

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.

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

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. Henry Jan Nkop
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

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 - Lent edition is in the Advent Room £1.20 / book: The Lent edition of My Day by Day is from Wednesday 18th February to Tuesday 31st March. Please leave money in the box next to the books in 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 & BI Dominic Barberi

338 Wokingham Road Earley Reading RG6 7DA Website www.olop.org.uk
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No 1199568

Parish Priest

The Rev Fr Stan Gibiński
fatherstan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary

Rachel Alexander
0118 966 3711
office@olop.org.uk

Safeguarding Officer

Harish Chander
safeguarding@olop.org.uk

Hall Bookings

Zuzanna Bochenek
hall@olop.org.uk

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



6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Year A (Sunday Missal page 709)

15th February 2026

Psalm Response:
Blessed are those who walk in the law of the Lord!

Light to enlighten the nations

There are two kingdoms in this world. There is a Kingdom of God (St. Matthew, following the Hebrew way of speaking, in order not to use the Holy Name of God replaces it with the word 'heaven' and writes 'Kingdom of Heaven'). This kingdom means people who know – by the experience of faith – that there is God; that He is the One who created the universe and human beings; that He is reasonable and wise; that He created us for a purpose; that He knows what is right and what is wrong. These people believe and know that He is trustworthy, so they have freely decided to follow and obey Him. They keep His commandments and if they teach them, they will be considered great in the kingdom of heaven. Living in this kingdom means living in the light, even amongst problems, struggles or suffering.

There is another kingdom consisting of those who have not discovered God, not recognised Him as the Maker and Lord of the universe or rejected Him and His moral law.

Everyone decides for himself in which kingdom they want to live. Man has life and death before him. There is a fundamental decision to be taken. There are also hundreds of daily decisions, smaller and bigger ones, in which we take a step into one of the kingdoms or a whole series of steps, sometimes running - whichever a man likes better will be given.

The ten commandments (starting from the first one!) are a practical border of the two kingdoms. In not following them, one can be sure of not following love, not following the One who is love Himself. Though merely keeping them is a first step, it is like being within a kingdom but remaining in the far outskirts. In His sermon on the mount (which we are following for some weeks), Jesus is showing us that the reality of God's kingdom in our hearts goes much, much deeper.

To those who entered closer to the palace of the King, to those who decided to trust Him fully and follow His way of thinking, living and loving, to them the *hidden wisdom* of God is being revealed and bestowed upon them: the love up to the point of the Cross.

Put out your hand to whichever you prefer.

Fr Stan

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions etc
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
Mon 16th Feb	5.15pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Adoration Rosary Waclaw RIP
Tue 17th Feb: The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite.	8.00am 11.00am	For souls in purgatory Baptism of Nathaniel John
Wed 18th Feb Ash Wednesday	10.00am 6.30pm	Patrick & Sarah Boyle RIP Holy Souls
Thurs 19th Feb	No Mass	
Fri 20th Feb	11.00am - 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Adoration Stations of the Cross Joana Intention
Sat 21st Feb	No Mass	Rite of Election in Portsmouth Cathedral at 11.00am
Sun 22nd February 2026 First Sunday of Lent	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 5.00pm	Rosary For Parishioners Rosary Maroa Wilman thanksgiving Eva Berja RIP

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

15th Feb: Maria Giovanni (1987).
17th Feb: Robert Green (1991); Christopher Coles (1989); Lauren Savage (2002); Jane Grigg (2014); Laurence (Locky) Sheehan (2017), Mary Brannelly (2018), Zofia Zieba (2023)
18th Feb: Henry Ward (1988);
19th Feb: Gisella Nottingham (1979); Gerard Conway (2005); Marie Scott (2014); Giuseppe Agostino (2024)
20th Feb: Stanley Tompkins (1989); Beatrice Ntang (2010);
21st Feb: Gerard Cashman (2013);
22nd Feb: Frances Newman (1983); and Gerald O'Sullivan (1992).

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

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.

Tuesday 17th February 2026 at 11.00am: Baptism of Nathaniel Maria John. Please keep Nathaniel in your prayer. He is getting baptised and welcomed into our faith community. We pray for the family that they may always follow the guiding light of Christ.

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. [Image: Blackfriars Cambridge]



Beginning of the Season of Lent

Wednesday 18th February (Ash Wednesday)
10.00am & 6.30pm Mass. Abstinence and fasting are to be observed on Ash Wednesday. Please note that there will be no Rosary at 4.15pm 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.

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.

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.

CAFOD Lent Appeal – Family Fast Day on Friday 27th February & collection on Sunday 1st March: This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10. Please donate via the collection basket on your way out or use our card machine in the Advent Room.

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

Marriage Encounter Weekend 27th Feb - 1st Mar - Swindon - Holiday Inn Express West : Invitation to Couples to get away together and join us for a weekend to discover ways to grow deeper in love for a happier marriage and a happier life! The weekend draws on Marriage Encounters' 50 years of wisdom and experience, based on scriptural truths, and might just be the gear change you didn't know you needed or thought possible. Couples welcome whether married or in long term relationships, with faith or no faith. To find out more or book: Visit our website: wwme.org.uk