (First Mass of Sunday)

5.30pm Rodrigues Family RIP

Sunday 18th October - Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9am John and Julia Harrington RIP

11am People of the Parish

N.B. Please note there will be no Masses between Monday 19th and Thursday 22nd October inclusive.

Thursday 22nd October

8 - 9pm Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Friday 23rd October - Diocesan Day of Prayer & Reparation for Life

9.30am Liam Lewis RIP

10am Divine Mercy Chaplet

Saturday 24th October

4.30pm - 5.20pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Vigil Mass (First Mass of Sunday)

5.30pm Manuel Vella RIP

Sunday 25th October - Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9am Deceased Members of the Keely Family RIP (F)

11am Alberto Estares Jr RIP

(F) Foundation (P) Perpetual

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 Jim Mason who passed away on Saturday 10th October, and for his family at this time of sorrow. Jim's Funeral Mass will be held at Corpus Christi on Friday 30th October at 11am followed by Committal at Easthampstead Park Crematorium at 12.30pm.

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.

Missio - World Mission Sunday Second Collection - Sunday 18th October

Today, parishes worldwide celebrate World Mission Sunday. By supporting Missio – the Pope's charity for world mission – we stand united as God's global family, in prayer, solidarity and action. The Holy Father has chosen the theme 'One in Christ, united in mission' to celebrate 100 years of World Mission Sunday and encourages us to unite with missionaries as they strive to reach out with God's love to communities in need. Please pray for the work of mission and give what you can to this vital collection.

To donate:

- Use a Missio envelope available in the church porch.
- Visit missio.org.uk to give a gift or set up a Direct Debit.
- Scan the QR code displayed here, or on the posters and envelopes.
- Tap your card on the parish Dona machine.
- Call **020 7821 9755** (office hours)

Please Gift Aid your donation if possible. Thank you in advance for your generosity.





People's Emergency Briefing

On the climate and nature crisis

Wokingham



Film screening and discussion
All Saints Church Wokingham
Sunday 18th October 11:15am
Coffee from 10:45
All Welcome

www.nebriefing.org
www.allsaintswokingham.org.uk/events/peoples-emergency-briefing



You are invited to attend a screening of The People's Emergency Briefing

An eye-opening film featuring nine leading UK scientists and experts updating us on the latest in the climate and nature crisis and its impacts on everyday national life.

Including:

- extreme weather
- food security
- health
- cost of living

Based on the National Emergency Briefing in Westminster, as covered by ITV, C4, and the Times. Followed by a short open discussion about what we can do and what it means locally.

Featuring Chris Packham, Deborah Meaden, surprise guests, and a wide range of Brits.

Please note: The film is only being shown at in-person screenings, not online. Bring a friend or neighbour. Please book your free seat asap.

"You" equals churchgoers, non-churchgoers, environmentalists, people in public life, ordinary members of the public, ... Recommended minimum age 16 years.



Recollection for Women

A great opportunity to pray, meditate and recharge.
Join us on 20th October 2026 from 7:00pm - 9:00pm.

Recollection Schedule:

- 7:00 Meditation
- 8:10 Rosary
- 8:30 Meditation
- 9:00 End

The priest will be available for confession and spiritual guidance from 6:30pm and between meditations

Venue: St Tarcicius, Camberley and Bagshot Parish,
227 London Road, Camberley, Surrey, GU15 3EY

SAVE THE DATE:
20th OCT
7:00pm - 9:00pm

Ministry of the Word - Call for Parish Readers

We are looking for parishioners to join our Ministry of the Word, proclaiming the readings at our 5.30pm Saturday and 11.00am Sunday Masses.

We are seeking Readers with strong, clear voices, a strong faith, and a commitment to serving our parish community.

Guidance and support will be provided. If you feel this ministry may be for you, please contact the Parish Office for more information.



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.

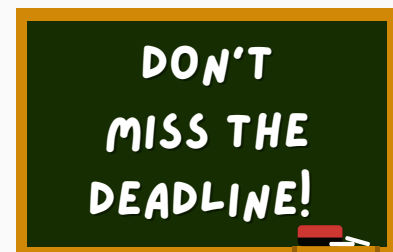
Guidance, preparation and ongoing support will be given.

Will you walk with someone?



Contact Doug at
dougcleary91@gmail.com

An initial conversation carries no commitment.



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.

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.

Portsmouth Diocese Parish Evangelisation Formation Day
Saturday 31st October | 9:30am – 1:30pm | Christ the King Parish, Reading

How can we grow in faith and share the joy of the Gospel?

Join us for a morning of prayer, inspiration, teaching and fellowship as we discover how Parish Evangelisation Cells (PECS) can enrich parish life. PECS are small, welcoming groups of parishioners who meet regularly to pray, reflect on Scripture, build friendships and encourage one another to live and share their faith. They offer a simple way to help people grow closer to Jesus, support one another and reach out to others with friendship and faith. Come and discover how these groups can deepen prayer, friendship and faith, strengthen parish community and mission; and build our confidence in our faith. Everyone is welcome, whether you are curious, active in parish life, or wondering whether PECS could benefit your parish. To register go to <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/JGgE7zeuun> or email Meghan at ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



Mass of Anointing

On **Saturday 25th April 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.

If you need a lift to attend, please contact the SVP on **01182 114130** and leave a message, or email suzettesymons@gmail.com.

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.

Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Keenan Rooms. All are welcome.

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.

