

**Oxford Pro-Life Coffee Social. Saturday 24th January 2.00 pm** | Colombia Coffee Roasters, Summertown (267 Banbury Road, OX2 7HT). Come along to relax with like-minded people and keep connected with the pro-life community in Oxford. New comers are especially welcome!

**LAST CALL for online marriage programme.** Does your marriage need some TLC? Need help with communication and trust? Retrouvaille helps marriages. It can bring hope and healing to relationships. Next date: 12th February 2026. [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) Tel: 07887 296983

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE: Gift card fraud** is an increasingly common way of tricking victims into purchasing gift cards and sharing their details, leading to financial loss. Please be aware that there have been scam messages circulating which appear to come from priests or diocesan staff, asking people to buy gift cards or provide financial help urgently. The Diocese and its clergy will never ask for money, gift cards, vouchers, or personal details by email, text message, or social media. If you receive a message of this kind, do not respond and do not send any money. Please report it to your Parish Office.

**Vocation:** "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." John's recognition of Jesus calls us to keep our focus on Christ and His mission. Christ's mercy is made present through in the sacraments. Is God calling you to this ministry? Talk to your priest or contact Cn.

**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

John at [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or call 0132 931 8869.

**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 £1.20 / book:** Please leave money in the box next to the books in the Advent room.

**Missio 2026 Calander:** Please take your copy of the Mission Calander from the Advent room.

**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.

# Our Lady of Peace & Bl Dominic Barberi

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

**Parish Priest**

The Rev Fr Stan Gibziński  
[fatherstan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:fatherstan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Parish Secretary**

Rachel Alexander  
0118 966 3711

**Safeguarding Officer**

[office@lop.org.uk](mailto:office@lop.org.uk)  
Harish Chander  
[safeguarding@lop.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@lop.org.uk)

**Hall Bookings**

Zuzanna Bochenek  
[hall@lop.org.uk](mailto:hall@lop.org.uk)



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

**2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Year A (Sunday Missal page 695)**

**18th January 2026**

**Psalm Response: Behold I have come, Lord, to do your will.**

## On pure love of God

Have you ever been asked: "Do you love God?" Whatever we think, let us say that we do love God to some extent. Do not be afraid to say it. However, our love is not marked by the same intensity and willingness, the same recognition as to where God is and how to act to make Him happy. Our love for God is not always pure. It is rather marked by our goals, agendas, visions and tendency to push our will. Indeed, even in the loving relationship with our neighbour, it is common that we do not listen, we want to force our will. Yet, God's calling is expressed in the sanctuary of our conscience in a very sublime way. It is not a pushing voice as God highly respects the freedom of our hearts.

St John the Baptist loved God with a pure heart. He did not have any other goals and agendas in his life except to point out where the Lord was. He was not afraid of losing his disciples. He was neither afraid of stepping down from his role as prophet and authority, nor was he afraid of being forgotten, humiliated or killed. On the contrary, his joy was great when people, particularly his disciples, recognised Christ, when they became attached to Christ and followed Him.

Due to St John the Baptist purity of heart and purity of intentions, his passion towards his mission as prophet was powerful. It led St Andrew to follow Jesus Christ, and indirectly it led St Peter to do the same. It did not matter that Peter knew nothing about it. The matter was, that John became united in his love with Christ.

Fr Stan

**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 18th January 2026</b> <b>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 5.00pm	Rosary Kathleen Marie Hogben RIP Foundation Mass Rosary For Parishioners Merlin Pereira thanksgiving
<b>Mon 19th Jan</b> <b>St Wulstan</b>	6.00pm 6.30pm	Rosary Wieslaw thanksgiving for the graces
<b>Tue 20th Jan:</b> <b>St Fabian</b>	8.00am	George Alexander thanksgiving
<b>Wed 21st Jan</b> <b>St Agnes</b>	†11.00am  4.15pm	Requiem Mass late Mr Patrick Herbert†  Rosary
<b>Thurs 22nd Jan</b>	No Mass	
<b>Fri 23rd Jan</b> <b>St Francis de Sales</b>	11.00am - 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Adoration Rosary Rachel & Jofi thanksgiving
<b>Sat 24th Jan</b>	No Mass	
<b>Sun 25th January 2026</b> <b>Third Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 5.00pm	Rosary Vera Gorman RIP Rosary Holy Souls For Parishioners

### Census 2026

Please go to the Parish website [www.olop.org.uk](http://www.olop.org.uk), click on the **Parish Database** button & fill in your details which are for parish use only and confidential. *We will not be importing old data, as in order to comply with GDPR, we have to make sure we only keep current information in our Database.*

### Anniversaries: Please keep in your prayers

21st January: Maud Thomas (1981); Caroline Abram (1998);  
22nd January: Kathleen Mary Mongan (2022);  
23rd January: Michael Lynch (1986);  
24th January: Charles Farr (1996); David Brown (1997); Reg Oakman (2006); John Cooke (2022);  
25th January: José Matias (2014); Robert Pennington (2022) Declan Duffy (2024)

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.**

### 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. 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

### Advent 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 News

**Polite request regarding Car Park:** Please park your cars in the designated space. If the Car park is full, then please park in Aldbourne Avenue. **Please do not park in the middle of the car park.** This section should be clear at all times to allow access to emergency vehicles.

### 2nd Collection on Sunday 18th 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. Hosting a White Flower Appeal is one of the most effective ways for our parish to contribute to this mission. The awareness raised, prayers offered and funds donated will also

support SPUC work in Parliament, educational outreach, support of women in crisis pregnancies and much more. Please give generously to this worthy cause.

### 2nd Collection for the Cathedral on Sunday 25th January 2026.

**Monday 2nd February: Feast of the Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas).** Blessing of Candles, Procession and Holy Mass at 6.30pm.

**Saturday 7th February :** 1st Saturday of every month at 9.30am: (Dedication to Our Lady) Adoration, Rosary, Reconciliation followed by Holy Mass at 11.00am.

**Sunday 15th February - 2nd Sunday of the Month –** Divine Mercy prayers from 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm.

### Last Year's Palm Crosses:

From next Sunday 25th Jan, we will place a basket in the Advent Room for last year's Palm Crosses. This will be burnt on Tuesday 17th February for Ash Wednesday.

### Wednesday 18th February (Ash Wednesday)

10.00am & 6.30pm Mass. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday

### Pastoral News

**Headteacher Vacancy: Christ the King Catholic primary school Reading,** are seeking to appoint a headteacher for September 2026. The details can be found at <https://www.christthekingreading.co.uk/staff-vacancies/>

**Vacancy at CommuniCare:** who are a Christian led Advice charity in Reading. We support those in need in Reading and beyond. We currently have vacancies for volunteer Advisers (full training will be given). If you would like more details, please do contact CommuniCare for an informal chat. Either call 0118 9263941 or email [office@communicare.org.uk](mailto:office@communicare.org.uk). Full role descriptions can be found on the CommuniCare website: <https://www.communicare.org.uk/volunteering/>