

First Holy Communion 2026-2027. Children who will be in School Year 3 and turn 8 years old between 1st September 2026 and 31st August 2027 are eligible to join our next First Holy Communion preparation programme, beginning in October 2026. Parents or guardians are kindly asked to email or write to Father Stan at the church office, providing the following details: their child's name, date of birth, date and place of baptism, parents' names and contact details. Further details about the programme will be shared in due course.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is open to people who are discerning whether to join or come into full communion with the Catholic Church; new sessions to start soon. To find out more, please see Fr. Stan after Mass.

Pastoral News

Adoremus event in London on Saturday 10th October 2026. Adoremus is a National Eucharistic Congress initiated by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to deepen devotion to the Eucharist and encourage adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Its on Saturday 10th October 2026, with Mass, a Eucharistic Procession and Benediction. See poster in Advent Room for more details.

Visitors to the Parish are reminded that photography/video recording is not permitted at any time during mass services unless authorised by the Parish. Photography of children and young people is prohibited.

To keep up to date with the news of the Diocese and the Bishop please follow :

Facebook: @PortsmouthRC
Twitter: @PortsmouthRC

The Diocese website:

LinkedIn: Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
<https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/>

Catholic Chaplaincy in Royal Berkshire Hospital

All arrangements in RBH are "Patient Led". If you or a loved one are taken into hospital, please inform the Catholic Chaplaincy. Hospital staff are not allowed to ask you. Ring the hospital on 0118 322 7105 to let them know that you or your loved one would like a visit from a priest.

Reading Catholic Churches

Christ the King, Whitley	Fr. Daniel Agber
St. John Bosco, Woodley	Fr. Leo Odomeja
St. James	Fr Chris Heaps
English Martyrs, Tilehurst	Fr. Gaston Forbah
St. Joseph, Tilehurst	Fr Henry Jan Nkop
St. William of York	Fr. Seth Phipps
Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham	Fr Joe McLoughlin

Marriage Help - Communication failure is a major cause of marital breakdown - 1,000's of couples have found Retrouvaille helped their relationship. Retrouvaille is not counselling but a programme to help married couples work through conflicts more effectively. We focus on helping restore trust and hope. Tel: 07887296983.
www.retrouvaille.org.uk.

Offertory Donations:

You can set up regular offertory donation by setting up monthly standing order.
Our Bank details are as follows:
A/c name: CDP Reading Our Lady of Peace
Lloyds Bank 30 93 04 A/C No: 00886018
If you are a UK taxpayer, then donating with Gift Aid means that we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 received. You can also pay via the contactless machine in the Advent Room.

Community News

Woodley food bank List of items needed are:-
Pasta, rice, toilet paper./kitchen rolls, Cooking oil./Tinned meats, Tea bags./ Sugar, Coffee./ Puddings. (sweet), Tinned stewing steak, Tinned chicken in sauce, Long life milk. Items for food bank can be left in the Advent room.

Our Lady of Peace & Bl Dominic Barberi

338 Wokingham Road Earley Reading RG6 7DA Website www.olo.org.uk
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No 1199568

Parish Priest

The Rev Fr Stan Gibziński
fatherstan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary

Rachel Alexander
0118 966 3711

Safeguarding Officer

office@olo.org.uk
Harish Chander
safeguarding@olo.org.uk

Hall Bookings

Zuzanna Bochenek
hall@olo.org.uk

Parish office opening hours : Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 11.00am-2.00pm.



24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A page: 774

13th September 2026

Psalm Response:

The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger and rich in mercy

Love your difficult neighbours

We do not always find it easy and straightforward to love everyone. We are not alone with this challenge. St Teresa, the Little Flower, writes about her challenge: "A sister in the community had the gift of irritating me in everything she did" At that time Teresa had already passed through the first stage of deep purifications, which means she already lived largely in accordance with every virtue - theological as well as cardinal and moral. Yet, everything about that sister irritated our Little Saint: her character, her mannerisms, and her words. What can we learn from St Teresa :

1. We need to desire God and go through the first deep purifications (The Collected Works of St John of the Cross, The Dark Night)
2. We need to do everything to be just and see beyond what is hurtful. St Teresa says: "Nevertheless, I am referring to a nun who must be very agreeable to God."
3. We need to do everything to see our neighbours in the same way as God sees them, and yet to admire God who dwells in them: God is pleased when we do not restrict our observations to the outside but penetrate into the intimate sanctuary where He has chosen to dwell, in order to admire its beauty".
4. To build all over the certainty that our admiration of God in a soul of our difficult neighbour is an act of worship of God: "I was certain that this pleased Jesus greatly"
5. To distinguish between our emotional and natural inclinations from acts of our soul, supernatural actions. St Teresa was able to see that "Struggling not to succumb to the natural aversion I felt, I told myself that charity does not depend so much on feelings, but on deeds; I decided, therefore, to treat this nun the way I would have treated the person most dear to me. Every time I met her, I prayed to God for her, offering Him all her virtues and merits".
6. When we find the situation too difficult, it is enough to escape into prayer than to be affected by an act of not loving. "Often, when the devil violently tempted me, and I could not deal with it without her (the nun) noticing my interior struggle, I would escape like a deserter in the army".
7. To learn to be discreet and to tell others what irritates us. "Since she had no idea of my feelings towards her, she did not suspect the motives for my behaviour and she remained convinced that I found her personality very appealing. One day, during recreation, she approached me with a delighted look on her face and said: 'Tell me, Sister Thérèse of the Child Jesus, what is it that you find so attractive about me, because every time I meet you, you always smile so graciously?' It was Jesus concealed in the depths of her soul who attracted me ... Jesus who makes the bitterest things sweet ... I told her that I smiled because I was glad to see her (naturally I did not say that this was from a spiritual point of view)". When you smile with sincerity at someone whom you do not naturally get on with, you smile at Christ.

Fr Stan

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions etc
Sun 13th September 2026 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 2.30pm 5.00pm	<i>Rosary</i> Gorman family thanksgiving <i>Rosary</i> C.E. Fernandes thanksgiving <i>Divine Mercy Holy Hour</i> For Parishioners
Mon 14th Sept: The Exaltation of the Holy Cross	5.15pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	<i>Adoration</i> <i>Rosary</i> Henry & Ethel Wiggins RIP Foundation Mass
Tues 15th Sept: Our Lady of Sorrows	8.00am	Dr Nicholas Alexander RIP
Wed 16th Sept: SS Cornelius & Cyprian	8.00am 4.15pm	Holy Souls <i>Rosary</i>
Thurs 17th Sept:	6.30pm	Talk by Fr Lawrence Carney on “The Holy Face of Jesus”
Fri 18th Sept	8.15am 12.00 noon No evening Mass	<i>Yakov & Karolina 10th wedding anniversary</i> <i>Wedding Michael Nolan & Margaret Ray</i>
Sat 19th Sept:	No Mass	
Sun 20th September 2026 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 5.00pm	<i>Rosary</i> Sebastian DeMello 17th birthday thanksgiving <i>Rosary</i> Thanksgiving for 50 years of opening of our Church C.E. Fernandes thanksgiving

Baptism: If you wish to celebrate the baptism (of a child) here, please contact Father Stan.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: On Mass days on Mondays, Fridays and Holy Days of Obligation 5.30pm-6.30pm or by private appointment with Fr Stan.

Anniversaries: Please keep in your prayers

13th September: Doris Frost (1990); Marjorie Sheldon (1997);
14th Sept: Eric Karas (2001);
15th Sept: Mary Salmon (1975); Ethel Gibson (1988);
16th Sept: Peter Gunasekera (2025)
17th Sept: Anastasia Ley (2024)
18th Sept: Richard O'Connell (2002); and Graham Smallbone (2003);
19th Sept: Sylvia Grealis (2018); 20th Sept: Bridget Malone (1990);

We keep in our prayers our parishioners who are sick and housebound . We pray for God's mercy and healing for the sick and for health and strength for all who care for them. **If you or someone you know is sick and housebound and would like to mention them here, or if you have any queries, please contact Rachel at the Parish Office.**

Parish News

Sunday 13th September 2.30pm - Divine Mercy Holy Hour

2nd collection on Sunday 13th September for Catholic Education Service: Catholic schools make up 10% of the national total of maintained schools in England and Wales, educating over 850,000 pupils. Donate via the collection basket on your way out or use our card machine in the Advent Room.

UPDATE: Parish Fundraising for Church windows: Thanks to the generosity of our parish community, we have raised £17,560.00 this includes £359 raised from our Parish BBQ. We understand that the AAP committee in the diocese will be meeting in October. With the amount raised to date, once approval is granted from the diocese, we would be in a position to replace four of the six windows. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has already donated. Every contribution, large or small, is sincerely appreciated and brings us one step closer to completing this work. We kindly ask for your continued support as we work towards completing this important project and preserving our church for future generations. **Donations can be made easily via Dona contactless payment or through our parish website, olop.org.uk.**

Friday Adoration: As there are many activities and events taking place during September, Father Stan has decided that our Friday Adoration will resume at its usual time from Friday, 25th September. In the meantime, we warmly invite you to join us for Adoration on Monday and Friday from 5.00pm to 6.00pm, followed by the Rosary and Holy Mass.

Thursday, 17th September at 6.30pm: we will be welcoming Fr Lawrence Carney to our church. He will give a talk at 6.30 pm, on the Devotion to the Holy Face of Jesus. This visit is a joint initiative of the Fraternity of St Peter and our parish. Fr Carney is particularly well known for promoting devotion to the Holy Face, but he has also written a number of other books and speaks on a variety of spiritual topics.

Wedding Bells on Friday 18th September 2026 at 12 noon: Michael Nolan and Margaret Ryan are to be married at our church at 12 noon. We wish them all the best for the day and may God bless your marriage with enduring love, unwavering faith, and countless graces

Friday 18th September: Holy Mass in the morning at 8.15am. No Adoration due to wedding and no evening Mass at our church due to the Centenary Mass at English Martyrs Church.

Change in Weekly schedule due to Parish Pilgrimage: No weekday mass on Tuesday 22nd September to Thursday 24th September. Father Linus will celebrate Friday 25th September 6.30pm Mass, all three Masses on Sunday 27th September and Mass on Monday 28th September. The Parish office will be closed from Tuesday 22nd to Tuesday 29th September. Please keep our Parish Pilgrims in your prayers.

Tuesday 29th September is the Feast of the Holy Archangels Michael, Gabriel & Raphael. Holy Mass at our church at 6.30pm.

Annual Mass Count for Pastoral Statistics will be done on all Sunday Masses on 20th & 27th Sept, 4th & 11th October.

Catechesis on Sunday Oct 4 2026 at 8.30am and 11.00am Mass: The Topic “The Guardian Angel, our guide on the path of holiness” . Fr Fidelis Stöckl ORC will preach at both our 8.30 am and 11.00 am Masses, speaking about the ministry of the Holy Angels. Between the two Masses, he will also give a special talk in the church entitled “The Guardian Angel – Our Guide on the Path of Holiness”. After the 11.00 am Mass, there will also be an opportunity for those who are interested to meet him.

As this is shortly after the Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels on 2 October, we see this as a particularly timely opportunity for the parish to reflect on the important, though often overlooked, ministry of the angels in our lives.