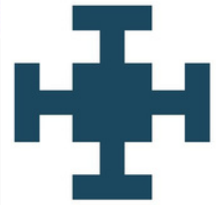


CORPUS CHRISTI WOKINGHAM NEWSLETTER



*20th September 2026 - Twenty-Fifth Sunday in
Ordinary Time Year A*

Fr Benjamin writes....

In today's Gospel passage we see the Master of the Vineyard, constantly going into the Market Square and calling people to work in his vineyard. The fact he does so throughout the day indicates that the work is urgent. Granted, there is the controversial part where he pays everyone the same amount no matter how long or short the hours they have worked, but one of the main points of the parable is that the work is itself part of the reward. All the vineyard workers should be thankful that more people are being called so that the important work can be done. Again, this all a part of the reward.

Our Blessed Lord's choice of using the Vineyard as a symbol of God's Kingdom; that is, His ruling Presence, goes back to Old Testament traditions. The people of Israel described themselves as being God's vine. We know that grapes produce wine, and wine was an Old Testament symbol of God's Presence. In other words, our work makes God present amongst us and so brings about God's Kingdom – His sovereign rule.

When I was sent here to Corpus Christi, Wokingham, a priest reminded me that I was being sent to till the soil of another part of God's vineyard. This image has remained with me, as there is so much potential for God to be made Present in this part of the world. We have the sacraments and the Word, we have the congregation and the children of God, but there is also more work to be done, and so more workers needed to produce the wine of God's Presence. That is why, so quickly after my arrival here I am, like the master of the vineyard in today's parable, venturing out to announce that there is important work to be done, and I need willing souls to help me to complete it. I need catechists, specifically for the First Holy Communion programme. On my first day here I was told of the need to find people to help with this.

The work is important and it is no light thing to ask people to do this, but the need is urgent. Without catechists I will not be able to form so many of our young people alone, and First Holy Communions will not be able to take place this year. If you feel God's call to help with this crucial area of parish life, please let me know. I know good people who can train you, and I will be with you every step of the way. It is a beautiful ministry, and one which helps bring God to so many. I shall keep calling out into the marketplace, so please, answer my call. God bless you all.

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

CTW Rep: Doug Cleary - dougleary91@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	Isaiah 55:6-9
‘My thoughts are not your thoughts.’ Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.	
Responsorial Psalm	Ps 145(144):2-3. 8-9. 17-18. R18a
<i>The Lord is close to all who call him.</i>	
Second Reading	Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a
‘For to me to live is Christ.’ Brothers and Sisters: Christ will be honoured in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account. Let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.	
Gospel	Matthew 20:1-16
‘Do you begrudge my generosity?’ At that time: Jesus told his disciples this parable, ‘The kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for a denarius a day, he sent them into his vineyard. And going out about the third hour he saw others standing idle in the market-place, and to them he said, “You go into the vineyard too, and whatever is right I will give you.” So they went. Going out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour, he did the same. And about the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing. And he said to them, “Why do you stand here idle all day?” They said to him, “Because no one has hired us.” He said to them, “You go into the vineyard too.” ‘And when evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his steward, “Call the labourers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last, up to the first.” And when those hired about the eleventh hour came, each of them received a denarius. Now when those hired first came, they thought they would receive more, but each of them also received a denarius. And on receiving it they grumbled at the master of the house, saying, “These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.” But he replied to one of them, “Friend, I am doing you no wrong. Did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go. I choose to give to this last worker as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or do you begrudge my generosity?” So the last will be first, and the first last.’	

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday 19th September

4.30pm - 5.20pm Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Vigil Mass (First Mass of Sunday)

5.30pm *People of the Parish*

Sunday 20th September - Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

9am *John and Julia Harrington RIP*

11am *Monica and Tom Eddleston's 50th Wedding Anniversary - In Thanksgiving*

Monday 21st September - St Matthew, Apostle, Evangelist, feast

NO MASS

Tuesday 22nd September - Feria

9.30am

Wednesday 23rd September - St Pio of Pietrelcina, Religious, memorial

7pm

Thursday 24th September - Our Lady of Walsingham, feast

7pm *Mary Vasanthi Kanakam RIP*

8 - 9pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Friday 25th September - Feria

9.30am

10am *Divine Mercy Chaplet*

Saturday 26th September

4.430pm - 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*

(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 Joyce Unwin, 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



Parish Notices

Home Mission Sunday - 20 September 2026

Home Mission Sunday is the day parishes are asked to pray for the work of evangelisation and to support this vital work through a second collection.

On Home Mission Sunday, the bishops of England and Wales ask the faithful of our countries to look for ways in which we can all do our part in sharing the beauty and joy of knowing Jesus Christ. When we speak of 'Home Mission' we are not neglecting our sisters and brothers around the world (World Mission Sunday gives due attention to this important work), but we recognise that we are called to witness to Christ in our homes, at work, in our friendships and in every aspect of our daily life.

Being part of the family of God means we should feel 'at home' but this also challenges us to be missionary disciples in England and Wales so that we can make a home for all who hunger and thirst for the God who loves them and wants them to come home to him.

On behalf of the Bishops Conference, **Bishop Philip has recorded a short video message for the occasion.**

Please use the DONA machines, baskets in the church porch, or the following link to donate: **Donate to Home Mission Sunday - 20 September 2026 - Give as you Live Donate**. Thank you for your support.

Get Involved with the Corpus Christi Parish Pantomime!

Come and help us bring our next parish pantomime, "The Little Mermaid", to life!

Important Dates:

- Script read-through: Sunday 20th September 4.30pm - 6.30pm, St Teresa's Catholic Academy, Wokingham
- Main Parts Auditions: Tuesday 22nd September 7.30pm - 9.00pm, Keenan Rooms, Corpus Christi Church
- Rehearsals: Sundays and Tuesdays
- Show Dates: 29th, 30th and 31st January 2027

Newcomers are very welcome!

For more information, please contact parishpantocc@gmail.com.



Sacrament of Confirmation 2027



Any young person in school years 10 - 13 who wishes to be considered for the Sacrament of Confirmation in 2027 is invited to register their interest.

Please email the Parish Office at wokingham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk before **30th September 2026**.

We look forward to hearing from you



**Fairtrade
Fortnight**
21st Sept - 4th Oct

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!**

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!

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.

CAFOD Harvest Fast Day – Volunteers and Helpers Welcome!

Part of living our faith can be as simple as giving a few minutes of your time.

We are looking for volunteers to help with our CAFOD Harvest Fast Day appeal. There are several ways you can help:

- Welcoming parishioners and handing out Fast Day envelopes
- Supporting the collection
- Giving a short talk at Mass

None of these roles are time-consuming, but each one can make a real difference to communities facing poverty and the challenges of climate change.

If you can help in any way, please speak to our parish CAFOD contact, Cathy Hill, email her at jandchill@dsl.pipex.com, or contact the Parish Office.

Together, we can make this year's appeal a success. Thank you for your support and generosity.

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

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



Congratulations to Kim Dixon and Hitesh Patel, who will celebrate their wedding at Corpus Christi on Friday 25th September at 1.00pm.
We wish them a wonderful wedding day and many happy years together.

Wokingham Food Bank

Wokingham Food Bank has updated its shopping list for September. The items currently most needed are:

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Tinned tomatoes | Pies |
| • Baked beans | Tinned Carrots |
| • Tinned soup | Rice Pudding |
| • Pasta | Custard (tinned and/or packets) |
| • Coffee | Tinned Potatoes |
| • Tinned sweetcorn | Antibacterial Cleaner |
| • Tinned mixed vegetables | Washing Powder or Liquid |

If you would like to donate, please think of Wokingham Food Bank while doing your weekly food shop. Every donation, no matter how small, makes a difference. Donation baskets are located in Waitrose, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Morrisons, where you can leave your donations for collection. Thank you for your continued 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

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 the UCM 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!

ATTENTION
PLEASE

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.

