

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
Zuzanna Bochenek
hall@olo.org.uk

Hall Bookings

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



Closer to Christ Campaign. We have made a commitment as a parish for the Closer to Christ campaign to raise £60,300 by paying £12,060 each year to the diocese from the parish account. The contactless machine has the option for you to pay towards the fund under "Closer to Christ campaign". Also, we are organising fund raising activities throughout the year to raise the funds.

Offertory Donations: To make your regular offertory donation via standing order, please contact the parish office for details.

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.

Pastoral News

Year 2025: 'Pilgrims of Jubilee of Hope: On Christmas Eve, Pope Francis opened the Holy Door of Saint Peter's Basilica and officially inaugurated the 2025 Jubilee of Hope, a historic event taking place every 25 years. The Jubilee offers a special moment for plenary indulgence, conversion, and grace to rekindle hope in the

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

Emergency numbers for a Priest –

Please call your own priest first

0118 931 4469
0118 969 3423
0118 957 4171
0118 957 2149
0118 942 8632
0118 966 5284
0118 947 1787

daily journey of life and the proclamation of the Gospel. The Holy Father invited us to pray, to prepare ourselves throughout this year, so that this Jubilee may "strengthen us in our faith, helping us to recognise the Risen Christ in the midst of our lives, transforming us into pilgrims of Christian hope."

Vacancy: Please visit the jobs page on the Diocesan website, which lists all the vacancies. For full details and how to apply, please contact recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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.

Resources

Day by Day - January edition is in the Advent Room £1.00/book: Please leave money in the box next to the books in the Advent room.

The Epiphany

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5th January 2025

The Baptism of the Lord

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12th January 2025

Psalm Response:

5th January :All nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

12th January: The Lord will bless his people with peace.

A short story of "striking appearance" (meditation)

Today we are celebrating the Epiphany of the Lord. The word "epiphany" (ἐπιφάνεια), means "manifestation", "striking appearance". Indeed, it is amazing to host the Divine Person who became one of us.

Indeed, it is amazing to witness the unveiled reality of God who became visible and tangible. Indeed, it is striking when our eyes meet Baby Jesus' eyes and allow the Divine Baby to penetrate our souls.

The gentle gaze of Baby Jesus manifests Heaven in its fullness.

The simplicity, gentleness and humility of the Divine Baby's eyes are the gates through which God's touch reaches our souls.

It is the only gaze in which we find rest and peace.

It is the gaze of God's fatherhood.

We can bathe ourselves in the eyes of Jesus.

God is lovingly contemplating us – this is the Epiphany of the Lord.

In the gaze of Jesus we can grow.

Jesus' gaze invites us to give Him our answer.

Strangely enough, He seems to be more fragile and smaller than we are.

When you and I look at Him, He never stops facing us.

If you say YES, He changes you and dwells in you even if you forget His presence.

Sometimes I ask Him, why He never stops questioning and obliging me; why I am always restless without Him and why often with Him....

This is a very interesting sign of God and I living together.

Apparently, He desires to become an ultimate source, in your and my soul, from which all meaning appears.

The Presence of Jesus Christ in the Bethlehem of the Altar stops me, opposes me; never gives up in struggling with me.

Here, He is closer to me than He was to Moses at the Burning Bush (*Exodus 3:1-22*) and at Mount Sinai (*Exodus 3:1-22*).

Here, He is closer to me than He was to Elijah when He was whispering (*1 Kings 19:11-13*).

Here, He speaks to me even in silence and invites me to a relationship ... slowly, however fully.

Fr Stan

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions etc
Sun 5th January 2024 Epiphany of the Lord	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 5.00pm	Rosary For Parishioners Rosary Everlyne Fernandes thanksgiving Waclaw & Regina RIP
Mon 6th Jan	6.00pm 6.30pm	Rosary Natividad Nabus RIP
Tue 7th Jan- 9th Jan	No Mass	
Fri 10th Jan	6.00pm 6.30pm	Rosary Naveli thanksgiving
Sat 11th Jan:	No Mass	
Sun 12th January 2024 The Baptism of the Lord	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 2.30pm 5.00pm	Rosary Amrans family thanksgiving Rosary Waclaw & Regina RIP <i>Divine Mercy Holy Hour</i> For Parishioners
Mon 13th Jan - Sat 18th Jan	No Mass	
Sun 19th January 2024 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 5.00pm	Rosary Anna & family God's blessings Rosary For Parishioners Kathleen Maria Hogben RIP Foundation Mass

Anniversaries: Please keep in your prayers

5th Jan: Therese Polanski (2008); Elizabeth York (2015); 7th Jan: Wally Kulan (2001); Annie Aldridge (2011);
8th Jan: Anne Wellman (1980); Lesly Borg (2002); Margot Wignall (2017)
9th Jan: Tim Chapman (1995); Fran Oliver (2012); 10th Jan: Emma Cattaneo (1984); Teresa Smith (2006);
11th Jan: James Ahern (baby, 1998); and Roger Joseph (2007).
12th Jan: Vincent McLoughlin (1987); Martin Brannelly (2007);
13th Jan: Emma Fiorentini (2017); Paola Moretti (2021)
14th Jan: Terence De Sa (1999); Eileen Herbert (2008); Kathleen McGuire (2008);
15th Jan: John Hickson (1983); Lesley Hughes (2004);
16th Jan: Kathleen Hogben (2010); Charles Hay (2017)
17th Jan: Josephine Gainey (1997); Anna Maria Goodchild (2015)

We keep in our prayers our parishioners who are sick and housebound. We pray for repose of the soul of William Cham who passed away recently. We pray for Jeyarani Sivaganeshan, who is in hospital and for Cedric Dias as he recovers at home. 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**

Thank you

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who contributed to our Christmas celebration and to those who serve our community all year. Your faith and dedication to the Lord's work and to our Parish is truly appreciated. This year we added a new tradition of Carol signing in our neighbourhood which was well received. Thank you to each one of you for all that you do! Father Stan.

Christmas Collections

Thank you to all who gave so generously during the Christmas collections, supporting me both in my ministry and materially. You can be confident this gift will be put to good use, furthering God's work. Thank you once again for your generous gifts. Regards, Fr Stan

Diocesan Medal for Significant Contribution

We are really pleased to confirm that during the Christmas period 4 of our Parishioners - Brigid Turner, Nancy Johnson, Clare Barfield and Kate Gorman were awarded the Bishop's medal for significant contribution to our Christian community. Congratulation to all of them, we are blessed to have them in our Parish.

Christmas Giving Tree for New Beginnings:

Thank you to everyone for your very generous gifts for our chosen charity, New Beginnings. They were most grateful to receive such an abundance. Your kind gifts have a really positive impact on their ability to help those in need in our locality. Thank you.

Parish Christmas Cards:

Thank you to everyone who took our cards and dropped them to their neighbours. We really appreciate your support in promoting our Parish's Christmas service.

Parish News

Sunday 5th January: Epiphany of the Lord: In all 3 masses Father Stan will hand out incense, chalk and cards to everyone for the blessing of their homes.

Please note that 6th January 2025 is not a Holy Day of Obligation, as the Epiphany is transferred to the day before.

Fundraising meeting: The Committee will be meeting on 8th January at 7.30pm

Sunday 12th January, 2.30pm - Divine Mercy Holy Hour

Weekday Mass: As Father Stan will be on a retreat from Monday 12th Jan- Friday 17th Jan. There will be no weekday Mass .

Friday Adoration: Adoration will start again after the Christmas break on Friday 24th January 2025.

Christmas Crib Collection: . In the Diocese, we alternate our annual Christmas Crib offerings between Friends of the Holy Land and the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. This year, the Christmas Crib offerings will go to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. The Order of the Holy Sepulchre is rooted in tradition and the past, but it strives every day to make a future possible for those living in the very birthplace of the Catholic faith.

Money Counters We need volunteers to join our Money Counters' Rota. The commitment is approximately for 30 minutes after 5.00pm Sunday Mass. Training will be provided. If you feel you are able to help in this way, please inform Rachel in the Parish office.

Sunday 19th January: White Flower Appeal

The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC), In common with the Catholic Church SPUC defends and upholds the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. The Society's work covers a wide spectrum of pro-life, pro-family issues. It seeks to protect unborn children from abortion and defends the disabled, elderly and incapacitated from euthanasia and assisted suicide. SPUC also provides trained speakers for schools and offers pro-life support for teachers, parents and medical professionals. Please give generously to this worthy cause.