

Camino from St James Church, Reading the Reading Walks Festival is held from 11 – 19 May and includes 3 Camino starter walks from St James Church – see website: <https://whatsonreading.com/venues/reading-walks-festival/whats-on-events>. If interested in walking the Camino from Reading to Southampton and want to join, please book a space promptly on the website as demand for these St James' Way Camino walks is high and they fill up quickly.

Upcoming Safeguarding Training on 22nd June 2024 in Reading. For volunteer in our Parish especially with the Youth and vulnerable adults. Please see poster for more details. To book your place, please email safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Marriage Care Volunteers Needed! Marriage Care is a Catholic organisation specialising in relationship support. We are looking for Marriage Preparation Course Facilitators to prepare couples for the Sacrament of Marriage (full training is provided for this role), Qualified Relationship Counsellors to support couples in distress and Trustees to provide governance and strategic direction for the organisation: www.marriagecare.org.uk or email: volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk

Offertory Collection 10th March 2024

Loose Cash	£ 315.85
Contactless payment	£ 78.00
Standing Orders	£ 627.86
2nd collection on Sunday 10th March: Clergy Assistance Fund: Loose Change	£64.01 &
Contactless donation of	£25.00

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. Jude Mbonu
St. William of York	Fr. Seth Phipps
Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham	Fr. Joe McLoughlin

Thank you all for your kind donations.

Next Special Collection

Good Friday Collection: is for Holy places.

Easter offerings: The collections at all the Easter Masses are for Fr Stan. Christmas & Easter are the most substantial part of a priest's yearly income. Please either use our contactless payment or use the envelope provided. Thank you.

Closer to Christ Campaign. The aim for the diocese is to raise £13.5 million to support our clergy from formation into retirement and support the parishes. The diocese would like parishioners to pledge certain amount for 5 years. Our Parish's share is £90,000 for 5 years of which the diocesan share is £60,300. The remaining £29,7000 is for our own Parish projects. Fr Stan has decided not to go for this approach as he did not want to put the pressure on individual parishioners to make commitment for 5 years towards the campaign. Instead we have made the commitment to raise the fund for £60,300 and pay £12,060 each year for 5 years towards the campaign fund from the parish account. The contactless machine has the option for you to pay towards the fund under "Closer to Christ campaign". If you have any fundraising idea's, then please share with Fr Stan and together, we can raise the required funds that we have committed.

Our Lady of Peace & Bl Dominic Barberi

338 Wokingham Road Earley Reading RG6 7DA Website www.lop.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

office@lop.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer

Harish Chander
safeguarding@lop.org.uk

Hall Bookings

Zuzanna Bochenek
hall@lop.org.uk



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

5th Sunday in Lent

Year B (p79)

17th March 2024

Psalm Response: A pure heart create for me, O God

Acceptance of the Cross

Today, we see the Lord proclaiming his crucifixion for the last time before the Last Supper begins. He explains, plainly that He came for this very hour. From today, we focus specifically on the role of the cross. At this stage, acceptance of the cross is not only an invitation to follow Jesus Christ, but it becomes a clear condition for discipleship, and the ultimate proof of whether we lead a spiritual life; If we do not accept the cross, we waste our time, and our life. There are two key elements of accepting the cross.

The first key element is praise and our thanksgiving for what He has done for us, for His Blessed Passion, for His Blessed Death, for the fact that He has taken onto Himself all our weaknesses, mistakes, errors, offences and transgressions and with them conquered the power of the Evil one. In this way, we are invited to praise the Lord and to bless Him: in His Sacrifice, with Him and in Him we are united with the Father.

The second key element is equally important and must never be forgotten: We likewise need

to be crucified with full acceptance from our side. If we do not, we will come to a dead end. If we cling to our life, we lose it. The only way to victory is to glorify God through a heart, which embraces crosses. Without losing your life for eternal life, there is no Christianity. We are to place ourselves "below", onto the ground, in order to be fruitful. Humbling yourself is the way of becoming fruitful. In the spiritual battle, there is no hope in fighting directly the opponents on their own terms. On the contrary, in all the history of persecutions we learn fruitfulness of the martyrdom of Christians.

To help us to go "below", to fall onto the ground and to die for ourselves day by day, let us contemplate the moment of our death. Especially, at that time we will think instantly how to survive, how to fix our wounds, how to breathe, how to have hearts perfectly repaired. However, at that time what God wants from us is that we commit ourselves into His hands, to fall and die to be united with Christ. Indeed, the moment of our death is a perfect example of an invitation to accept the cross

Fr Stan

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/>

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions etc
Sun 17th March 2024 5th Sunday in Lent	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 5.00pm	Rosary Achilles Fernando RIP Rosary For Parishioners Emma Moriogi
Mon 18th Mar	5.15pm 6.30pm	Adoration & Confession followed by Rosary at 6.00pm Jesus Antonio Carreon conversion and pure heart
Tues 19th Mar St Joseph	8.00am 4.15pm	Valentina, Gabriel Carreon intention Rosary
Wed 20th Mar	6.30am 4.15pm	Charles, Sarah & Sven - healing from cancer Rosary
Thur 21st Mar	No Mass	
Fri 22nd Mar	11.00am - 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Adoration. Stations of the Cross Leo thanksgiving
Sat 23rd Mar	10.00am - 12 noon	Penitential service in our church
Sun 24th March 2024 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord 	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 5.00pm	Rosary Elizabeth & Brian Caton RIP Foundation Mass Rosary For Parishioners Anthony Owens RIP

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

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

The Parish Bereavement Support Group can be contacted via the Parish Office.

Anniversaries: Please keep in your prayers

17th Mar: Percy Chamberlain (1976); Edward Brookes (1992); Eileen Cafferty (2012);
18th Mar: George (Jurko) Janusz (2012); 19th Mar: Owen Kilbane (1999);
20th Mar: Eileen Watson (2011); John Miller (2011); Lucy Collaco (2020)
21st Mar: Kathleen (Kay) Krauze (2022);
22nd Mar: Mary Molony (1981); & Richard Martin (2003); 23rd Mar: John Austen Fardy (2006);
24th Mar: Joyce Hart (1990); Jorge Hortal (1999); Ray Dils (2002);

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**

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.

Parish News

Tuesday 19th March: St Joseph solemnity.
Holy Mass at 8.00am & 6.30pm.

Lent Penitential Service in our Pastoral Area

Date	Time	Venue
Sat 23rd Mar	5.00pm - 6.00pm & at 7.00pm	St James
Tues 19th Mar	6.45pm - 8.15pm	St John Bosco
Thu 21st Mar	6.45pm	Christ the King
Sat 23rd Mar	10.00am - 12.00 noon	Our Lady of Peace
Sat 23rd Mar	9.45am	English Martyrs

Saturday 23rd March 10.00am-12 noon: Lent Penitential service at our Church .

Holy Week

Sunday 24th March Palm (Passion) Sunday –
8.30am, 11.00am & 5.00pm Mass.
Monday 25th March: (No Mass at church)
Tuesday 26th March Chrism Mass at Portsmouth
Cathedral (No Mass at church)
Wednesday 27th March (No Mass at church)

Thursday 28th March: Maundy Thursday
10.00am: Office of Readings: Tenebraerum
6.30pm: Solemn Mass of the Lord's supper
followed by Adoration until midnight.

Friday 29th March: Good Friday:

(Day of fasting & abstinence)

9.40am: Start of Walk of Witness from our church. This is organised by the local Churches and the idea is to visit 5 churches (Olop, Earley St Peters, Anderson Baptist Church, Park URC & Wycliffe Baptist church) stop reflect, pray, sing and then move on carrying a large cross. This will start at our church at 9.40am

10.00am: Office of Readings: Tenebraerum
11.00am: Children's Good Friday service
3.00pm: Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion
(Divine Mercy Novena starts on Good Friday)

Saturday 30th March: Easter Saturday
10.00am Office of Readings: Tenebraerum.
(After Tenebraerum, blessing of food)
8.00pm Easter Vigil

Sunday 31st March: Easter Sunday.:

Holy Mass at 9.00am, 11.00am Holy Mass. (No 5.00pm Mass)
No Weekday Mass from Monday 1st April to Friday 5th April. Friday Adoration will start on Friday 12th April.

Saturday 6th April: 1st Saturday of every month at 10am: (Dedication to Our Lady) Adoration, Rosary, Reconciliation followed by Holy Mass.

Sunday 7th April – Divine Mercy Sunday
2.30pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour

RCIA candidates: Please keep in your prayers our 2 RCIA candidates: Nathanael Timothy Hodge who will be received into the church at the Easter Vigil Mass and Chole Lorraine Henriques Barbosa who will receive her sacrament of Confirmation on Easter Sunday.

First Holy Communion 2023-24. Sessions on Saturday & 23rd March, 6th & 7th April at 10.00am in Bl Dominic Barberi Room. Reconciliation on Saturday 13th April & First Holy Communion on Sunday 14th April at 11.00am.

Confirmation 2023-24. Sessions on Sunday 17th March, 14th & 28th April at 10.00am in Carl Barton Room. Confirmation at Portsmouth Cathedral on Sunday 5th May at 3.00pm.

Fundraising for Closer to Christ campaign : Easter Egg Count: Guess how many eggs in the jar!!! £1.00per guess. Winner wins a Lindt Gold Bunny.

Pastoral News

Good Counsel Network: On Saturday 23rd March, the Vigil of Palm Sunday, 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. Please visit. www.GoodCounselNetwork.com for more information.