



# SACRED HEART PARISH

In The Diocese of Portsmouth  
Reg. Charity No. 246871

**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Year A**

**13 September 2020**

**Welcome to all our Parishioners and all who are joining us via the website or Facebook**

**Mass this weekend is at 10am on Sunday**

**Website: <https://www.sacredhearhook.org/live>**

## **Thought for the Week**

“Unless you each forgive... from your heart.”

We all probably take for granted the fact that there are seven days in the week. Yet no one knows why there should be seven days. There are theories, of course, but none of them are certain. The seven-day week seems to have been used throughout the Mediterranean area and on into India. It is what it is. Yet the fact of the seven-day week seems to have suggested to the Jewish mind the idea of seven as a totality. In the Old Testament, the Jewish scriptures, the creation takes place in seven days because this means there is no moment of time in which God is not concerned with creation. In the New Testament, in the book of the Apocalypse, the message is to seven churches, because seven represents all the churches.

So when St Peter suggests that we should forgive people if they sin against us “seven times”, he is not suggesting just a small number. Seven is the number of totality, so Peter thinks he is saying something profound about always forgiving. We forgive while we live. Christ replies by saying, “Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times”, or “seventy times seven” in some translations. This multiplication is because mercy is not just for this life, for the time we have, the time of the seven days, but also for eternity. Eternity is unimaginable but we can think of it as time multiplied by time. So the Gospel story of the servant being led to judgement is our story, because if we do not forgive, how can we enter the world of forgiveness, which is heaven?

- Seven, in the scriptures, is the number of totality.
- Forgiveness is at the heart of our Christian faith
- It is in forgiving that we are forgiven; by sharing in mercy, we share in the divine nature.

Taken from The Living Word a Redemptorist publication

## **SACRED HEART CHURCH OPENING TIMES FOR PRIVATE PRAYER**

The church is open for private prayer at the following times:

**Tuesday 5:00 pm until 6:30 pm (new closing time)**

**Wednesday 10:00 am until 12:00 noon**

In order to keep everyone safe when coming to church, Face Coverings must be worn at all times.

Obviously, there is no obligation for anyone to attend church during this time and no-one should feel guilty about not coming back to church until they feel that it is totally safe to do so.

Please visit the Coronavirus page: [www.sacredhearhook.org/coronavirus](http://www.sacredhearhook.org/coronavirus) for any last minute changes

**Priest in Charge:** Rev. Paul Leonard

**Parish Administrator:** Mrs Jan Hughes

**Phone:** 01256 577007/07719 012955

**email:** [hello@sacredhearhook.org](mailto:hello@sacredhearhook.org)

**Website:** [www.sacredhearhook.org](http://www.sacredhearhook.org)

**Facebook:** [facebook.com/sacredhearhook](https://facebook.com/sacredhearhook)

**Safeguarding Minister:** Mrs Maggie Wood

**email:** [safeguarding@sacredhearhook.org](mailto:safeguarding@sacredhearhook.org)

### PARISH DONATIONS

If you would like to make a donation to the Parish, or set up a Standing Order, our bank account details are:

Lloyds Bank

**Sort Code: 30 93 04**

**Account number 00880117**

**Name: PRCDTR Sacred Heart Hook**

(Please also use this for cheque payments)

Thank you so much for your generosity.

God bless. Fr. Paul

### PRAYING THROUGH THE STORM

We hope you can join us on **Thursday 24 September at 7.30pm** where we will be live streaming a talk from Fr Liam and Fr Yamai from the Carmelite Priory at Boars Hill in Oxford.

These are difficult times and people are searching for solutions. Our trainings and sophisticated systems and our faith all seem inadequate in the light of the present crisis. In the face of our helplessness, we ask the same question as did the disciples: to whom shall we go? Who do we turn to? Where shall we find help in this day of trouble? Where shall we find rest for our wearied souls? In this presentation, Fr Liam will explore these questions, drawing insights from Carmelite spirituality especially the guidance of Saint Teresa of Jesus, who also faced challenging times and left us a wealth of teaching in her writings on how one can pray through the storms of life.

Please register your interest by contacting the Parish Office on [hello@sacredhearthook.org](mailto:hello@sacredhearthook.org) or Joan Kent on [tran\\_joan@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:tran_joan@yahoo.co.uk).

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2021

If your child will be in Year 3 in September 2020, they are now of an age when traditionally children begin their preparation to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. As parents, you have the main role in preparing your child to receive the Sacraments, but you will not be alone. You will be supported by the parish and by a team of dedicated catechists and will receive all the help that you need. We hold the children's meetings in the church once a month on a Saturday morning. In the first instant please contact the parish office, for more information and an application form, before the Sunday 18th October.

### CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Please do join Gill for Children's Liturgy this weekend. Gill's recorded session is available on our website at <https://www.sacredhearthook.org/childrens-liturgy>

### PARISH SURVEY

Fr Paul and our Pastoral Parish Council (PPC) want to hear from you because it's your voice that really matters so we'd be grateful if you'd complete our survey. If you wish to remain anonymous, please leave your contact details blank. The questionnaire can be accessed via the website at ([www.sacredhearthook.org/survey](http://www.sacredhearthook.org/survey)) If you would prefer a hard copy of the survey to fill in please contact the parish office either by phone 01256 577007 or by email [hello@sacredhearthook.org](mailto:hello@sacredhearthook.org) and we can arrange to send one out to you.

### CAFOD Coronavirus Appeal

#### **- Fundraising Marathon Hike**

After a few month's training, I am ready to tackle a 26-mile route around the South Downs, starting and finishing at Queen Elizabeth Country Park near Petersfield on 03 October. My fundraising cause is the CAFOD Coronavirus Appeal, as described on the following link about the devastating effect of coronavirus on the most vulnerable communities <https://cafod.org.uk/Give/Donate-to-Emergencies/Coronavirus-appeal>,

If you would like to support me then please visit <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ian-liddell1> Thanks, Ian Liddell

### READERS WORKSHOPS

Have you ever considered being a church reader or are you already reading at Mass, but missed out on the Diocesan training.

This autumn, our Readers Training Team will be offering online the two Readers Workshops:

- **Workshop 1** (the Liturgy of the Word / Practical skills) on
- **Workshop 2** (the Bible / Preparing a text) on

You can register to the workshops according to your availability, knowing that you need to have attended workshop 1 and workshop 2 to obtain a diocesan *recognitio*.

Please follow this link to the registration page <https://www.godwhospeaks.org/readers>

### TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**First Reading** Ecclesiasticus 27: 30 - 28: 7

**Responsorial Psalm:**

**Psalm 102:** 1 - 4, 9 - 12, response v8  
***The Lord is compassion and love,  
slow to anger and rich in mercy***

**Second Reading:** Romans 14: 7 - 9

**Gospel** Matthew 18: 21 - 35



### RECONCILIATION

Confessions will be heard during Private Prayer on Wednesday mornings. (10am – 12noon)  
When you come to private prayer please let the stewards know if you wish to go to confession.

## ATTENDING PUBLIC MASS AT SACRED HEART CHURCH

We need to observe the following guidelines when attending Mass:

**Our intention is to celebrate Mass reverently and safely as a community of Christ's disciples.**



The dispensation from Sunday Mass obligation remains in effect. Please don't register for Mass or enter the church if you or someone in your household has a temperature, a cough, flu-like symptoms or loss of taste or smell.  
Stay at home and participate in the Mass via our live stream



Please bring your own **face covering**.  
You must wear it at all times, except when receiving Holy Communion



Arrive at the front main doors of the church no later than **15 minutes before Mass** and if possible a bit before that.  
This will allow each person to sanitise their hands while maintaining social distancing



Apply **hand sanitiser** when entering and leaving the church.  
Either bring your own or use the dispenser provided inside the entrance to the church



**Follow the instructions of the ushers.** They will direct you to where to sit. -  
Couples, or families of 3 or more from the same household, may sit together.  
Please do not kneel, sit in the marked places as directed by the stewards and please observe social distancing at all times.  
Please keep young children with you at all times



Queuing to receive **Holy Communion** will be single file and it will be under one kind.  
Follow the instructions given regarding when to come forward and receive Holy Communion so that social distancing is maintained



Sorry but the toilets and the hall remain **closed**.

These measures are to make sure everyone feels safe when attending church. Let us all work together, follow the guidelines and be considerate of each other as we celebrate together in thanksgiving to God for the gift of the Eucharist.

### HOW TO BOOK FOR MASS

- Due to the limited space in our church, booking is required for each of the Sunday Masses.
- Booking for weekend Mass is organized by Jan our parish administrator.
- Booking closes on the Thursday at 1.30pm for Mass the following weekend. Places are limited so it will be first come first served, however those applying when bookings are full or closed can be booked immediately onto the following week.
- Booking is by email at [hello@sacredhearthook.org](mailto:hello@sacredhearthook.org). Please title the email "Mass booking" and give the name, address and contact details of all who will be attending including of all those in a family group.
- Don't forget to indicate which Mass you will be attending. Mass is at 6pm on Saturday evening and at 10.00 am on Sunday morning.
- You will receive an email during Friday morning with confirmation and more instructions.
- The names and contact details of everyone attending Mass will be recorded for NHS Track and Trace. These will be kept securely for 21 days and then destroyed.
- If you are unable to email the office, please contact Jan in the Parish Office on 07719012955 before 1.30pm on Thursday.
- Please make sure you are registered with the parish. If you think that you aren't (last census was 6 years ago) please fill in the attached registration form and return it to the parish office.



PASTORAL LETTER FROM THE BISHOP  
to all Baptised Catholics in the Diocese of Portsmouth  
on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020, the Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year

‘COME BACK TO ME’ SAYS THE LORD

Dear Friends,

I am writing to everyone in our Diocese of Portsmouth, to every baptised Catholic, to all the clergy, religious and lay faithful, and to all members of our parishes, schools and communities. I write too to everyone of good will, to those ‘with ears to hear’, to anyone searching for God, and to all who wish to meet His Son, Jesus Christ and to know more about His Gospel. I say to you all: Come back! Come back to Mass! Come back to church for private prayer! Come back to visit Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament! You are truly welcome - we have missed you!

These last months have been extraordinary. The pandemic has caused great harm, physical, mental, emotional and financial. Sadly, many have fallen sick and some have lost their lives. At the same time, medical staff and key workers have responded with remarkable generosity and courage. Across our Diocese, parishes and schools, clergy and faithful have been highly creative.

Priests have done all they can to serve their parishioners: live-streaming Masses, hearing Confessions in gardens, keeping in touch by email, phone and Zoom meetings. Parishioners have generously continued their financial support. Hospital chaplains have selflessly served the dying, ensuring they receive the Last Sacraments, Absolution and the Apostolic Pardon. Schools have sent out food parcels to the housebound. Our diocesan Caritas has adapted their projects to continue supporting the needy, whilst the work of CAFOD has been flourishing. Now that schools and many others are returning to work, let us keep up this good work. Let us keep safe. And let us ask the Lord for an end to the pandemic, the invention of a vaccine and the restoration of ordinary life.

In inviting you back to Mass, I am aware that in some places and for some of you - those self-shielding, the sick, the vulnerable – this will not yet be possible. Moreover, we are aware too that the infection-rate is varying, and we might even face a local lockdown. Indeed, for everyone it will require care, prudence and adjustments. It might mean attending Mass on a weekday

instead of a Sunday. But as we enter the autumn and our schools return, rather than focusing on what we cannot do, let us focus on what we can, so that the great mission of our Diocese of Portsmouth can go forward: Bringing People Closer to Jesus Christ through His Church.

Most of our churches are now open, with very stringent safety procedures in place. I thank our clergy and parishioners for their massive efforts. If you can, please do volunteer your time, help and support so we can keep up this good work. The pandemic has shown us how fragile modern life is. It has caused us to review our priorities. It has made us face our mortality and the question of God. For weeks, by government mandate, our churches were closed and the public celebration of the Liturgy suspended. I know that many felt hurt by this. As human beings we have not only bodily needs but spiritual needs too. Moreover, it is in our churches that the Lord sanctifies, teaches and guides us, uniting us together, giving us the Sacraments of eternal life, and sending us out on mission and service. Many followed Mass online and spoke of their hunger and thirst for God. Online has its place and we thank God for all the work done to enable this. But online is not the same as 'inline' and being there. It's not the same as actually receiving Jesus in Holy Communion. It's not the same as participating in the presence of the eucharistic community.

This is why I say: Come back to the Lord to be nourished by His Word and His Sacraments! True, the canonical obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days is still suspended. But what about the Lord Who calls to us in our hearts: "The sheep that belong to me listen to my voice: I know them and they follow me" (John 10: 27)? What about His promise: "Anyone who eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I in him" (John 6: 56)? What about His invitation: "Come follow me" (Mark 1: 17)? His offer: "I have come that they may have life and have it to the full" (John 10: 10)? Surely, we do not follow Jesus our Lord and Master simply out of habit or duty? No, we follow Him because we love Him. We follow Him because He has called us. We follow Him because He is our Saviour: He has laid down His life for us.

May our diocesan patrons Mary Immaculate, St. Edmund and Bl. Pier Giorgio, pray for you and protect you. May they obtain for you freedom from fear. May they inspire in you a generous response to the Lord's call.

Thank you for listening – and please be assured of my prayers.

In Corde Iesu,

*+Philip*

Bishop of Portsmouth