

**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:** Is God calling you to this ministry? Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John at [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or call 0132 931 8869.

**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](mailto: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./

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

# Our Lady of Peace & Bl Dominic Barberi

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

#### Parish Priest

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

#### Parish Secretary

Rachel Alexander  
0118 966 3711  
[office@olop.org.uk](mailto:office@olop.org.uk)

#### Safeguarding Officer

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

#### Hall Bookings

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



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

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A (Sunday Missal page 698)

25th January 2026

**Psalm Response: The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

### Calling to conversion as an expression of caring love of God

The tender love of God is expressed as our immersion in Christ's Passion and Resurrection, in calling us to conversion and in putting God's demands into our hearts, regardless of our brokenness and lack of readiness. The Gospel calls us to the fullness of life, even when lost and immersed in corrupted behaviour. God's calling to conversion is addressed to us to regain courage and try. God calls us, when we are often paralysed, depressed and bound by sins, memory, addictions, etc: "Get up, take your mat, and go home." (Mathew 9:6)

God's calling to conversion is, then, about the faith and hope God has in us, far deeper than our expectation, belief and imagination. God believes in us! To all of us St John, the apostle who experienced that truth, shouts out with joy: "The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ. We write this to make our joy complete." (1 John 1:2-4).

At this point, it is good to mention two compatible ways of being called to conversion: the existence of our conscience, and the existence of our priests. Both - conscience and priests - assist us in our journey to the homeland. They are an expression of God's faith in us, His care and love. Both are supported by the Teaching of the Church, the Holy Scripture and Sacraments, Our Lady, Saints and friends from Purgatory, in leading us to heaven.

Conscience is a hidden sanctuary where God dwells and speaks to us. Conscience needs formation, though. God's Ten Commandments and directions written in the Teaching of the Church (including the Scriptures) as well as the Mass and other Sacraments that are given to us to help our conscience to act correctly, to desire heaven and all God's matters, to bring joy of life, to take care of others, to prevent us from the moment written in the Apocalypse that Jesus might spit us out of his mouth. (Apocalypse 3:15-16)

The vocation of a priest is not limited to being only a preacher, a good teacher, and a good and real leader. Christ comes to us in the priests' ministry. It involves bringing Christ's Sacrifice and makes us witnesses and partakers of His Passion, Death and Resurrection. In the Sacrament of Penance, for instance, the role of a priest is to make us witnesses of Christ's life and teaching in practice, where the absolution of sins takes place. Priests as teachers, preachers, confessors of sins and spiritual directors need to be like surgeons working in an eye clinic. They need to be very patient, knowledgeable, precise and delicate. Sometimes, they need to bless us, sometimes they need to say: "repent!" In this way, they are great gifts from heaven to assist our ongoing conversion.

Fr Stan

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions etc
Sun 25th January 2026 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 5.00pm	Rosary Vera Gorman RIP Rosary Holy Souls For Parishioners
Mon 26th January St Timothy & St Titus	6.00pm 6.30pm Distribution for Holy Communion	Rosary No Mass
Tue 27th Jan: St Angela Merici	No Mass	
Wed 28th Jan St Thomas Aquinas	No Mass 4.15pm	Rosary
Thurs 29th Jan	No Mass	
Fri 30th Jan	11.00am - 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Adoration Rosary Holy Souls
Sat 31st Jan	No Mass	
Sun 1st February 2026 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 5.00pm	Rosary Peter De Mello thanksgiving Rosary Nikita Steventon thanksgiving 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

25th January: José Matias (2014); Robert Pennington (2022) Declan Duffy (2024)  
26th January: Rupert Christopher(2006); 27th January: Paul McMenamin (2001);  
29th January: Florence Reed (2020); 30th January: Joseph Haughton (1973); Bryan Willson (2020)

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.**

**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.

### Update on Weekday Mass Schedule (Next Two Weeks):

Please keep Father Stan in your prayers as he recovers from surgery he had last week. He has been advised to take three weeks of rest. During this period, the weekday schedule will be as follows:

**Monday, 26 January:** Rosary and distribution of Holy Communion

**Tuesday, 27 January – Thursday, 29 January:** No Mass

**Friday, 30 January:** Normal schedule.

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

**Tuesday, 3 February – Thursday, 5 February:** No Mass

**Friday, 6 February:** Normal schedule.

Thank you for your understanding and continued prayers during this time. .

### Parish News

#### 2nd Collection for the Cathedral on Sunday

**25th January 2026. A message from Canon James McAuley:** Our cathedral is situated in the most deprived part of the Diocese of Portsmouth. The parish collection covers just over half of the ordinary running costs of £5,000 per week. I fully appreciate the financial pressures we are all experiencing, but I would appeal to you to support the Second Collection for the Cathedral on 25 January. Never has this annual collection by parishes for the Mother Church of the Diocese been more critical or needed. Your support is vitally important to us. Thank you.

Please donate via the collection basket on your way out or use our card machine in the Advent Room.

**2nd Collection on Sunday 18th January: White Flower Appeal** raised £125.52. Thank you for your generosity.

**Tuesday 27th January: Parish office will be closed due to training day.**

**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:** Basket is in 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

**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.

### 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/>

**KS1 Class Teacher at St Dominic Savio Catholic Primary School. Full time Maternity Cover:** Details can be found on their website [www.stdominicsavio.co.uk/join-our-team](http://www.stdominicsavio.co.uk/join-our-team)

**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/>

**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