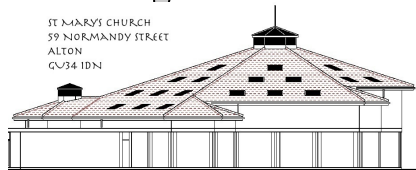


St Mary's Parish Newsletter



ST MARY'S CHURCH
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MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

w/c Sunday 7th June, 2026

CORPUS CHRISTI

The Body & Blood of Christ

(A1) (Office Proper)

Saturday	Our Lady on Saturday	
	5.30pm	Eileen McDermott, RIP
Sunday	CORPUS CHRISTI	
St. Lucy's	9.00am	People of the Parish
St. Mary's	11.00am	Patricia O'Driscoll, RIP
Monday	Feria	
	9.30am	In thanksgiving (RG)
Tuesday	Feria	
	NO MASS	
Wednesday	Feria	
	9.30am	John Leonard Hart, RIP
Thursday	St Barnabas, Apostle	
	9.30am	Special Intention (RG)
Friday	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus	
	9.30am	In Thanksgiving, (DW)
Saturday	St Anthony of Padua	
	5.30pm	Jeannie & Sean Norris, RIP
Sunday	Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	
St. Lucy's	9.00am	Sr Joan & Sr Barbera, RIP
St. Mary's	11.00am	John McGinty, RIP

Confessions: Saturday at 4.45pm and by appointment

Corpus Christi

The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ

Entrance Antiphon

He fed them with the finest wheat and satisfied them with honey from the rock

First Reading Deuteronomy 8:3, 14-16

Responsorial Psalm

O Jerusalem, glorify the Lord!

Second Reading Corinthians 10:16-17

Gospel Acclamation

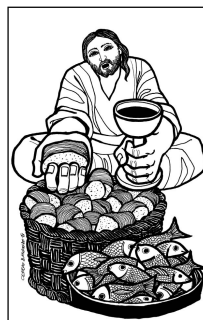
Alleluia, Alleluia! I am the living bread which has come down from heaven, says the Lord. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever. **Alleluia!**

Gospel John 6:51-58

Communion Antiphon:

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him, says the Lord.

The next Special Collection for **Day for Life**, will be taken on 20th & 21st June.
The **Peter's Pence** collecton will be on 27th & 28th June.



The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ

7th June 2026

Today's readings point to the eucharist as the bread for our journey of life. The experience of hunger coupled with God's providence was to remind the Israelites that material needs do not exhaust life's meaning. As the reading from Deuteronomy explains, God's word is food in itself. That same word of God gives us the assurance in today's gospel that Christ's body and blood will bring our earthly journey to its divinely determined end. The reading from Corinthians highlights the social dimensions of the Eucharist. The one loaf which we share intensifies our unity in the one Body of Christ. The Eucharist bonds Christians throughout life. Therefore, the motif of the Body and Blood of Christ as our food or our meal is to the fore in today's liturgy.

'My flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink.'



A Pope's Reflection Pope Benedict XVI

What does Corpus Christi mean to me? It does not only bring the liturgy to mind; for me, it is a day on which heaven and earth work together. In my mind's eye it is the time when spring is turning into summer; the sun is high in the sky, and crops are ripening in field and meadow. The

*Church's feasts make present the mystery of Christ, but Jesus Christ was immersed in the faith of the people of Israel and so, arising from this background in Israel's life, the Christian feasts too are also involved with the rhythm of the year, the rhythm of seedtime and harvest. How could it be otherwise in a liturgy which has at its centre the sign of bread, fruit of earth and heaven? Here this fruit of the earth, bread, is privileged to be the bearer of him in whom heaven and earth, God and man have become one. The way the Church's feasts fit in with the seasons of the year is therefore not an accident. Consequently we must go on to discover the inner rhythm of the Church's year and see the place Corpus Christi has within it. First of all, clearly, it grows out of the mystery of Easter and Pentecost: it presupposes the Resurrection and the sending of the Spirit. But it is also in close proximity to the Feast of the Trinity, which reveals the inner logic in the connection between Easter and Pentecost. It is only because God himself is the eternal dialogue of love that he can speak and be spoken to. Only because he himself is relationship can we relate to him; only because he is love can he love and be loved in return. Only because he is threefold can he be the grain of wheat which dies and the bread of eternal life. Ultimately, then, Corpus Christi is an expression of faith in God, in love, in the fact that God is love. All that is said and done on Corpus Christi is in fact a single variation on the theme of love, what it is and what it does. In one of his Corpus Christi hymns St. Thomas Aquinas puts it beautifully: *nec sumptus consumitur* - love does not consume: it gives and, in giving, receives. And in giving it is not used up but renews itself. Since Corpus Christi is a confession of faith in love, it is totally appropriate that the day should focus on the mystery of transubstantiation. Love is transubstantiation, transformation. Corpus Christi tells us: Yes, there is such a thing as love, and therefore there is transformation, therefore there is hope. And hope gives us the strength to live and face the world. Perhaps it was good to have experienced doubts about the meaning of celebrating Corpus Christi, for it has led us to the rediscovery of a feast which, today, we need more than ever.*

The Holy Father's Intentions (June)

For the values of sports

Let us pray that sports be an instrument of peace, encounter, and dialogue among cultures and nations, and that they promote values such as respect, solidarity, and personal growth.

Download of the Holy Rosary with Bishop Philip Egan

<https://soundcloud.com/user-598098600/sets/holy-rosary-with-bishop-philip-egan>

LORD, IN YOUR MERCY, HEAR OUR PRAYERS

Saints of the Week

June 9th, Saint Ephrem

Poet, teacher, orator, and defender of the faith, Saint Ephrem is the only Syriac Christian recognized as a doctor of the Church. He took upon himself the special task of opposing the many false doctrines rampant at his time, always remaining a true and forceful defender of the Catholic Church. Born in Nisibis, Mesopotamia, he was baptized as a young man and became famous as a teacher in his native city. When the Christian emperor had to cede Nisibis to the Persians, Ephrem fled as a refugee to Edessa, along with many other Christians. He is credited with attracting great glory to the biblical school there. He was ordained a deacon but declined becoming a priest. Ephrem was said to have avoided priestly consecration by feigning madness! Ephrem had a prolific pen, and his writings best illumine his holiness. Although he was not a man of great scholarship, his works reflect deep insight and knowledge of the Scriptures. In writing about the mysteries of humanity's redemption, Ephrem reveals a realistic and humanly sympathetic spirit and a great devotion to the humanity of Jesus. It is said that his poetic account of the Last Judgment inspired Dante. It is surprising to read that he wrote hymns against the heretics of his day. He would take the then popular songs of the heretical groups and using their melodies, compose beautiful hymns embodying orthodox doctrine. Saint Ephrem became one of the first to introduce song into the Church's public worship as a means of instruction for the faithful. His many hymns have earned him the title "Harp of the Holy Spirit." Ephrem preferred a simple, austere life, living in a small cave overlooking the city of Edessa. There he died around 373.

Reflection: Many Catholics still find singing in church a problem, probably because of the rather individualistic piety that they inherited. Yet singing has been a tradition of both the Old and the New Testaments. It is an excellent way of expressing and creating a community spirit of unity as well as of joy. An ancient historian testifies that Saint Ephrem's hymns "lent luster to the Christian assemblies." We need some modern Ephrems—and cooperating singers—to do the same for our Christian assemblies today.

June 13th, Saint Anthony of Padua

The gospel call to leave everything and follow Christ was the rule of Saint Anthony of Padua's life. Over and over again, God called him to something new in his plan. Every time Anthony responded with renewed zeal and self-sacrificing to serve his Lord Jesus more completely. His journey as the servant of God began as a very young man when he decided to join the Augustinians in Lisbon, giving up a future of wealth and power to be a servant of God. Later when the bodies of the first Franciscan martyrs went through the Portuguese city where he was stationed, he was again filled with an intense longing to be one of those closest to Jesus himself: those who die for the Good News. So, Anthony entered the Franciscan Order and set out to preach to the Moors. But an illness prevented him from achieving that goal. He went to Italy and was stationed in a small hermitage where he spent most of his time praying, reading the Scriptures and doing menial tasks. The call of God came again at an ordination where no one was prepared to speak. The humble and obedient Anthony hesitantly accepted the task. The years of searching for Jesus in prayer, of reading sacred Scripture and of serving him in poverty, chastity, and obedience had prepared Anthony to allow the Spirit to use his talents. Anthony's sermon was astounding to those who expected an unprepared speech and knew not the Spirit's power to give people words. Recognized as a great man of prayer and a great Scripture and theology scholar, Anthony became the first friar to teach theology to the other friars. Soon he was called from that post to preach to the Albigensians in France, using his profound knowledge of Scripture and theology to convert and reassure those who had been misled by their denial of Christ's divinity and of the



sacraments. After he led the friars in northern Italy for three years, he made his headquarters in the city of Padua. He resumed his preaching and began writing sermon notes to help other preachers. In the spring of 1231 Saint Anthony of Padua withdrew to a friary at Camposampiero where he had a sort of treehouse built as a hermitage. There he prayed and prepared for death. On June 13, he became very ill and asked to be taken back to Padua, where he died after receiving the last sacraments. Saint Anthony was canonized less than a year later and named a Doctor of the Church in 1946.

Reflection: Saint Anthony should be the patron of those who find their lives completely uprooted and set in a new and unexpected direction. Like all saints, he is a perfect example of turning one's life completely over to Christ. God did with Anthony as God pleased—and what God pleased was a life of spiritual power and brilliance that still attracts admiration today. He whom popular devotion has nominated as finder of lost objects found himself by losing himself totally to the providence of God. May Saint Anthony's holy life help us see with renewed faith God's forgiveness and unconditional love for each of us! If we as believers understood as clearly as Anthony the depth of God's love for each of us, surely our love for Christ would grow stronger.

ENTERING THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

If anyone is considering joining the Church through the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation or wishing to enter into full communion with the Catholic Church by the rite of reception, then please speak to Fr Peter or Dcn Stephen as soon as possible. There is a period of instruction and Formation that needs to be completed beforehand.

SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES MASS

Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years?

If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. This will take place at St Bede's church in Basingstoke on Saturday 20th June at 11am. This will be followed by a buffet lunch. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage.

Please contact your parish secretary if you would like to attend and they will send you a form for you to complete and return to Kirsten McGuire in Bishop's Office. Thank you. kmcguire@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

FILM NIGHT

Some of the confirmation candidates have proposed having a Christian film night on the evening of June 28th at 5.30pm. The film chosen is "Risen" which has a classification of 12A. It would not be suitable for children under 12 as it contains scenes of graphic violence. However it is a very good film about the Resurrection of Jesus and faith.

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L	I	V	E	N	D	A	E	R	B	EVER	FLESH	DRINK
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N	D	O	O	R	E	V	E	T	H	ANCESTORS	DEAD	ANYONE
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Please remember in your prayers



Baby Polly Phillips, Matthew & Duncan Graham, John D., Mary McGinty, Regina Elliot, Maria Proli, Francesca Adams, Mary McGrath, Annie Tomlinson, Rita Rawling, Kate Cradock, Alex Smith, Jonathan & Lindy Wiltshire, Simon Wilder, Mary Sturgess, Theresa Davies, Flavia Stampa Gruss, Kay Hulbert, Pam Barbour