CORPUS CHRISTI WOKINGHAM

NEWSLETTER

1st November 2026 - All Saints
Year A

Fr Benjamin writes....

People who know me well are aware that if someone says to me, "I'm only human" when trying to excuse some transgression or error, a kindly look of exasperation will cross my face. This will be followed by a gentle explanation of why this is not a Christian excuse. Why? Because to be human is to be the highest of all God's creation. Made in the Image and Likeness of God, our being is so precious to Him that He became one of us in order to save us and make us even more special in the future.

Our Blessed Lord is, as St Paul says, the "image of the invisible God". He is what it is to be truly human, to be the perfect reflection of what God in human form is like. If we ever transgress, sin, or err, it is not because we are human, but because we are not human enough.

That may sound a harsh thing to say, but it is purely biblical in its reasoning. When we get things wrong or do anything that is not of God, we do not become less human in the sense of being dehumanised, but a damaged form of the perfect human, Our Lord Jesus Christ. The phrase "to err is human, to forgive is Divine" is only half true, because in the Christian sense, the more like the Divine we become, so too we become more authentically human.

This is the core meaning of sainthood, or sanctity, which is to choose to live in such way that our lives clearly reflect Our Lord Jesus Christ's life on earth. For Christ, the central aspect of His human identity was His love and obedience of the Father. The more we learn of God and His holy Will, and the more we choose to follow it, the more we resemble the Son of God. This is not just through the large gestures of self-giving, but the everyday offering of self and tasks to God and neighbour, for God's glory and their good.

If someone says, "I'm only human" tell them of the perfect human being Who walked on earth 2000 years ago.

Parish Office and Contacts

Corpus Christi Catholic Church, Sturges Road, Wokingham, RG40 2HE
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 - All Saints (Year A)

First Reading	**Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14**

‘Behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages.’

I, John, saw another angel ascending from the rising of the sun, with the seal of the living God, and he called with a loud voice to the four angels who had been given power to harm earth and sea, saying, ‘Do not harm the earth or the sea or the trees, until we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.’ And I heard the number of the sealed, one hundred and forty-four thousand, sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel.

After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, ‘Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!’ And all the angels were standing round the throne and round the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying, ‘Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.’

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, ‘Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?’ I said to him, ‘Sir, you know.’ And he said to me, ‘These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation. They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.’

Responsorial Psalm	**Ps 24(23):1-2. 3-4b. 5-6. ℟ cf. 6**

Such are the people who seek your face, O Lord.

Second Reading	**1 John 3:1-3**

‘We shall see God as he is.’

Beloved: See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

Gospel	**Matthew 5:1-12a**

‘Blessed are the poor in spirit.’

At that time: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.’

Mass Schedule and Intentions

Saturday 31st October
4.30pm - 5.20pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)*
Vigil Mass (First Mass of Sunday)
5.30pm *Mobolaji and Denise Oduntan's 10th Wedding Anniversary - In Thanksgiving*

Sunday 1st November - All Saints, Solemnity
9am *Noah O'Brien RIP*
11am *Lobo Family RIP*

Monday 2nd November - Commemoration of All Souls
9.30am *Holy Souls RIP*
10am *Praying the Rosary*

Tuesday 3rd November - Feria
9.30am *Deceased Members of the Rowley and Keely Families (F)*

Thursday 5th November - Feria
7pm *Leah Vas's Birthday - In Thanksgiving*
8 - 9pm *Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament*

Friday 6th November - Feria
9.30am
10am *Divine Mercy Chaplet*

Saturday 7th November
10.30am *Mass of Anointing*
4.30pm - 5.20pm *Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)*
Vigil Mass (First Mass of Sunday)
5.30pm *Vincent Cardozo RIP*

Sunday 8th November - Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
9am *Kathleen Corey RIP*
11am *Rosealeen and Edward Joseph McLaughlin 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

Bamenda Sunday

Second Collection - Sunday 1st November 2026

This weekend is Bamenda Sunday, a celebration of a partnership between our two dioceses where we learn, pray and support each other. An important part of the link has been the support we have sent over the years. Your generosity has made a huge impact on the lives of many of the poorest and most vulnerable people in Bamenda, and it most sincerely appreciated by them. You can read how your donations have supported Caroline and Stephen in the **Bamenda Sunday newsletter**.

Please give as generously as your contributions really do transform lives.

To donate:

- Use the baskets in the church porch.
- Follow this **link** or use the QR code to see the different donations options.
- Tap your card on the parish Dona machine.

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



Mass for Deceased Clergy

The annual Mass for deceased clergy will take place on **Thursday 5th November 2026 at 12:15pm** in St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. All are welcome to join us for this Mass.

Mass of Anointing

On **Saturday 7th November 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.

Remembrance Sunday

Sunday 8th November at 10:45 am

You are warmly invited to join us for our annual Remembrance Sunday service on **8th November at 10.45am**, ahead of the 11.00am Mass.

For those attending Mass who are unable to join the Remembrance service, please note that we will observe the two-minute silence at 11.00am.



"At the going down of the sun and in the morning,
We will remember them."

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.

Lay Leaders Conference - Saturday 21st November

Inspired by our ten-year Mission Plan, You Will Be My Witnesses, the Lay Leaders Conference will take place on **Saturday 21st November** the Solent Hotel Whiteley near Southampton and run from 9.00am to 3.30pm. It will offer an opportunity to share experiences, explore fresh ideas and consider how clergy and laity can work together to strengthen our parishes and bring more people to know Jesus Christ. As we look to the future of our Diocese, we want as many people as possible to be part of this important conversation.

Whether you are involved with liturgy, catechesis, pastoral councils, outreach or any other aspect of parish life, this conference is for you.

The flyer below has full details of the day and how to book your place. There is no charge for attending though you will need to register in advance.





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.

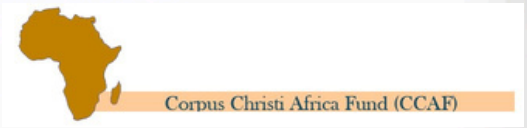
Carol Concert

South Berkshire Singers and St Teresa's Academy Choir warmly invite you to a special Carol Concert in aid of the Corpus Christi Africa Fund.

📅 **Sunday 6th December 2026** 🕓 **4.00pm**

Join us for an afternoon of beautiful Christmas music, followed by festive Christmas refreshments. Tickets: £10 for adults | Children go free but **must** book tickets.

We look forward to celebrating the joy of Christmas with you! ✨



How to book:

Tickets are available now at https://www.ticketsource.com/south-berkshire-singers and will be on sale at the back of church after all masses on 14/15th and 28/29th November (cash or Dona machine). Please buy your tickets early as we always sellout!



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.

Job Vacancies - Please follow the link for details of our **current vacancies** in the Diocese of Portsmouth and how to apply.



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.



Praying the Rosary

The Rosary will be prayed after morning Mass each Monday, whenever possible. It will be led by parishioners on a rotational basis.

All are warmly welcome to join us in this time of prayer and reflection.

Thought for the Week

"The Rosary is the best therapy for these distraught, unhappy, fearful, and frustrated souls, precisely because it involves the simultaneous use of three powers: the physical, the vocal, and the spiritual, and in that order." (Blessed Fulton Sheen)

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Catholic Diocese of PORTSMOUTH