

**Retrouvaille** is a Catholic ministry for marriages in difficulty; helping couples whose relationships 'need a little help' to those with more serious challenges who are separated or considering divorce. In 2024, Retrouvaille England and Wales helped over 70 couples bring hope and healing back into their marriage. Coordinators, Sharon and James Westby from Windsor invite interested parties to join their next online programme beginning on Thursday 27th February. For confidential information about Retrouvaille, or to register for the next programme commencing via Zoom from Thursday 27th February to Sunday 2nd March 2025, call or text 0788 7296983 or email [info@retrouvaille.org.uk](mailto:info@retrouvaille.org.uk). You can visit the Retrouvaille website here

**The Liturgy Project** is a project of The Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth which is available to all. It exists to help people to encounter Christ through the liturgy of the Holy Mass. We hope that it can serve you as a liturgical resource and respond to the needs of those serving in the local church and to empower them to fully participate in the liturgy where they are. [www.theliturgyproject.com](http://www.theliturgyproject.com).

**Diocesan Free Wills service:** A reminder that the Diocese has partnered with market-leading solicitors and will-writing providers, Octopus Legacy to offer anyone over 18 basic simple or mirror Will for free. Whether you would like to write your Will in-person, online or over the

'phone, you will be expertly supported throughout a quick and straightforward process. You are under no obligation to leave your Parish a gift in their Wills, but a gift of this kind is an opportunity to make a lasting gift to the Church, and we hope many will choose to do so. Tel No: 0800 773 4014

### 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

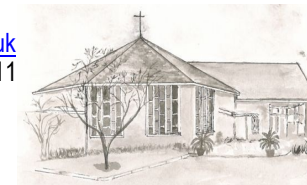
**Day by Day - February edition is in the Advent Room £1.00/book:** Please leave money in the box next to the books in the Advent room.

**The Catholic Post newsletter:** Free copy available in the Advent Room.

# Our Lady of Peace & Bl Dominic Barberi

338 Wokingham Road Earley Reading RG6 7DA Website [www.olo.org.uk](http://www.olo.org.uk)  
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No 1199568

**Parish Priest** The Rev Fr Stan Gibziński  
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**Parish Secretary** Rachel Alexander 0118 966 3711  
[office@olo.org.uk](mailto:office@olo.org.uk)  
**Safeguarding Officer** Harish Chander  
[safeguarding@olo.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@olo.org.uk)  
**Hall Bookings** Zuzanna Bochenek  
[hall@olo.org.uk](mailto:hall@olo.org.uk)



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

**The Presentation of the Lord Year C Page 975 2nd February 2025**

**Psalm Response:**  
**Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.**

## Christ is the Light brought to us by Mary

When heaven was seen as fuzzy and unreal,  
when God seemed to remain silent or absent,  
Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the Temple,  
And offered Him to the Father with generosity and gratitude.

When the Phanael's daughter suffering and fasting was under question,  
Christ was her Joy and Light as she saw the redemption.  
When his identity was getting questioned and homeland unknown,  
Simeon took Him in his arms and praised God.

In the shadows of the present age,  
Christ is the Light we see.  
In the blindness of ignorance and confusion,  
Christ is the Light by which we see.  
In the darkness of sorrow and rejection,  
Christ is the Light with Whom we see.  
In the black holes of the lost meaning of life  
Christ is the Light through Whom we see.

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/>

### 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

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.

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions etc
<b>Sun 2nd February 2025</b> The Presentation of the Lord	8.00am	Rosary
	8.30am	Blessing and grace for Julian (4th birthday)
	10.30am	Rosary
	11.00 am	For Parishioners
	5.00pm	Wilson family intention
<b>Mon 3rd Feb</b> St Blaise	6.00pm 6.30pm	Rosary Daria conversion & pure heart
<b>Tue 4th Feb</b>	8.00am	Wieslaw- conversion & pure heart
<b>Wed 5th Feb</b> St Agatha	8.00am	Holy Souls
	4.15pm	Rosary
<b>Thurs 6th Feb</b> St Paul Miki & Companions	No Mass	
<b>Fri 7th Feb</b>	11.00am - 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Adoration Rosary Dawid conversion & pure heart
<b>Sat 8th Feb</b>	No Mass	
<b>Sun 9th February 2025</b> 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.00am	Rosary
	8.30am	Magdalena & Jacob 20th wedding anniversary
	10.30am	Rosary
	11.00 am	Chief & T Willie-Harry RIP
	2.30pm 5.00pm	Divine Mercy holy hour For Parishioners

*In February, the Catholic Church celebrates the entire Holy Family—Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. In sending His Son to earth as a Baby, born into a family, God elevated the family beyond a mere natural institution. Both as children and as parents, we can take comfort in the fact that we have the perfect model of the family before us in the Holy Family.*

#### **Anniversaries: Please keep in your prayers**

2nd Jan: Elizabeth Ballard (1986); Elena Atkinson (2015)  
 3rd Jan: Richard Sangster (2023)  
 4th Jan: Maria Bryant (1977); Richard Johnston (2009);  
 5th Jan: Monica Carroll (1997); Renza Manning (2014);  
 7th Jan: Anna Pelickan (1978)  
 8th Jan: Roselyn Fernando (1990); and Agnes Teresa Walsh (2007); Elizabeth (Liz) Ann Bailey (2018)

We keep in our prayers our parishioners who are sick and housebound. We pray for Ashish Thankachan, a young parishioner who is receiving palliative care in hospice. We keep the whole family in our prayers. 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**

#### **Parish News**

**Sunday 2nd February, Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas):** All Masses will begin with the Blessing and Procession of Candles. Weather permitting, these ceremonies will start at the grotto outside the church (8:30am Mass) or the parish hall (11am Mass). The 5pm Mass will start in the Advent Room. If you have any candles at home, please bring them along to be blessed.

**Fortnightly meeting of Men's Formation group—**We invite all men who have any questions about their faith or who are simply interested in developing their spiritual growth. Next meeting on 6th February, 19:00 - 20:30 in DB Room .

**Sunday 9th February, 2.30pm - Divine Mercy Holy Hour**

**RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Meeting:** 21st February after 6.30pm Mass.

**Saturday 1st March 2025:** Please note that there will be a change in both venue and timing to the first Saturday devotion to Our Lady on 1st March. This will mark the start of what Fr Stan hopes will be the first of several pilgrimages during the Jubilee Year. On that day, no activities will be organised in the parish. Instead, Fr Stan warmly invites our regular devotees and others to join him in attending A Day with Mary at Westminster Cathedral. See poster in Advent room for more details.

**2nd Collection for the Cathedral** on Sunday 26th January raised £65.80. Thank you for your kind donations.

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

**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.

**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.

#### **Volunteers Needed:**

**Friday Adoration:** We would like to have more volunteers for our Friday day-time Adoration. If you can offer 1 hour or a half hour slot anytime between 11.00am - 6.00pm, then please contact Fr Stan or the Parish office.

**Missio co-ordinator:** . If you are interested in this role, please speak to Fr Stan or email the Parish office. Training will be provided.

**Money counters:** 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.

#### **Pastoral News**

**Bishop's Office: Valentines Day Breakfast for Engaged Couples - CANCELLED .** Unfortunately, this event for engaged couples has been cancelled. Those who have already positively responded via RSVP should have already been made aware.

**CAFOD meeting on Saturday 22nd February from 10:30am to 1pm at Christ the King Church Hall Reading RG2 8NR.** Please join us to find out how your donations to CAFOD are making a difference to communities in Kenya. Everyone is welcome and please book your place so that we have an idea of numbers by emailing Jo on jlewry@cafod.org.uk .

**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