

Catholic Young Writer and Artist Awards

2026: Entries for the Catholic Young Writer Award and Catholic Young Artist Award are now open for 2026. The Catholic Young Writer Award is open to all young Catholics (and pupils at Catholic schools) in England and Wales in secondary years 8-11 inclusive. There is a cash prize for the best essay, plus a number of runner-up book prizes.

The Catholic Young Artist Award is open to primary school aged children. A cash prize is available for the winner and runners up will be recognised.

For more information, to view entry requirements and download registration forms, please visit the below links.

[Catholic Young Writer Award 2026 - The Catholic Union of Great Britain](#)
[Young Catholic Artist Award 2026 - The Catholic Union of Great Britain](#)

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./

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

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 / Lent edition is in the Advent Room £1.20 / book: Due to Lent beginning on Wednesday 18th February, the January edition of Day by Day is till Tuesday 17th February. The Lent edition of My Day by Day will be from Wednesday 18th February to Tuesday 31st March. 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.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

office@olo.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer

Harish Chander

safeguarding@olo.org.uk

Hall Bookings

Zuzanna Bochenek

hall@olo.org.uk

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



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A (Sunday Missal page 706)

8th February 2026

Psalm Response:

A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

Light to enlighten the nations

Last Monday, in the Presentation of the Lord, we looked at the Light to enlighten the nations. The world of today, desperately, needs light - the light of closeness and deep relationship. This is the light of love. The light of sense and meaning of life is the light of hope; The light of a reality which surpasses our daily cares and joys is the light of faith. Can this light be found by the people of today? Where?

Our Catholic answer is clear: in the Word of God, in the Gospel. But will today's people find it? Will they search for it?

Will those who are in need of the light of real life read the Gospel? I am afraid they may not. Will they listen to the Gospel if you advised them to? Will they stop if they hear a preacher in the street? Will they open if there is knock at their door? Who knows? Many would not !

Our Lord has another idea, a more efficient, more powerful one: you are the light of the world. Hard to believe! Jesus called Himself the light of the world. This is understandable. But for me, for us? Yes. This is what He is telling us today. Those who will never be willing to come to church, to pray, to read or listen to the Gospel are not deprived of their chance to see the light. They are supposed to meet Christians, to observe and experience the reality of new life present in us, to believe that there is hope, and that love is possible in this world. Then, they will believe that the Father in heaven is more real, than they presumed.

Be careful! Jesus is not saying You must be the light or Be the light! He is saying: you ARE one. People observe you and somewhere deep in their minds, a thought may (should) arise: Something special is at work in this person ! Where do they get it from...? Something special must be in the Church.

The secret power of ours is, clearly, shown to us, today in the salt of crucified Christ. We are privileged to receive this Salt - the crucified and risen Lord - in the sacrament of His Body and Blood.

Fr Stan

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions etc
Sun 8th February 2026 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 2.30pm 5.00pm	Rosary Rodney Pell RIP Rosary William Cham RIP Divine Mercy For Parishioners
Mon 9th Feb	†11.00am 6.00pm 6.30pm	Funeral service for late Dorothy Timson † Rosary Daria conversion & pure heart
Tue 10th Feb St Scholastica	8.00am	Anna & Family
Wed 11th Feb Our Lady of Lourdes	†11.00am 4.15pm	Requiem Mass for late Anthony Hall† Rosary
Thurs 12th Feb	No Mass	
Fri 13th Feb	11.00am - 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Adoration Rosary Dawid conversion & pure heart
Sat 14th Feb St Cyril & St Methodius	No Mass	
Sun 15th February 2026 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 5.00pm	Rosary Sebastian grace of conversion Rosary Declan & Eileen Ford & family For Parishioners

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.

Anniversaries: Please keep in your prayers

8th Feb: Roselyn Fernando (1990); Agnes Teresa Walsh (2007); Elizabeth (Liz) Ann Bailey (2018)
9th Feb: Jean Snarey (2025)
10th Feb: Kathleen Patience (1977); Catherine Winston (2004);
12th Feb: Mary Wallace (1987); 13th Feb: Ann Mackie (1992); 15th Feb: Maria Giovanni (1987).

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.**

Parish News

Sunday 8th February - 2nd Sunday of the Month – Divine Mercy prayers from 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)
The Rite of Election with Bishop Philip is on Saturday 21st February in Portsmouth Cathedral. All candidates need to attend the Rite of election. Please speak to Fr Stan to complete the paperwork urgently.

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 16th February is for Racial Justice. The theme for Racial Justice Sunday for this year is: "Whoever loves God must also love his brother (1 John 4:21): Racial Justice Sunday 2026 is devoted to the promotion of racial justice in our Catholic parishes across England and Wales and society and an encouragement to be conscious of the need for justice in all its forms. Please donate via the collection basket on your way out or use our card machine in the Advent Room.

Lent preparation

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.

Stations of the Cross: We will have Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent at 6.00pm followed by Holy Mass. This is a beautiful practice which brings us into unity with the crucified Lord.

From Wednesday 25th February during Lent - Holy Mass at 6.30am. Come and celebrate Mass by candlelight before dawn every Wednesday during Lent at 6.30am.

Pastoral News

National Marriage Week this year is Saturday 7th - Saturday 14th February, 2026. A Christian marriage is rooted in faith; that means faith in God, as the giver of life and the one who promises eternal life to those who believe in him. The Catholic Bishops Conference of England and Wales has launched a series of resources for National Marriage Week which is available on their website.

40 Hours Devotion will take place in St John Henry Newman's chapel at Littlemore Oxford from Friday 13th February to Sunday 15th February 2026. The blessed sacrament will be exposed from Friday 9.30am until 9.00pm and on Saturday and Sunday from 7.00am to 9.00pm. There will be possibilities for confession. Please see poster in Advent room for more details.

CAFOD meeting on Saturday 14th February from 10:30am to 1.30pm at Corpus Christi Church, Wokingham RG40 2HE. A simple lunch will be provided. Please join us to find out how your donations to CAFOD are making a difference to communities in South Sudan, Zimbabwe and Bangladesh. Everyone is welcome and please book your place by emailing Andea Hoyland: ahoyland@cafod.org.uk, so that we have an idea of numbers.

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

Vocation: Pray for discernment and openness to where God might be inviting you to follow Him. Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869