

## 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## 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 & 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  
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**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.



**1st Sunday of Lent** **Year A (Sunday Missal page 153)** **22nd February 2026**

## Psalm Response:

**Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.**

## The grace of being sorry of our sins at the steps of the Altar

Someone once beautifully said: "The devil knows your name but calls you by your sin. God knows your sin but calls you by your name". These two voices pass through our hearts. Every one of us needs to make the decision whether to follow one voice or the other. It is good to hear our very name said by Jesus in the depths of our hearts. In this way, we start a liberating journey from Egypt to the Promised Land, from slavery of sin to the dignity and beauty of God's children; from the Biblical foreign countries to the Fatherland (the journey of the Prodigal Son).

Although, Lent says a lot about the dust and mud of our sins and guilt, it also stresses the truth about us, and the truth is that we belong to God and God desires our return to Him. We shall return as sinners but also as His beloved children; with complete confidence we shall unravel our sins to God – all of them. It is important to bring our misery to God and ask Him and our neighbours for forgiveness before we approach the High Altar.

In Lent, we will stress the act of the Penitential Rite understood in the context of approaching the Holy of Holies. In Old Testament times, nobody was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies except the high priest. Only once a year, a priest used to offer the blood-and-incense sacrifice for the atonement of sin. In Exodus (Chapter 9), we read that the dwelling place of the presence of God was shut away behind a curtain in the temple and few people were allowed to pray outside the Holy of Holies. Christ Jesus tore down this curtain in the very act of dying on the Cross allowing us to access His sanctuary. He is the Holy of Holies and we are privileged to share our lives with Him during the Holy Mass. Christ's sacrifice is real and the Altar represents the Cross. The Holy of Holies has not lost anything in its sacredness though, and we need to stress that fact in our attitude towards the Altar and Christ's Sacrifice of the Mass.

It's even holier now than before! The Sanctuary of the Lord in our churches is the most sacred place in the world and the closeness of the Heart of Jesus is real while the Mass is celebrated. In the context of the approaching of the Holy of Holies, our Penitential Rite is given awe and focuses us on Calvary, on the very essence of God's love.

On Ash Wednesday we were reminded: "Let the priest, the minister of the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar, and let them say, 'Spare your people, O Lord.'" (Joel 2:17) Let us do so in Lent. The Penitential Rite will take place before the priest, altar servers and readers enter the Holy of Holies. Before entering the dwelling of the Lord, we will kneel and stay in silence praying for the grace of acknowledging our misery; for the grace of being sorry for our sins. In this way, we will prepare ourselves to take part in the Sacrifice of Christ that takes away our sin and attain everlasting Life.  
Fr Stan

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions etc
<b>Sun 22nd February 2026</b> <b>First Sunday of Lent</b>	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 5.00pm	Rosary <b>For Parishioners</b> Rosary <b>Maria Wilman thanksgiving</b> <b>Eva Berja RIP</b>
<b>Mon 23th Feb</b>	5.15pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Adoration Rosary <b>Eva Berja RIP</b>
<b>Tue 24th Feb:</b>	8.00am †11.00am	<b>Duncan Yeats RIP</b> <b>Requiem Mass for Sylvia Hodgson†</b>
<b>Wed 25th Feb</b>	6.30am  4.15pm	<b>Daria conversion &amp; pure heart</b>  Rosary
<b>Thurs 26th Feb</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Fri 27th Feb</b> <i>Family Fast Day (CAFOD)</i>	11.00am - 6.00pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Adoration <i>Stations of the Cross</i> <b>Dawid conversion &amp; pure heart</b>
<b>Sat 28th Feb</b>	<b>No Mass</b>	
<b>Sun 1st March 2026</b> <b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 5.00pm	Rosary <b>Magdelania intention</b> Rosary <b>Anthony John Owens RIP</b> <b>Sebastian - grace of conversion.</b>

**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**

22nd Feb: Frances Newman (1983); and Gerald O'Sullivan (1992).  
23rd Feb: Edgar Wheeler (1994); Peter Anderson (2013); 24th Feb: Tadeusz Wielogorski (2006);  
26th Feb: Jane (Jean) Bartington (2008); 28th Feb: Mary Andrews (2015);

We keep in our prayers the repose of the soul of Dr Nicolas Alexander, who died on Saturday 14th February, aged 88 years. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Mercy, and all his family at this sad time. Having moved from Hull in 2023 to be closer to their son, Jofi, and daughter-in-law, Rachel Alexander (our Parish Secretary), we give thanks for the years they shared within our wider community. May he rest in peace.

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**

**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)** Please keep our four candidates in your prayers as they prepare to receive their Sacraments in Easter. Peter Cousin for Baptism, Richard Godden for Reception into Church and Joseph Maimone & Klaudia Kardoheliova for Confirmation.

**Sylvia Hodgson RIP:** We pray for the repose of the soul of Sylvia who died recently. Sylvia lived in Woodley and worshipped both here and at St John Bosco. Her Requiem Mass is on Tuesday 24th February at 11am at our Church.

**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](http://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.

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

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

**Thursday 19th March: St Joseph** solemnity. Holy Mass at 6.30pm.

**Wednesday 25th March: The Annunciation of the Lord** solemnity. Holy Mass at 6.30am.

**Lent reflection on Prelude of eternal life (Based on “The Three Ages of the Interior Life” by Fr. Réginald Garrigou-Lagrange, OP).** If you are interested in spending some time during Lent for reflection then Fr Stan is starting a small group via Whatsapp for Lent. There will be reflection links everyday and maybe weekly meeting online to reflect together. If you are keen to join the group then please register your interest with Fr Stan or the Parish office and link to the group will be sent to you.

**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**

**Oxford Pro-Life Drinks. Saturday 28th February 7.30pm. The Royal Oak, (Woodstock Rd, OX2 6HT).** Come along to relax with like-minded people and keep connected with the pro-life community in Oxford. New comers are especially welcome! Just turn up, and bring a friend. Visit <https://oxfordprolife.org.uk/> for more info.

**The Union of Catholic Mothers, Corpus Christi, Wokingham - Annual Lenten retreat on Saturday, 7th March at 10.00am.** See poster in Advent Room for more details.

**Work Experience:** The St Vincent de Paul Society and CAFOD are working together to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales. The experience will run from 21 – 26 June in London. Candidates must be aged 18-25 years old and priority will be given to those in their first or second year at university. Applications close on 6 April. For more information, please contact [KeziaH@svp.org.uk](mailto:KeziaH@svp.org.uk)