



CORPUS CHRISTI, BOSCOMBE NEWSLETTER

PARISH PRIEST: Monsignor John Nelson

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

Parish Administrator: Sandra Cook. Parish Office Email: 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



PARISH WEBSITE: www.corpuschristiboscombe.org.uk/ WiFi 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, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat 10.00am & Wed 9am

HOLY DAY MASSES: 10.00am & 7.00pm

CONFESIONS: 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/

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: See Parish Christmas Card

RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE: Let the Lord enter; he is the King of glory.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A 21st December 2025



Celebrating Christmas

Watching BBC Breakfast News recently there was an item about some of things which take place at this time of year. The Presenter then said: "of course, it's really important that people remember what Christmas is all about – being with family and friends." As I listened, I thought to myself 'I actually thought what Christmas is all about is celebrating the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.' Getting together with those we love happens as a consequence – it isn't the core. How easily our society seems to have disconnected what we celebrate this week from its historical origins. I was at Waterloo Station a couple of weeks ago and couldn't miss a huge Christmas Tree, with lots of people taking selfies in front of it. The decorations were a curious mix of items, and it wasn't until I spoke with my niece that I understood the tree was there to mark the launch of a new series of *Stranger Things* (about which I'd never heard!). Nothing whatsoever to do with Christmas.

Well, we can sigh and bemoan the loss of an understanding of the central event marked at Christmas. Or we can accept reality and try to insert into the commercial, materialistic context of the world around us a gentle reminder of why Jesus came to be born. Children understand this as they hear the story at school – even in many schools which profess to be non-religious. Something about a baby being born in Bethlehem in unusual circumstances continues to grip the imagination. Which is probably why God chose to do what he did, and in the way he did it. Being born into human history in a particular place, in a particular time, in a country under occupation, with a despot King Herod determined to eliminate any potential rivals, requiring Joseph and his small family to flee into exile in Egypt – all of this was deliberate. The message God was sending to all humanity was: 'I am with you' in whatever circumstances you find yourself, no matter what.

Through the birth of Jesus, Son of God and Son of Mary, we are reassured that there is no corner of the world where God is not present. In Ukraine as missiles wreak destruction on people and property, God is still there – reaching out through the hands of the rescue services. In Gaza, where conditions are appalling, God reaches out through the Aid Agencies which, against the odds, persevere in attempting to get food and medicine to those in most need. In the Sudan where unspeakable atrocities are being committed, God reaches out through those who strive to get a cease-fire to allow the wounded and displaced to be reached and helped. God does not create these situations of conflict – human beings do. But he never abandons anyone and in Jesus says again: 'I am with you.'

This applies on a very personal level too. No matter where we are on our journey through life, God is alongside us. When things go well, when a child graduates or achieves even something minor, God is with us in joy as we give thanks. When we feel overburdened and depressed, when we suffer loss or mourn the death of a loved one, he is with us in those times too. In a world which changes so quickly, where events comes unexpectedly and out of the blue, we can feel battered and buffeted. We must remember – and Christmas emphasizes this – that we are never alone. God is with us, Emmanuel, Jesus, born to save us. This is definitely something to celebrate.

Fr John

PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED from 24th December to 2nd January (inc). Will re-open on Monday 5th January 2026. **Wishing a very Merry Christmas from Sandra and Georgie to all our parishioners.**

READERS SIGN UP SHEET FOR CHRISTMAS EVE (6pm, 8.30pm, 9pm) & CHRISTMAS DAY (10am) is now at the back of church. Please sign up to help spread the Word of God over this special time. *Thank you.*

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS Traditionally your Offering at Christmas time is for the personal use of the Parish Priest. Together with the Easter Offering, this forms a significant part of his annual income. Because this is given by you through the parish, it can be Gift-Aided by those who pay income tax. **There are yellow envelopes available on the shelves at the back of the church for this purpose.** Also there is a dedicated page on the Fundraising Platform 'Give As You Live' which enables online donations to be made. Our Corpus Christi link is: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/bournemouth-corpus-christi-boscombe-christmas-collection-2025> Or you can scan the QR code. *Thank you for your support and generosity.*



PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS. Please take home a copy of our Parish Christmas card, from the back of church, Services can also be found on our website. Christmas time: **Wednesday 24th December** – Christmas Eve: Mass 9.00am; 6.00pm Blessing of the Crib with First Mass of Christmas 8.30pm Carols & Readings 9.00pm Christmas Night Mass **THURSDAY 25th December** Christmas Day Mass 10.00am (No other Masses today)



CRIB OFFERINGS This year, 2025, our Christmas Crib offerings will go to the **Christian Communities in the Holy Land**, via the charity **Friends of the Holy Land**. Their vision is for Christians to remain and thrive in the Holy Land so they may build just and lasting pathways to peace in the land where Jesus walked, serving the common good of the entire region. Their mission is to secure and sustain the Christian community in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Jordan and Israel and they help our brothers and sisters who endure extreme suffering and injustice, by directly providing practical support with everyday living costs. They also invest in their future by providing access to education and by backing small businesses. The need to help this year is still hugely urgent, thanks to the ongoing crisis in the Holy Land. *Thank you in advance for your generosity!*

 **CHRISTMAS CARD EXCHANGE BOX** To try and keep the church a "tidy zone" please, if you want to leave Christmas cards for fellow parishioners, use the Christmas Card Exchange Box. *The box will not be managed by the Parish Office* and any cards not collected by 1st week in January will be recycled. **Merry Christmas.**

ROAD CLOSED WARNING For legal reasons we are obliged to close the private road to the Church (From the main Christchurch Road) for 24 hours once a year. This year it will be close **Friday 26th December after the mass at 11am until 11.30am on Saturday 27th December**. Please ensure you do not park/leave your car where you may not be able to move it. Thank you.

NEW PASTORAL FACEBOOK PAGE Our new Pastoral Area now has a Facebook Page, "Coast Catholics Bournemouth-Christchurch", to share information across our area. Please like it & share with others. Go to: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61583334070125 Or search FB for **Coast Catholics Bournemouth-Christchurch**

ACI (LINKS OF LOVE) There is no ACI Family meeting on Monday 29 Dec and the next meeting of the morning ACI group will be on Monday 26th January at 11am in the Meeting Room as usual.

 **CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD** We look forward to meeting with the children on **11th & 25th January 2026**. at 10am Mass. As a guideline this Liturgy is for children between 4 & 7 years of age. Wishing a happy Christmas and New Year to all our children and families. **The CLOW team.**

 **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETING** The next meeting will be on **Wednesday 7th January 7pm - 9pm** in the Memorial Room and then back on **7th January 2026**. For enquiries, please contact Jack on 07710306543.

CORPUS CHRISTI PRIMARY SCHOOL VACANCY: Fixed Term Classroom Teacher to 31st August 2026 (potential to become permanent) who is passionate, highly motivated, enthusiastic and hardworking. **Closing date is midday Monday 12th January 2026.** Info at www.cccpschool.co.uk under key information, vacancies or telephone the school office on 01202 427544 to request an application form.

VOCATIONS : "They shall name him Emmanuel, which means 'God is with us.'" Mary's trust in God's plan is a model for all vocations. Could God be inviting you to priesthood, diaconate consecrated life, or holy matrimony, living fully for Him to bring His presence to others? Embrace His call with courage. Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

INTENTIONS: For families, that their witness of faith and obedience may inspire children to seek God's purpose for their lives, let us pray to the Lord.

FOOD BANK COLLECTIONS are Friday mornings 10.30 -11.30am and at Saturday evening & Sunday Masses. Gifts may be dropped off in church porch. **TINNED & packet 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 Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Reg. Charity No.1199568