



OUR PARISH MOTTO
"ONLY JESUS"

CORPUS CHRISTI, BOSCOMBE NEWSLETTER

PARISH PRIEST: Monsignor John Nelson

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Deacon: Gregory Cook Email: 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

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/  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

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/

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:

RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE: Come Lord and save us.



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A 14th December 2025

The Life of Priests

One of the tasks I took on last year was to chair the Diocesan Priests' Retirement Fund. Monsignor Paul Townsend had filled this role for many years and when he stepped down Bishop Philip asked me to take it on. Those with long memories will recall an appeal thirty or so years ago to set up a fund to provide for priests when they retired from parish ministry. It means we can set them up with a decent place to live and ensure they have a reasonable personal income. If the time comes when a place in a Care Home is required, the Fund can help with that too.

One very enjoyable aspect of my role is to join the retired priests for lunch, once in the summer and once just before Christmas. We had lunch last Wednesday in Winchester. Not all our retired priests were able to come – some due to distance (a few are living in Ireland, one in France) and some because they couldn't make the journey. It was a jolly occasion and a chance for them to catch up over a good lunch. Inevitably, it was commented upon that some of those with us last December are no longer around: it comes to us all. Bishop Philip thanked those present because, although retired, a number still help out and cover Mass whilst other priests are away. In truth, many find it hard to 'switch off' and enjoy the chance to keep involved in what they have been doing for decades. One priest at the lunch is now in his mid-nineties!

The sense of what these priests have given in terms of service across our diocese over many years left me feeling thankful. They have witnessed a lot of changes in the Church since being ordained. This has required them to adjust, adapt, and find new ways of exercising priestly ministry which wasn't easy for all of them. They have also seen brother priests decide to leave ministry; they have also witnessed the terrible reality of abuse come to light. All of this has left its mark on men who gave their lives to work as priests. But what has always made it possible to continue is the connection with people, parishioners. The life of a priest is never something in isolation, a 'personal' privilege – it must always be lived in service of others. This gives the role meaning and purpose.

I was thinking about all of this during the week, and then I read the Bishop's *Pastoral Letter* which you'll hear today with a printed copy attached to the Newsletter. As priests, we ask ourselves how we could communicate better just what a marvelous privilege and wonderful vocation being a priest is. Perhaps we don't always allow or enable people to see what joy there is in accompanying people as their lives unfold – and celebrating key moments on that journey. Do we as priests project the joy and peace that comes with doing what the Lord had in mind for us? If it was more visible, then others might be tempted to think seriously about whether they too are being called to this way of life. If we look as though life as a priest is a burden, then others are less likely to wonder whether the Lord is calling them too. Most priests will tell you that one or two priests made a deep impression on them and prompted them to consider this vocation. Maybe priests have lost confidence – for all sorts of reasons – and a number just feel worn out and disappointed that fewer people are interested in coming to church. It is a complicated story with many factors involved.

Fr John



ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE FOR ADVENT Wednesday 17th December at 7pm. At the service there will be a number of priests available for individual Confession. All welcome.

PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS. Please take home a copy of our Parish Christmas card, from the back of church, that gives times of services over Christmas & New Year. Services can also be found on our website.





CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD We look forward to meeting with the children **every Sunday during the season of Advent** to help with their preparation for Christmas, at 10am Sunday 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. **Our dates in January 2026 are 11th and 25th. CLOW team.**

REQUESTING MASS INTENTION (USE SMALL BROWN ENVELOPES) Please clearly state the intention and if the person is **deceased (RIP) or living**. Can you also please **put a telephone number on the envelope**. The envelopes can be put in the Offering baskets at Communion, given to the Priest or dropped into the Parish Office.

ACI FAMILY Just a reminder that we will be having a Coffee and Mince Pies gathering in the Memorial Room at 11am on **Thursday 18th December**.

CORPUS CHRISTI SCHOOL Advent Service will be on Thursday 18th December at 6pm in church.

THE DIGNITY CENTRE BOURNEMOUTH A vibrant community hub in the heart of Bournemouth, offering material support for refugees and people seeking asylum. It is very grateful for all your kind donations, they need winter jackets, jumpers, hoodies, men's jeans (30-34 inch waist). Also Primark vouchers are very welcome. Clothes should be new or used very good quality. There is a box in the porch or call **Kevin Flynn on 01202 429034**.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS For stocking fillers – chocolate coins, cuddly toys, cards and little treats – or choosing a virtual charity gift to make someone's Christmas extra meaningful. We also offer express delivery for those last-minutes dashes. And if you're really cutting it close (we've all been there), you can choose from our Print at Home gifts and Ecards, perfect for instant giving. A perfectly timed surprise! Go to: <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

LIVING WITH DEMENTIA St Joseph's Church, Christchurch are hosting a talk called "Living with Dementia – a Christian Perspective" by Karen Martin, author of *Memorable Loss: A Story of Friendship in the Face of Dementia** and an excellent and experienced speaker on **Saturday 7th February 2026, 2-3 pm**, followed by refreshments. More details in due course, but for now please put this date and time in your 2026 calendar.

* see <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Memorable-Loss-Story-Friendship-Dementia/dp/1527110028>

ST PETER'S SCHOOL CONSULTATION OF ADMISSIONS ARRANGEMENTS 2027/28 Consultation runs until 22nd December 2025. Please see the poster at back of church that gives all details, copies can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school website (Admissions/Appeals page). Any comments should be sent to Mrs S Wallace-Abbott, Clerk to the Governing Body, sw0@st-peters.bournemouth.sch.uk

CORPUS CHRISTI PRIMARY SCHOOL VACANCIES: The governors of Corpus Christi wish to appoint a **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**. If you are interested please go to the school website www.cccpschool.co.uk under key information, vacancies or telephone the school office on 01202 427544 to request an application form.

CONSULTATION PROCESS for Corpus Christi Primary School Admissions Policy, with a proposal to include the Pre-School within our oversubscription criteria, closes on 24th January 2026. We are interested to hear the views and gather feedback from all interested parties. If you wish to respond to this consultation, please do so in writing via email: susan.solly@cccpschool.com

REPOSITORY: Christmas cards and gifts available. Come in & have a browse. Repository is open Friday & Sunday mornings, before & after 10am Mass & first Sunday of the month, before & after the 5pm Mass.



THE POPE'S INTENTIONS FOR DECEMBER For Christians in areas of conflict. Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.

VOCATIONS : "Are you the one who is to come, or should we look for another?" John's question invites us to seek Christ's presence in our lives. If you feel a spark of joy in serving others, God might be calling you to the priesthood, the diaconate or consecrated life, sharing His healing love as a shepherd. Listen closely to His voice. Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

INTENTIONS: For our parish, that we accompany young people discerning priesthood or consecrated life with prayerful support, 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

