SACRED HEART PARISH

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
Reg. Charity No. 1199568



THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - Year A - 25 October 2026 - P. 146

Associate Priest: Fr. John Chadwick
Parish Administrator: Mrs Jan Hughes **Office open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday mornings**
Phone: 01256 577007/07741 870362 **email:** office@sacredhearthook.org
Website: www.sacredhearthook.org **Facebook:** facebook.com/sacredhearthook
Safeguarding Minister: Mrs Maggie Wood **email**: safeguarding@sacredhearthook.org
PC Chairman: Mrs Shanthi Fernando via the parish office or ppc@sacredhearthook.org

Sacred Heart Church, The Priests House, London Road, Hook, Hampshire RG27 9LA

St Vincent De Paul Society (SVP) now have a confidential mobile phone line to assist & help. 07434 773219.

Please note we now have CCTV Cameras around the premises for security purposes.

MASS TIMES

THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sat 24 Oct	6:00 pm	Mass	**Joanna's Intentions**
Sun 25 Oct	10:00 am	Mass	**Damian Maranzano & Vincent Licence RIP**
			Intentions of Adrian Gardner
Mass 26 Oct	9:30 am	Mass	

ALL SAINTS

Sat 31 Oct	6:00 pm	Mass	**Our Brothers & Sisters**
Sun 1 Nov	10:00 am	Mass	

ALL SOULS

Mass 2 Nov	9:30 am	Mass	

CONFESSIONS & SACARAMENT OF THE SICK

Father John will be available after Mass for Confessions and/or the Sacrament of the Sick.

MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like a Mass Intention, please contact Jan in the Parish Office on 01256 577007.

PARISH FINANCE

Dona Plates Contactless giving made easy (with Gift Aid optional)

- **See the machine at the back of the church**
- **There is also a machine at the front of the church**

Give as you live: Please see the QR codes in the church and in the newsletter.

Standing Orders: Please contact the Parish Office for more details.

BACS Transfer:

Our bank details are: CDP Hook Sacred Heart (Lloyds Bank) : Sort Code 30-93-04 Account 00880117

Gift Aid: Taxpayers are encouraged to contact the office at: office@sacredhearthook.org

PLEASE PRAY



Lord, have all those who are unable to be with us at Mass in Your safekeeping as we remember:
Debbie Cavedon, Jacob Weston, Mike Murch, Nikki Pink, Ken Musgrave, Sylvia Hosking, Fr Jean Patrice, David Xavier, John Kidd, Anne Mitchell, Peter Ward, Sheila Barlow, Andrew Henderson, Maeve Crangle, Kevin & Rita Saunders

WELCOME

A very warm welcome to all parishioners and visitors who join us. If you are new to the area, please contact the Parish office to register as a member of our Parish. Parish Registration forms are available from the welcomer's table.

ILL AT HOME OR IN HOSPITAL

If you are ill and are unable to attend Mass, please let Sister Mary-Doris know, we can then arrange for communion to be brought to you. If you are in hospital or know that you are going to go in, let us know in the office by phone 01256 577007 and Sister Mary-Doris on 07899 653413

PASTORAL COUNCIL (SACRED HEART)

If you have any questions for the PC then please either email them to ppc@sacredhearthook.org or drop them into the parish office.
The minutes are available from the welcomer's table.

PASTORAL AREA COMMITTEE (BASINGSTOKE)
SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Shanthi Fernando is our representative on the SLT

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Maggie Wood and Jan Hughes are our representatives

PARISH COLLECTION

The Parish Collection for the weekends of 27th September and 4th October amounted to £1,876.69, received through Standing Orders, Direct Debits, Contactless Giving and Mass Collections.
A heartfelt thank you to everyone for your continued generosity and support. It is very much appreciated.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2027

Our next **First Holy Communion Programme** will be starting soon.
If you would like your child to take part in the programme, they should be **7 years of age or over.**
For further information, or to register your interest, please contact the Parish Office by email:
office@sacredhearthook.org
We look forward to welcoming our new group of children and accompanying them and their families on this very special journey of faith.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Sat 31st Oct	Curry Night
Wed 11th Nov	UCM Vigil 11am – 4pm
Sat 28/Sun 29 Nov	Xmas Fayre

WELCOME AND APOLOGIES

Welcome to Father Fergal who will be celebrating Mass with us this weekend.
Father John C sends his apologise for his absence this weekend, he is away celebrating his birthday with his family.

CURRY NIGHT

Saturday 31st October
7.30pm
Hall open from 7.00pm
Come along and enjoy a great evening with our parish community!
Tickets: £10
Bring your own drinks
Raffle tickets will be available
after Mass and on the night.
We look forward to seeing you there!

THE SACRISTY

The Sacristy is a place of **prayer and preparation** and should be an oasis of calm, both before and after Mass. The Priest and Altar Servers need time and space to prepare themselves prayerfully for the **Holy Sacrifice of the Mass**.
We therefore kindly ask that you **refrain from visiting the Sacristy during the 15 minutes before Mass**, unless, of course, there is an emergency.
Thank you for respecting this important time of prayer and preparation.

THE CHURCH: BEFORE MASS

A number of people have asked me if we could try to keep our voices down before Mass, so that everyone has the opportunity to spend a little time in quiet prayer and preparation before Mass begins.
We are a beautiful family of faith at Sacred Heart, and it is important that we have time to chat, catch up and enjoy each other's company. However, I would be very grateful if we could, wherever possible, leave our conversations until after Mass.
Thank you for your kindness and consideration, and for helping to maintain a prayerful atmosphere in our church.

LITURGY OF THE WORD



Thirtieth Sunday in ordinary time

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 17
I love you, Lord, my strength.

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Open our heat, O Lord,
to accept the words of your Son.
Alleluia!

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A 2026

Mercy and Truth live together. During the week I celebrated Sara's funeral down in Bournemouth. I was early, so I found a coffee shop to sit in. The coffee shop was a delight. Yes, it was a bit up market, the coffee was good, but most of all the owners welcomed people. Twice, two young obviously needy chaps entered at different times. They clearly knew the proprietors by name, but didn't order anything, then left. I looked at the owners a little confused. "Oh, they always do that." Instinctive, sacrificial mercy in action.

Mercy is the first line of defence when combatting hypocrisy, the practice of claiming to have moral standards or virtues that you do not actually possess. Hypocrisy is the central concern for the Lord in today's Gospel. A hypocrite, put simply, is one who claims not to be one! Once again, some of the Pharisees revealed their true colours claiming to uphold the highest religious ideals whilst plotting to destroy the author of the very same. They were hypocrites, **out of touch with reality**, devoid of mercy.

Merciful people, like the coffee shop owners, always remain in touch with reality. They don't attempt to move the goalposts in life to suit themselves, even if they are clearly missing the target most of the time. Recognising the reality of failure is not a decision to wallow in it. Merciful people divert their time and energy to look out for others, always attaching more importance to the other than they do to themselves.

Do you remember the story of the woman who washed the feet of Jesus with her tears, wiped them with her hair, poured perfume on them and kissed him?
Jesus said to Simon, a Pharisee, 'Do you see this woman? I came into your house. You did not give me any water for my feet…. You did not greet me with a kiss… You did not put oil on my head… I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven… whoever has been forgiven little loves little.'

Immense loving, aka as mercy, comes from a deep self-knowledge that we miss the target often, but we still **recognise the Truth**. When we love immensely, we see living proof that our sins, our many sins, have already been forgiven.
This coming week, **love immensely, be merciful.**

Matthew 22: 15-21 Fr John C

HOOK UCM

The next UCM meeting is on Saturday 24th October at 10:30am in the Parish Hall

TUESDAY CRAZY CRAFTERS

Please do join us on the Tuesday mornings at 10:30am in the Parish Hall.

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

Come and connect with charities and parish project groups in the Caritas Charity Mass and networking day on Saturday 14 November 10:30-3pm at St Bede's Basingstoke. It is a day for thanksgiving, conversation, connection and inspiration and is open to everyone in the Diocese including clergy, parishioners, volunteers and charities. To register your interest register your interest.

BRITISH SUMMER TIME ENDS

Don't forget that the clocks go back one hour this Sunday as British Summer Time comes to an end and we return to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
At 2.00am on Sunday, clocks should be turned back to 1.00am, giving us an extra hour in bed. Most smartphones, tablets and smartwatches will update automatically, but analogue clocks and watches will need to be adjusted manually.
The idea of changing the clocks to make better use of daylight was first proposed by William Willett in 1907 and became law in 1916 with the introduction of British Summer Time.
Remember: turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday night before going to bed!



POPPY APPEAL



Calling all knitters and crocheters! Last year we had a fantastic response to our Poppy Appeal, and we are hoping to make it even bigger this year!
Our aim is to add at least two more poppy panels to display over the hedge, but we need your help.
If you can knit or crochet some poppies, please speak to Maggie Wood or Candy Head. Patterns are available, so everyone is welcome to get involved.
Donations of red wool would also be very gratefully received.
Thank you for helping us create another wonderful display of remembrance.

Parish Database System - ChurchSuite

Thank you to everyone who has already registered. We encourage all parishioners, especially families with children preparing for **Baptism, First Holy Communion,** or **Confirmation**, to register with ChurchSuite as soon as possible. If you have any difficulties with the registration links, please contact the Parish Office.

The Adult Registration Form is available by copying and pasting the following URL link:
https://catholicdioceseofportsmouth.churchsuite.com/-/forms/xgfxemn6
or by scanning this QR code:

The Child Registration Form is available by copying and pasting the following URL link:
https://catholicdioceseofportsmouth.churchsuite.com/-/forms/ury2lp4z
or by scanning this QR code:

STELLA MARIS

Here at Sacred Heart, we are supporting Stella Maris, the seafarer's charity, at their Southampton Office.
We are now starting to collect boxes/tubs of chocolates for this Christmas (please ensure the 'Best before' or 'Use by' date stretches into 2027!) If you would like to knit hats, copies of the pattern will be available from the Welcomers Table (or online at https://stellamaris.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Stella-Maris-Woolly-Hat-Patter1.pdf). Small soft toys (maximum length about 10 inches) would also be very welcome (there are a wide variety of knitting and crochet patterns on the Internet!). Please leave all contributions at the back of the church or with the Sisters in the Convent. If you have any questions, please contact Brita (Saturday) or Penny (Sunday) after Mass or via the Office. Many thanks for your help, prayers and contributions, Brita, Penny, the chaplains and the seafarers.

ON THE WAY - WEEK 4 - B.E.C.O.M.E.: COMMIT TO GROWTH

If you are joining the series here, **B.E.C.O.M.E.** is our simple way of describing the journey from spiritual curiosity towards following Jesus and helping others follow Him: Belong in Community, Encounter Christ, Commit to Growth, Ongoing Renewal, Missionary Led and Evangelising Witness.
The **C** in **B.E.C.O.M.E.** is Commit to Growth.
An encounter with Christ is not intended to remain a single moment. It opens a life of following Him, learning from Him and allowing Him to shape us more deeply. Our Local Mission Plan identifies a clear challenge: what happens next? Too often somebody finishes Alpha, the course where people can explore Christian faith and ask questions, receives a Sacrament, returns to Mass or takes an important first step and is then left to work out the next stage alone. Commit to Growth means responding to grace by taking the next faithful step. For one person that may mean beginning to pray regularly or reading Scripture. For another it may mean returning to Reconciliation, joining a small group, learning more about the faith, discovering a gift or beginning to serve.
Growth is not the same as becoming busier. It includes a deepening relationship with Christ, greater maturity in our character and relationships, and a growing willingness to place our lives at the service of others.
Our Local Mission Plan therefore proposes stronger follow-up after Alpha and clearer ways for families, newcomers and returning Catholics to continue their journey. It also proposes renewed use of Called & Gifted, a process that helps people recognise the gifts God may have given them, and better support for those who teach and accompany others in faith. Over time, prayer, small groups, preparation for becoming Catholic, volunteering and leadership should connect more naturally with one another.
The same need is particularly clear for our young Church. The developing 16+ community and our longer-term hope for a recognisable youth ministry are intended to help First Holy Communion and Confirmation become stages in discipleship rather than finishing points. ChurchSuite, the digital system planned for parish contacts, communication and follow-up, can help us avoid losing touch and offer meaningful next steps. But relationships, prayer and discernment remain central. Our longer-term hope is that mature disciples will increasingly accompany others.
What next step would help your faith become more deeply rooted and more fruitful?
Next week: Ongoing Renewal.

PHOTOGRAPHS AND LIVE STREAMING

You may be aware that photographs are occasionally taken at church and parish events. These images may be used on the parish website and social media pages.
If you do not wish to appear in any photographs, please let us know and we will do our best to respect your wishes. Please also note that Sunday Masses are live streamed. We take care to avoid showing members of the congregation whenever possible. However, those seated in the first few rows on the left-hand side of the church may occasionally be visible on camera. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.