

Pastoral News

PASSION PLAY in Reading on 3rd & 4th April 2026: Rise Theatre CIC, a local professional Christian theatre company, are again performing their Passion Play in Forbury Gardens (RG1 3BB) at 2.00pm on both Good Friday 3rd April & Holy Saturday 4th April. It is a FREE event. Bring a blanket or outdoor chair to sit on! The play includes a dramatic interpretation of the crucifixion so parental guidance is advised. See www.risetheatre.co.uk/passionplay for more information. Please support this local initiative during the Easter weekend and invite your friends too!

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

MARRIAGE SUPPORT: If you are just in a rut or for more serious issues – Retrouvaille could be the solution. www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

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.

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

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.

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.

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.

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 of Lent

Year A (Sunday Missal page 177)

22nd March 2026

Psalm Response:

With the Lord there is mercy, in him is plentiful redemption.

Unbind my friend, Lazarus

We live because God loves us. Our food is His mercy. He will do everything for those who are dear to Him.

Sometimes, we think that Christ cannot love us as kindly and intimately as our family and friends. It is good to see that Christ's laughter and tears are not only divine but also human. The purity of heart can be combined with great affection and we find it in Jesus. He is so natural. Jesus Christ enjoys Himself in the company of His friends.

As we find in the Scripture, Jesus would travel to the village of Bethany only to have a rest together with His friends, Lazarus and his two sisters, Mary and Martha. With His closest friends, the Lord is willing them to tell Him what is really going on, willing them to listen to one another. He was interested in their daily lives. All those who have ever developed a close friendship with Christ, learn that the Lord's love towards His friends is never from a distance.

It is only because our minds are preoccupied by the awareness that Jesus is God, subconsciously we make a blockade and do not allow Him any natural attitude towards His friends.

In the context of friendship, let us reflect on Christ's weeping at the grave of Lazarus. Everyone acknowledged and said 'See how much he loved him!'

The Lord is not afraid of any graves, any kind of death of His friends. Let us not only focus on the real death, which brought an amazing miracle, but all sorts of deaths, including moral, psychological and spiritual destitution.

'Lazarus, here! Come out!'

The dead man came out, his feet and hands bound with bands of stuff and a cloth round his face. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, let him go free.'

Fr Stan

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions etc
Sun 22nd March 2026 Fifth Sunday of Lent 	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 5.00pm	Rosary Fr Stanislaw Gibzinski intention Rosary Cyrus Lal RIP rec. dec. For Parishioners
Mon 23rd March	5.15pm 6.00pm 6.30pm	Adoration Rosary Fr Krzysztof Wojcieszak intention
Tue 24th March	8.00am	Holy Souls
Wed 25th March: solemnity The Annunciation of the Lord	6.30am 4.15pm 6.30pm	Holy Souls in purgatory Rosary Adoration group
Thurs 26th March	No Mass	
Fri 27th March	6.00pm 6.30pm	<i>Stations of the Cross</i> Elizabeth & Brian Caton RIP Foundation Mass
Sat 28th March	9.00am - 12.30pm	Confession
Sun 29th March 2026 Palm Sunday <i>(Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday 29th March)</i> 	8.00am 8.30am 10.30am 11.00 am 5.00pm	Rosary Bruno & Luzia Reiling RIP Rosary Leo's 3rd birthday thanksgiving 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

22nd March: Mary Molony (1981); & Richard Martin (2003); 23rd March: John Austen Fardy (2006); 24th March: Joyce Hart (1990); Jorge Hortal (1999); Ray Dils (2002); 25th March: Irene Hickson (1994); 27th March: Margaret Berriman (2021) 28th March: Elizabeth Caton (1999); 29th March: Vera Seckey (1979); and Daniel Lynch (2004).

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.**

Lucy Jones RIP: Funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday 24th March, at 11:30 at St. Thomas More Church, Twyford RG10 9EL, followed by burial at 1:00 at St. Sebastian's Cemetery, Wokingham RG40 3AT. A reception will be held afterwards at Cantley House Hotel, Wokingham RG40 1JY. Please RSVP to Lucy's son Phil at pjonas@japec-solutions.com.

Parish News

Tea & Coffee after 8.30am Mass: We will take a break from our usual tea & coffee after 8.30am Mass for the Fifth Sunday of Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday. We will be back on Sunday 12th April.

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

Friday Adoration: Friday 20th March was the last Adoration before the Holy Week. Adoration will resume on Friday 24th April 2026.

Friday 27th March: Visiting of the Sick and housebound. Fr Stan will be visiting our Parishioners who are unable to come to Church. If you wish Fr Stan to visit you or your relatives then please contact the parish office.

Volunteers for Holy Week: Anyone interested in giving support to decorate the church for Holy Week and Easter, please get in touch with Fr Stan or the office.

Lent confessions in the Pastoral Area.

St John Bosco: Monday 23rd & Tuesday 24th March 6.00-7.30pm

St Joseph's: Wednesday 25th March 7 pm

Christ the King: Thursday 26th March 7 pm

Our Lady of Peace: Saturday 28th March 9am-12.30pm

English Martyrs: Saturday 28th March 9.45 am

St James: Every Saturday 5-5.45 pm

Holy Week

Palm (Passion) Sunday 29th March *(Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday 29th March)*, 8.30am, 11.00am & 5.00pm Mass. The 11am Mass will begin with a procession in the local neighbourhood (weather-permitting). The 8:30am and 5pm Masses will begin with the Solemn Entrance.

Monday 30th March: (No Mass at church)

Tuesday 31st March Chrism Mass at Portsmouth Cathedral (No Mass at church)

Wednesday 1st April (No Mass at church)

Maundy Thursday 2nd April:

10.00am: Tenebrae (Office of Readings & Morning prayers)
6.30pm: Solemn Mass of the Lord's supper followed by Adoration until midnight.

Good Friday 3rd April:

(Day of fasting & abstinence)

10.00am: Tenebrae (Office of Readings & Morning prayers)

11.00am: Children's Good Friday service

3.00pm: Solemn Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion
(Divine Mercy Novena starts on Good Friday)

Holy Saturday 4th April:

10.00am Tenebrae (Office of Readings & Morning prayers)

After Tenebrae, blessing of food.

8.30pm Easter Vigil.

Easter Sunday 5th April :

Holy Mass at 9.00am, 11.00am Holy Mass. *(No 5.00pm Mass)*

Easter Monday 6th April: 10.00am Holy Mass
Weekday Mass: No weekday mass on Tuesday 7th April & Wednesday 8th April 2026

Easter Friday 10th April: 6.30pm Holy Mass

Sunday 12th April – Divine Mercy Sunday

2.30pm Divine Mercy Holy Hour

Weekday Mass: No weekday mass Monday 13th April - Friday 17th April.

Next Special Collection

Good Friday: Holy Places

Each year, the Church takes up a collection on Good Friday to assist Christians in the Holy Land and help protect the Holy Places.

Easter offerings The collections at all the Easter Masses are for Fr Stan. Christmas and Easter are the most substantial part of a priest's yearly income. Please either use our contactless payment or use the envelope provided and give generously. Thank you.

Second Collection on Sunday 15th March for Clergy Assistance Fund raised £104.61. Thank you for your generous donations.