



# CORPUS CHRISTI, BOSCOMBE NEWSLETTER

OUR PARISH  
MOTTO  
"ONLY JESUS"

**PARISH PRIEST:** Monsignor John Nelson

Tel: 01202 425286 Email: [jnelson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:jnelson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Deacon:** Gregory Cook Email: [gcook@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:gcook@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Parish Office:** 18 St James's Square, Boscombe BH5 2BX Tel: 01202 425286

**Parish Administrator:** Sandra Cook. **Parish Office Email:** [office@corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk](mailto:office@corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk)

Normal Parish Office hours: 9.30am - 12.30pm Monday, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays

**Finance Administrator:** Georgie Lockyer. **Email:** [accounts@corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk](mailto:accounts@corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk)

**Property Manager/Centre Bookings :** Aidan Foy. Tel: 07775868253 **Email:** [facilities@corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk](mailto:facilities@corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk)

**PARISH WEBSITE:** [www.corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk/](http://www.corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk/)  **Network:** CC\_Public **Password:** church20



## SUNDAY MASSES:

**Saturday Vigil 6.00pm & Sunday 10.00am & 5.00pm**

*This parish livestreams Masses (6.00pm & 10.00am, on YouTube or via our website) & other events. Please see notices in the church for further details.*



**DAILY MASS:** Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat 10.00am & Wed 9.00am

**HOLY DAY MASSES:** 10.00am & 7.00pm

**CONFESSIONS:** Saturdays 10.30am -11.30am & 5.30pm - 5.50pm

## ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Monday and Thursday after 10am Mass until 11am.

Our Parish is part of the  
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth  
[Bishop Philip Egan]

[www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/e-news/](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/e-news/)

Member of Churches Together in Boscombe:  
<http://www.ctib.community/>

**Royal Bournemouth Hospital/Christchurch Hospital** For Chaplaincy call 03000194221  
(Catholic Mass - 1st Wed of month at 6pm)

**Poole Hospital** For Chaplaincy call: 0300 019 2167 (Catholic Mass Thurs 6.30pm)

**LITURGICAL CALENDAR** all masses feria except: Mon 8: The Baptism of the Lord

## THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD Year B - 7th January 2024

### A NEW YEAR HAS BEGUN



I don't know whether you are someone who goes in for New Year's Resolutions. A lot of people have given up on them because their past experience hasn't been too positive and whatever was intended rapidly fell by the way. But if you have decided to use the start of another year to really make an effort to change or try a new activity – I hope it goes well.

One of the fundamental times in our week is coming together to celebrate Mass on Sunday (or the Vigil on Saturday evening). In his recent Pastoral Letter, Bishop Philip asked whether we saw this as an 'extra' we do on Sundays or whether that time we set aside is pivotal, central in our week. Do we look forward to it? For all of us, including those who do regularly come along, it is a valid question. So easily what we do can become habit and then the familiar is taken for granted and not always considered, or truly valued and honoured.

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church it says that the faithful are required to "participate in the Eucharistic celebration when the Christian community gathers together on the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord" [n.2042]. It is worth noting that the word 'participation' is used – it doesn't say just 'attend'. We should involve ourselves, enter into the celebration and approach it with reverence.

I have noticed here at Corpus Christi a growing trend for people to arrive after the start of Mass. At one Mass recently, of a congregation numbering about 160, more than forty turned up after Mass had begun. Some arrived fifteen minutes late for a Mass that lasted forty-five minutes. I don't believe that is true to the spirit of us 'participating' in the Eucharistic celebration. There will always be times when we are late for a good reason. But arriving when the Readings have almost finished, week after week, is not right. Even worse is walking in and disrupting those who have come on time. If you arrive late, at least wait until a suitable pause when you can make your way to a seat.

It is about us getting the most from the Liturgy (by hearing all the Readings) and respecting others in church by not coming in and disturbing them when they are trying to hear God's Word. Even if you do not bother with New Year's Resolutions, please give some thought to **the point I'm making – for the sake of everyone who comes to Mass. I will contrive to make every effort to start Mass on time: all I ask is that everyone tries to be there for the start so that we can properly celebrate together.**

**Father John**

**THANKS FOR PRAYERS** "Annie and David Benfield would like to thank Father John and all parishioners for their thoughts and prayers for David. It has made a huge difference to his recovery, and his morale, to know that he had the parish praying for him (this ring of prayers). We are so grateful for the support of our Catholic community." *We wish him continued improvement in his health.*

**REPOSITORY:** We still have a few 2024 Calendars & Diaries. **The Repository is open Friday & Sunday mornings, before & after the 10am Mass.** We also have Baptism, First Holy Communion & Confirmation gifts available. If you are looking for something special then please browse '[cbcdistributors.co.uk](http://cbcdistributors.co.uk)' & send your name with the code numbers of any items you are interested in to 07775868253. I can then text you a price before I order. **Thank you.**

**TODAY IS PEACE SUNDAY** - the theme chosen by Pope Francis for the World Day of Peace 2024 is: 'Artificial Intelligence and Peace'. He hopes that the reflection in his message "will encourage efforts to ensure that progress in developing forms of artificial intelligence will ultimately serve the cause of human fraternity and peace. It is not the responsibility of a few but of the entire human family. For peace is the fruit of relationships that recognize and welcome others in their inalienable dignity, and of cooperation and commitment in seeking the integral development of all individuals and peoples. It is my prayer at the start of the New Year that the rapid development of forms of artificial intelligence will not increase cases of inequality and injustice all too present in today's world, but will help put an end to wars and conflicts, and alleviate many forms of suffering that afflict our human family. May Christian believers, followers of various religions and men and women of good will work together in harmony to embrace the opportunities and confront the challenges posed by the digital revolution and thus hand on to future generations a world of greater solidarity, justice and peace." **FRANCISCUS** *From the Vatican, 8 December 2023*  
You can read the full message at: **Pope-Francis-Message-for-World-Day-of-Peace-2024.pdf** ([paxchristi.org.uk](http://paxchristi.org.uk))

**BLESSING COUPLES IN IRREGULAR SITUATIONS** With the Declaration *Fiducia supplicans* issued by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Francis, it will be possible to bless same-sex couples but without any type of ritualisation or offering the impression of a marriage. The doctrine regarding marriage does not change, and the blessing does not signify approval of the union. **You can read the full document at: Dichiarazione "Fiducia supplicans" sul senso pastorale delle benedizioni del Dicastero per la Dottrina della Fede** ([vatican.va](http://vatican.va))

"When two people request a blessing, even if their situation as a couple is "irregular," it will be possible for the ordained minister to consent. However, this gesture of pastoral closeness must avoid any elements that remotely resemble a marriage rite. This is what is stated the Declaration "Fiducia supplicans" on the pastoral meaning of blessings, published by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and approved by Pope Francis. The document explores the theme of blessings, distinguishing between ritual and liturgical ones, and spontaneous ones more akin to signs of popular devotion. It is precisely in this second category there is now consideration of the possibility of welcoming even those who do not live according to the norms of Christian moral doctrine but humbly request to be blessed. 23 years have passed since the former "Holy Office" published a Declaration (the last one was in August 2000 with "Dominus Jesus"), a document of such doctrinal importance. "Fiducia supplicans" begins with the introduction by the prefect, Cardinal Victor Fernandez, who explains that the Declaration considers the "pastoral meaning of blessings," allowing "a broadening and enrichment of the classical understanding" through a theological reflection "based on the pastoral vision of Pope Francis." It is a reflection that "implies a real development from what has been said about blessings up until now, reaching an understanding of the possibility "of blessing couples in irregular situations and same-sex couples without officially validating their status or changing in any way the Church's perennial teaching on marriage." Also clarified is that to avoid "any form of confusion or scandal," that when a couple in an irregular situation or same-sex couples ask for a blessing, it "should never be imparted in concurrence with the ceremonies of a civil union, and not even in connection with them. Nor can it be performed with any clothing, gestures, or words that are proper to a wedding" (par. 39). This kind of blessing "may instead find its place in other contexts, such as a visit to a shrine, a meeting with a priest, a prayer recited in a group, or during a pilgrimage" (par. 40). In conclusion, the fourth chapter (paragraphs 42-45) recalls that "even when a person's relationship with God is clouded by sin, he can always ask for a blessing, stretching out his hand to God" and desiring a blessing "can be the possible good in some situations" (par. 43)." 19th December 2023 Source: Vatican News (extracted)



**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD** will take place on 14th and 28th. January at 10am Sunday Mass. As a general guideline this Liturgy is for children between 4 and 7 years of age. Parents please remember to sign in

**GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK** On Friday 12th January, the eve of the 27th anniversary of the founding of The Good Counsel Network, please pray and fast for the end of abortion in this Country. Through God's grace we have seen thousands of Mothers in our counselling centre continue their pregnancies in very difficult circumstances. Please help us to help save lives with your prayers, fasting and support. [www.GoodCounselNetwork.com](http://www.GoodCounselNetwork.com)

**THE GREAT STORY OF JESUS RETREAT** St Peter's Pastoral Centre, Winchester SO23 9SR on **Saturday 13th January 2024 from 10am-4pm** with Sr Margarida Mondral of the Verbum Dei Community. Refresh and reboot with a renewed appreciation of the core of our faith: the gift of the life death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the gift of the Holy Spirit to animate our lived faith. Please apply to Liza Nahajski for a place and more details: [Inahajski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:Inahajski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



**PANTO TIME!!!! ALL SAINTS DRAMATIC SOCIETY PRESENT - BEAUTY & THE BEAST 12th—20th JANUARY 2024** in Corpus Christi Parish Centre. Performed by All Saints Dramatic Society. Tickets from the Box Office on 07548100770 or scan the QR code Tickets £15, Concs £12 or children £8.



**VOCATIONS:** "For out of you shall come forth a ruler who will shepherd My people." Is Christ calling you forth out of your comfort zone to serve Him in others as a sister, brother, or priest?

Contact Cn. John Cooke.vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869 or talk to your priest.

**INTENTIONS:** That our young people will be open to their unique vocation through prayer and will adore Christ the King by their faithfulness to His call, we pray to the Lord.

**FOOD BANK COLLECTIONS** are Friday mornings 10.30-11.30am and at Saturday evening and Sunday Masses. Gifts may be dropped off in the church porch. **TINNED FOODS** always appreciated. **Thank you for your continued generosity.**

**TO SET UP A STANDING ORDER** (Can be Gift Aided) Go to your bank: You will need the parish business bank details, which are: **CDP BOURNEMOUTH CORPUS CHRISTI Sort code 30-93-04.** Parish Account number: **01786041** Or donate online at our website: <http://www.corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk/> or on our Facebook page or to donate via Give As You Live, **click on the QR CODE**

**GIFT AID** If you are a UK taxpayer please consider Gift Aiding your donation. The parish can reclaim 25p for every £1 donated, at no extra cost to you. To join the Gift Aid scheme, or if you want an annual box of offertory envelopes, please send contact details to: [accounts@corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk](mailto:accounts@corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk)  
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No.1199568

