



OUR PARISH MOTTO  
"ONLY JESUS"

## CORPUS CHRISTI, BOSCOMBE NEWSLETTER

**PARISH PRIEST: Monsignor Canon 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](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)**

**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 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/](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:** Tues 29: the Holy Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael Wed 30: St Jerome Thurs 1: St Teresa of the Child Jesus Fri 2: The Holy Guardian Angels

**RESPONSORIAL PSALM RESPONSE:** Remember your compassion, O Lord.

**NOTE: DIOCESAN COUNT OF WEEKEND MASSES until 11th Oct.** Thank you to the Count Volunteers  
Please count each congregation and fill in the relevant column on the sheet in the SACRISTY. *Thank you.*

### 26th Sunday of Year A 27th September 2026

#### **Recent practical issues concerning our church**

One of the greatest assets we have at Corpus Christi is our church building. Standing on this site for well over a hundred years it is one of the largest in the Diocese of Portsmouth with room for more than 400 people. But with that gift comes a responsibility to preserve, protect and care for the building in which we worship – and to which we welcome others who may be visiting, coming for celebrations of weddings, baptisms and funerals. The church is a Grade II listed building, and this brings with it conditions and requirements, all of which involve cost.

In recent months we needed to sort out the Bell Tower. Pigeons had taken up residence (at least twenty-two counted on one day) and you can imagine the mess they had made. Cleaning the various levels in the tower, clearing what pigeons always leave, securing all the openings and then fumigating the whole structure (because moths had been breeding in the guano) did not come cheap. Then, as many people realised earlier in the year, the bell – which is a remarkable example of its kind – had stopped working. This required specialist skills (there is a decreasing number of people experienced, knowledgeable and available to do the necessary work) so it took time sorting the problem. This too came at a significant cost, but the bell is again functioning.

You may also have noticed that the main Organ (situated in the Organ Loft) has had periods when it didn't work. Again, finding someone who is able to deal with the related issues isn't always easy but, for now, the Organ is again able to be played. There is still further work required to ensure it is good for the future. We are very fortunate to have a small Organ near the Lady Chapel but, as some parishioners have pointed out, the sound from that is not really adequate for a church full of people. We also have the use of a piano.

You may remember when, a few weeks ago, pigeons got into the church (we think because they could no longer access the bell tower) and made a considerable mess. Because they perched on ledges high up in the church, they dislodged a lot of dirt and grime which indicates how filthy some parts of the building are. We are very fortunate to have a few members of the parish who devotedly clean the lower parts of the church each week but getting to dirt and cobwebs higher up in such a big building will require people with the appropriate equipment.

I'm mentioning these details simply to make the point that maintaining, let alone enhancing, such a large church is time-consuming and costly. It would be great, for instance, to properly repair and refurbish the benches and kneelers throughout the church as the overall appearance of this beautiful building can be rather tired. But all of this requires tough choices because we have only limited finance available. Taking hard decisions about how best to use the limited resources the parish has is one of the least enjoyable parts of the job of a Parish Priest. My guiding principle is that everyone who comes to Mass makes use of the church – and so this building is our absolute priority. **Father John**

**CAFOD FRIDAY 2nd OCTOBER HARVEST FAMILY FAST DAY** Please donate to our Family Fast Day collection. Put your faith into action and share the Lord's love by supporting our global neighbours experiencing shortages of food and safe water. Your gift can support children like Tayla in Zimbabwe to stay in school by helping communities & schools provide nourishing meals, improve access to water and grow food in school gardens. Use CAFOD envelope, donate online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call 0303 303 3030. or scan QR code. If you would like to be a **CAFOD volunteer** please speak to **KEVIN FLYNN** on 01202 429034 or email [kflynn1946@gmail.com](mailto:kflynn1946@gmail.com)



**A PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP PHILIP** "Things Visible and Invisible" is available at the back of church. Please take a copy home. The Bishop invites you to complete a short survey - see poster or scan QR code.



**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2027** The application forms for next years First Holy Communion are now available at the back of church. Please take one, complete and return it to the Parish Office by **SUNDAY 18th OCTOBER at the latest**. NO late applications will be accepted. Only original applications will be accepted (**no photocopies**). **Please complete all sections of the form.**

We will need to see original baptism certificate, and obtain a copy, asap but it is more important to get the application form in before return date. The first parents evening will be on Thursday 22nd October at 7pm in Church.

**A FULL-SIZE COPY OF THE WORLD-FAMOUS SHROUD OF TURIN** is coming to **CORPUS CHRISTI MEMORIAL ROOM**, from the **evening of Fri 2nd to Sun 11th October** and will be available to view outside of service times. Many people believe the Shroud was the actual burial Shroud of Jesus Christ and the exhibition aims to tell the Gospel story of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. There are original Roman nails, a replica whip, a crown of thorns and a spear, together with information boards about art, history and scientific research on the Shroud. The latest tests suggest the material dates to the first century cloth. It is possible to get an idea of the Shroud from television pictures and books but seeing it in its entirety is very challenging and moving.



Thanks to our **Men's Fellowship** for organizing and manning this event.

Photo ©1978 Barrie M. Schwartz Collection, STERA, Inc



**CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD** We look forward to meeting with the children today, for children between the ages of 4 - 8, where the gospel of the day is proclaimed and explored at a more age appropriate level. **We would like to register the children attending each session, before the beginning of mass, so please look out for our Children's Liturgy sign and come and say hello as you arrive at church.** CLOW team.

**ACI FAMILY (LINKS OF LOVE)** The next **Monday meeting 28th September at 11am in the Memorial Room**. The ACI Family - a lay community affiliated to the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and committed to making Jesus known and loved through the Eucharist. *All welcome.*



**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS** Next one will be **Wednesday 14th October, 7pm - 9pm** in the Memorial Room. For enquiries, please contact Jack on 07710306543

**CAN YOU HELP WITH ORGANISING A CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH** on the 25<sup>th</sup> Dec and with serving lunch etc for those adults who are on their own. Thanking you, Allan 07782968593

**ANNUAL BROTHER LIONEL SPONSORED WALK** in aid of **REACHING THE UNREACHED**, will be on **Sunday 4th October** in Poole Park, leaving St Mary's at 11am and the Ark at 11.30am. For further information contact John on 07746169601 or Mo Houlden on 01425 657321

**PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE CATECHISTS' FORMATION DAY** on Saturday **10th October**, 9:30am-1:30pm at St Bede's, Basingstoke. Come and be refreshed, inspired, and equipped to form disciples who make disciples. To register your interest please email [ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**DAY FOR READERS - LITURGY PROJECT DIOCESAN FORMATION DAY** on **17th October** 9am to 1.30pm in the Pastoral Centre, Winchester. Please RSVP to: [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**IMMANUEL CHURCH SOUTHBOURNE VACANCY - MEMORY LANE LEAD** Do you have experience and a heart for working with people suffering from memory loss or dementia? We are looking for an experienced, proactive and empathetic person - start Tues 1st Dec 2026. Due to the nature of this role, post holder needs to be a practising Christian. **Closing date: 5pm Wed 30th Sept** Interviews: 8th Oct Contact: [pastoral@immanuelssouthbourne.org](mailto:pastoral@immanuelssouthbourne.org)



**REQUIEM MASS** for **Professor Vincent May RIP** will be on Friday 16th October 2026, 11.30am at Holy Redeemer, Highcliffe, BH23 5BL.

**VOCATIONS:** "Which of the two did the will of his father?" We give thanks for priests who humbly serve God's people. Pray for the priests who have helped you in your lifetime and also for those currently discerning this vocation- that they will align their will with the Father's. If you are feeling that gentle tug towards the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or call 01329 318 869

**INTENTIONS:** For men discerning priestly vocations, that they may pursue the priesthood with humility and generosity, let us pray to the Lord.

**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

