



# Corpus Christi Wokingham

South Berkshire Pastoral Area  
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth



Parish Priest: Canon Simon Thomson JV  
Telephone: 0118 978 0348

Office e-mail: [wokingham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:wokingham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)  
Website:- [www.corpuschristi-wokingham.org](http://www.corpuschristi-wokingham.org)

Link for live streamed Masses:

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

## **1st September 2024: Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year B**



It's easy to be fooled. Mr and Mrs Devout are always in church, always to be seen praying, always lighting votives, always to be found kneeling in their favourite pew. Are Mr and Mrs Devout good people? Well very possibly, but outward appearances can be deceptive. Despite their Sunday best, perhaps Mr and Mrs Devout spend the rest of the week, complaining about the refugees next door, gossiping about other parishioners and ignoring the plight of the beggar sitting on the church doorstep. Outward appearances are no indication of what lies beneath.

Today the Pharisees complain to Jesus, that his disciples do not wash their hands before eating. Their complaint does not stem from food hygiene. The Pharisees had very many rituals intended to keep themselves pure and undefiled, and one of these rituals was washing before eating. The ritual in itself is not so very wrong. We ourselves have a ritual of saying 'grace before meals', but where Jesus finds fault is in their flawed grasp of what is important. Jesus uses their complaint to teach a lesson, and the lesson isn't really anything to do with washing.

What do we think pleases God? The Pharisees were not bad people, but they had strayed a long way from pleasing God. To the Pharisees, religion was all about abiding by hundreds of rules and regulations. Many of these rules were about keeping themselves segregated from anything in the world that would make them unclean. They had become so obsessed by this that they no longer engaged well with the world and all its suffering. They lived by lofty and judgmental ideals that Jesus totally rejected. Jesus didn't deliberately set out to disregard tradition, but at the same time, he had come to engage with the world and its needs. Jesus' main concern was for the poor the sick and the marginalised, and he went out of his way to associate himself with them. He saw the Pharisees placing barriers between man and God, and he wasn't having it!

We do not become unacceptable to God by failing to follow a set of outward rules. We become unacceptable to God when our hearts become cold. God is not impressed when we turn up for Mass in our Sunday best. God is best pleased when we show the world a loving and sincere heart.

### **Mass Schedule and Intentions**

#### **Saturday 31st August**

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

**Vigil Mass (First Mass of Sunday)**

**5.30pm** *Maria de Lourdes Noronha RIP - 2nd Anniversary*

#### **Sunday 1st September - Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9am** *Patricia Ann Johnson RIP - 4th Anniversary*

**11am** *Helen Power RIP - 4th Anniversary*

#### **Thursday 5th September**

**8 - 9pm** *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

#### **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*

**N.B. Please note there will be no Masses between Tuesday**

**3rd and Friday 6th 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](http://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](mailto:safeguarding.wok@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**SVP:** 01182 114130

**CTW Rep:** [dougcleary91@gmail.com](mailto:dougcleary91@gmail.com)

**Parish Steering Group:**

[ccsteering.wok@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto: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.

# WELCOME

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

## 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 2nd September:** 9.30am at the Church of the Holy Ghost, Crowthorne

**Tuesday 3rd September:** 10am at St Jospeh's, Bracknell

**Wednesday 4th September:** 9.30am at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst & 10am at St Jospeh's, Bracknell

**Thursday 5th September:** 9.30am at the Church of the Holy Ghost, Crowthorne and 10am at St Jospeh's, Bracknell

**Friday 6th September:** 9.30am at the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst and 12 noon at St Jospeh's, Bracknell



## Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for September 2024

### *For the Cry of the Earth*

We might have learned not to place much faith in politicians, yet it is politicians best placed to look after the most vulnerable in parts of the world most affected by climate change. We can help with action and with prayer. Consider contacting our UK MPs. With MPs taking their seats at Westminster, let's call on them to play their part in tackling the climate, debt and hunger crises. Fill in the template and submit a call for action at [www.action.cafod.org.uk/page/152989/action/1](http://www.action.cafod.org.uk/page/152989/action/1).

**Pope Francis invites us to join in his prayer intention for September, "...that each of us hears with the heart the cry of the Earth and victims of natural disasters and climate change, personally committing to care for the world we inhabit."**

**Safeguarding Drop In** - Claire and Jordana will be available for DBS 'surgery' on Sunday 1st September after 11am Mass in the Keenan rooms.

**200**

**200 Club** - Congratulations to the holder of Ticket No 14, who has won the August draw of £50.00.



*The firstfruits of hope*  
(Rom 8:19-25)

## TO HOPE AND ACT WITH CREATION

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

**Season of Creation 2024** – begins on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> September with a global ecumenical Prayer Service for the Care of Creation at 2pm <https://seasonofcreation.org/event/prayer-service-for-creation-day/> and ends on 4<sup>th</sup> October, the feast of St Francis.

On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> September at 7-8pm, CAFOD, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and St Mary's University are hosting an online session featuring speakers from parishes which have successfully carried out meaningful action for the environment and promoted greener practices in their communities – an opportunity for us at Corpus Christi to find out how we can expand our efforts to LiveSimply and Sustainably! Register here: <https://cafod.org.uk/news/events/pioneering-parishes>.

On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2-3pm, a webinar is planned looking at the role of Faith Actors and Governments in ensuring a just energy transition and mitigating climate change through a *Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty* - <https://seasonofcreation.org/event/a-conversation-on-the-fossil-fuel-non-proliferation-treaty/>

On Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> September 10am - 1pm at St Peter's in Winchester, the *To Hope and Act with Creation Environmental Conference* takes place - as advertised here in the past few weeks.



**LiveSimply - Zero Waste Week** begins on Monday 2 September - find tips to reduce our waste to almost nothing and this save money, preserve resources and protect the environment <https://www.zerowasteweek.co.uk/>.

Oxfam are promoting their **Second hand September** <https://www.oxfam.org.uk/get-involved/second-hand-september/>. Fashion has become one of the most polluting industries on the planet fuelling climate change. A throwaway culture leaves millions of clothes in landfill every year. Buy, wear and donate second hand to reduce demand for fast fashion and support those who are affected the most and have done the least to cause this.



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.





The group of singers that leads the singing at 9am Mass - and at Christmas and Easter - is reassembling this week after their summer break. Choir practices are usually held every other week on Wednesday evenings in the choir loft and our next practice is this coming Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> September, at 7.30pm. If you are interested, you will be most welcome to come up to the choir loft on Wednesday evening and join us, just for the evening or perhaps for longer.

**RIDE+STRIDES**  
for Churches

**HELP SAVE OUR CHURCH HERITAGE**

14<sup>TH</sup> SEPT. 2024

Choose your own route and travel at your own pace - enjoy the day!  
Cycle, ride or walk to help save our churches. Through sponsorship or a donation you will be supporting your local heritage

Contact: [rideandstrideberks@gmail.com](mailto:rideandstrideberks@gmail.com)  
Support Berkshire's churches by donating at [www.justgiving.com/berkshirechurchestrust](http://www.justgiving.com/berkshirechurchestrust)

Find out more at [www.berkshirechurchestrust.org.uk](http://www.berkshirechurchestrust.org.uk)

Supported by the National Churches Trust  
Charity Number: 108648

**International Picnic 2024**

Following the success of the international summer picnic last year, we are holding it again this year! It will take place on Sunday 15th September after 11am Mass in the church and school grounds. All are welcome! Once more we are asking parishioners if they would like to contribute a national dish for sharing. Please click [here](#) to sign up. The social committee would like to wish you a very happy and relaxing summer and look forward to seeing you at this event in September.

**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](mailto:suzettesymons@gmail.com)

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.

**VOLUNTEER**

**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.

**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.