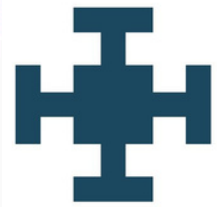


CORPUS CHRISTI WOKINGHAM NEWSLETTER



*27th September 2026 - Twenty-Sixth Sunday in
Ordinary Time Year A*

Fr Benjamin writes....

As a Priest I made three solemn promises: to be faithful to the Prayer of the Church, to celibacy and giving myself body and soul to the Lord, and finally, of obedience and respect to my Bishop and to his successors. It may surprise you to know that of the three commitments, for me, obedience is the most challenging. That is not to say I am a disobedient kind of person. If a sign tells me "Do not walk on the grass" I stay firmly on the path. When the Bishop asked me to move from Holy Family in Southampton to Corpus Christi, Wokingham, I technically could have said, "No. Shan't". Yet, what would that have made of the promise I made to him all those years ago? Priestly obedience – indeed, any obedience – is about putting trust in God and the Will of God.

That is what today's parable is about. Which of the two sons did the will of their father? It was the one who actively responded to the Father's request even though he didn't really want to. His horizon stretched beyond himself. Throughout the gospels, Our Blessed Lord is very clear that it is not enough to just say we will do a thing, but that our commitment is shown by carrying it out. It is not always easy, but we have Christ's own example.

He knew He had been called to give His life as the perfect Offering to the Father. We know He did not look forward to it. We see Him on Holy Thursday in the Garden of Gethsemane begging the Father to take the Cup of Suffering from Him. "Yet, not my Will, but Your Will be done" (Lk 22:42). The Son's unreserved obedience to the Father showed His holiness. He shows us what true holiness is, which is to strive to do the will of the Father. No matter the cost, and whatever the challenge, the Will of God ultimately leads to life and to salvation. In the end, true freedom is choosing God and the love of God. It is freeing oneself of self in order to be free for others and for God. When we refuse to do that we are less free, less available to the fulfilment of God's plan. When we free ourselves of the self, however, we become selfless, free and open to the Will of God.

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

First Reading	Ezekiel 18:25-28
‘When a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed, he shall save his life.’ Thus says the Lord: ‘You say, “The way of the Lord is not just.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die.’	
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 25(24):4-5b. 6-7. 8-9. R6a
<i>Remember your compassion, O Lord.</i>	
Second Reading	Philippians 2:1-11
‘Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus.’ Brothers and Sisters: If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy; complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.	
Gospel	Matthew 21:28-32
‘He changed his mind and went. The tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you.’ At that time: Jesus said to the chief priests and the elders of the people, ‘What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, “Son, go and work in the vineyard today.” And he answered, “I will not”, but afterwards he changed his mind and went. And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, “I go, sir”, but did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?’ They said, ‘The first.’ Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. And even when you saw it, you did not afterwards change your minds and believe him.’	

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday 26th September

4.30pm - 5.20pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Vigil Mass (First Mass of Sunday)

5.30pm *People of the Parish*

Sunday 27th September - Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9am *For CAFOD*

11am *Josie and Thomas' 10th Birthday - In Thanksgiving*

Monday 28th September - Feria

9.30am

Tuesday 29th September - The Holy Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael, feast

9.30am

Thursday 1st October - St Teresa of the Child Jesus, Religious, Doctor of the Church, memorial

7pm

8 - 9pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Friday 2nd October - The Holy Guardian Angels, memorial

9.30am *Kathleen Holesz RIP*

10am *Divine Mercy Chaplet*

Saturday 3rd October

4.30pm - 5.20pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Vigil Mass (First Mass of Sunday)

5.30pm *People of the Parish*

Sunday 4th October - Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

9am *Mary and James Crossan RIP*

11am

(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 then please contact the parish office. Please detail who the Mass is to be offered for together with your name and contact details. Mass can be offered for any good intention. It is traditional, though totally without obligation, to make an offering (a Mass stipend) to the priest who celebrates the Mass. Mass stipends make up part of a priest's annual income.



Please pray for Mary Ann Froude, Daniel Sutton, John Butterworth, Kathy Kramers, Neil Harman, 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





This Fairtrade Fortnight, the focus is on fair pay for all, particularly for the farmers and workers around the world who produce the food we love and rely on every day. We can show our support through the choices we make when shopping, choosing Fairtrade products where we can, and by calling for change in unfair systems. Come along to the next Parish Coffee Morning in the Keenan Rooms on **Tuesday 29th September at 10am**, following Mass, to enjoy chat and fairtrade refreshments. Enjoy good company, conversation and some Fairtrade refreshments.

Please add your name to the **DO IT FAIR** petition, which is calling on the UK Government to hold businesses accountable for the human rights abuses and climate damage associated with the products they sell.

Come along, enjoy a cuppa, and help us **DO IT FAIR!**

Parish Coffee Morning - Tuesday 29th September

Why not join us for our Parish Coffee Morning on **Tuesday 29th September** in the Keenan Rooms, after the 9.30am Mass until 12 noon?

The Coffee Morning will be hosted by Cathy Hill as part of Fairtrade Fortnight and is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, catch up with old friends and make new ones.

Please note that our monthly Parish Coffee Mornings have now moved to a new day, the **last Tuesday of each month**.

Everyone is welcome, so please feel free to bring a friend. We look forward to seeing you there!



Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM)

The Union of Catholic Mothers warmly invites you to our next meeting on Tuesday 29th September, following the Parish Coffee Morning in the Keenan Rooms.

We are delighted to welcome Cathy Hill, who will give a presentation on Creation.

Please bring a packed lunch. The meeting will finish by 3.15pm, allowing plenty of time for those who need to collect children from school.

New members are especially welcome! If you are a mother from our school or parish and have never joined us before, we would love to welcome you. Come along, meet some friendly faces and find out more about the Union of Catholic Mothers, there is no need to know anyone beforehand.

We look forward to welcoming you!

Sacrament of Confirmation 2027 – Final Appeal

We are making a final appeal to young people who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2027.

Any young person in School Years 10 - 13 who wishes to be considered is invited to register their interest. We would be delighted to hear from anyone who is thinking about taking this important step in their faith journey. If you would like to take part, please email the Parish Office at wokingham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk by **Wednesday 30th September 2026**.

If you have been considering Confirmation but have not yet registered, now is the time to get in touch! We look forward to hearing from you.



CAFOD Harvest Fast Day - Friday 2nd October

Please donate to our Family Fast Day parish collection on **3rd/4th October**. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours who are experiencing shortages of food and safe water. Your gift can support children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school, by helping communities and schools improve their access to water, grow food in school gardens and provide nourishing meals.

How to donate

- Use a CAFOD envelope available in the church porch.
- Donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope.
- Scan the QR code displayed here, on the posters and envelopes.
- Tap your card on the parish dona machine.
- Call 0303 303 3030.

Please Gift Aid your donation if you can.

Thank you for your generous support.



Spirit and Grace Prayer Group

The Spirit and Grace Prayer Group are delighted to be starting a new spiritual book together: Peace Will Have the Last Word by Sr. Emmanuel Maillard.

Each month, we will read a couple of chapters and meet on Zoom on the first Wednesday of the month, from 7.30 - 8.30pm, to share our thoughts and reflections.

This is a great way to delve deeper into your faith, build community connections, expose you to different viewpoints and expand your personal growth.

The book is available from Amazon for £9.99 new. The book can be ordered for you if you prefer.

If you would like to join the group, or would like more information, please contact the Parish Office. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Diocesan Catechist Day – Portsmouth Diocese

Saturday 10th October | 9:30am–1:30pm | St Bede's, Basingstoke

Whether you are a parish catechist, sacramental preparation leader, RCIA team member, children's liturgy volunteer, youth catechist, or involved in any ministry of faith formation, you are warmly invited to the Portsmouth Diocese Catechists' Formation Day. We will be joined by Fr Emmanuel Mansford of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and Dr Káren North from St Mary's University Twickenham as we come together from across the Diocese for a morning of prayer, inspiration, and practical formation as we reflect on our shared mission to form missionary disciples. The day will start with Mass before we move into our sessions, there will also be a time for prayer and reflection as well as hearing from each other before we finish the day with a shared lunch (provided as part of the day).

To register your interest please go to <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/RFGR0zEzDh> or email Meghan on ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Formation Day for Readers: 17th October 2026

It is not too late to sign up for the Formation Day for Readers being organised by the Diocesan Liturgy Team on 17th October 2026 at the Pastoral Centre in Winchester. All the details can be found on the attached PDF. Anyone wishing to attend is kindly asked to email: liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org

Concert for Berkshire Cancer Centre
Saturday 17th October - 5pm

Berkshire Cancer Centre in the Royal Berkshire Hospital provides cancer care and support for people across Berkshire and South Oxfordshire. The centre offers a wide range of cancer treatments, rehabilitation services, practical advice and support for patients and their families throughout their cancer journey.

By attending this concert, you are helping to improve the experience of local people undergoing cancer treatment while enjoying an evening of inspiring choral music performed by Reading Phoenix Choir. Refreshments will be available during the interval, and there will be an opportunity to make additional donations in support of Berkshire Cancer Centre.

Please come to the concert and help us make a difference to the lives of local cancer patients and their families. Please go to www.readingphoenixchoir.com/berkshirecancer for tickets and more information.

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



Please remember that 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 co-operation.

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 us to claim additional funds on your donations at no extra cost to you.

In recent months, some parishioners will have received an email asking them to complete a new Gift Aid declaration. This is because, following the change of Trust name, previous declarations are no longer valid.

Thank you to everyone who has already completed a new declaration. If you have not yet completed a new form, or if you would like to start Gift Aiding your donations, please scan the QR code below to complete the declaration electronically. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.



YOUTH GROUP 2026/27

We are 20-30 young parishioners (11-17 years old) attending the Youth Group every 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month during term.

This is a safe space where we meet new and old friends, have some fun and speak openly about faith and life aspects that interest us the most.

If you would like to join please contact us through the Parish email: wokingham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

OPEN SESSION

Saturday 3 October | After 5:30pm Mass
Keenan Rooms

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED BUT NOT QUITE SURE, JUST POP UP AND JOIN US FOR SOME PIZZA AND GAMES