

Catholic Parish of Crowthorne and Sandhurst
Holy Ghost and the Immaculate Conception Churches
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Newsletter – Sunday 30th November 2025
First Sunday of Advent

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Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 10.00am (HG) Alma Woulfe RIP
6.00pm (IC) Katherine Willoughby RIP & Monica Leese RIP

Sunday 9.00am (IC) Harry Brisley RIP
11.00am (HG) The people of the parish

Monday 9.30am (HG) Ranjan Gunasekera RIP & Lasanpha Rajapaksa RIP

Tuesday **No Mass today**

Wednesday **No Mass today**

Thursday **No Mass today**

Friday 9.30am (IC) Elizabeth Manweiller RIP

Saturday 10.00am (HG) Bice & Antonio Valente RIP
6.00pm (IC) Joao Jose Lourenco Nazareth RIP

Sunday 9.00am (IC) The people of the parish
(7/12) 11.00am (HG) Peter D'Allenger RIP

IC – Church of the Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst HG – Church of the Holy Ghost, Crowthorne

Feasts

Monday St. Edmund Campion, Priest, Martyr

Wednesday St. Francis Xavier, Priest

Friday St. Birinus, Bishop, Apostle of Wessex

Saturday St. Nicholas, Bishop

This Sunday we will use Preface 1 of Advent and Eucharistic Prayer 2

The following people's anniversaries will occur during the coming week: Margaret Mills, Joe Bird, Victoria Rambour, Lynda Gowen, Albertina Gordon, Sara Charlwood and David Ashley. May they all rest in peace.

Confessions – The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available at the following times:

Church of the Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst: Fridays at 10.00am; Saturdays 5.15pm until 5.45pm

Church of the Holy Ghost, Crowthorne: Saturdays 10.30am; Sundays after the 11.00am Mass

Parish Office – The Office is open 9.30am – 12.30pm on Mondays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. Nobody is available on Tuesdays.

First Sunday of Advent – This Sunday we begin a new Church Year as we move into the Season of Advent. For the coming year we will be using Cycle A for our Sunday readings where the Gospel we will hear at Mass will usually be that of St. Matthew.

Christmas Cards – We have a small selection of Christmas cards on sale in the church porch. Prices are marked on each packet. All money for the cards goes to help the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need.

Refreshments after Sunday Mass – Refreshments after served after our Sunday morning Masses in both churches, so please join us in the Hall to meet other members of the Parish community.

Pastoral Area Newsletter – As the three parishes of the South Berkshire Pastoral Area work together towards their eventual unification, at some point soon we will all move to sharing a single shared newsletter to replace those serving our individual communities. As a dry run for this, this Sunday, in addition to our own parish newsletter, one for the whole Pastoral Area has been produced giving details of Advent and Christmas services and events in our churches. Please be sure to take a copy if you do not receive one by email.

Catechism Classes – Every year in our parish we run a course of Catechism Classes which aim at deepening our children's knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith. Any child who belongs to our Parish Community and who is in School Year 4 or above is welcome to join the classes. For those who attend Sunday Mass regularly, at the end of the course they will receive First Reconciliation and Holy Communion. We also use this process to bring to the sacraments older children who wish to be baptised or to be received into membership of the Catholic Church. The course will begin in early January and so parents who wish their child to take part are invited to contact Father Marcus. **The closing date for applications will be Sunday 14th December.**

RCIA – This is the process by which adults can be prepared for baptism or to be received into Full Communion with the Catholic Church from other Christians communities. It has been decided that the most fruitful way of doing this will be for it to be a joint Pastoral Area initiative. The first focus will be on drawing together a team from the parishes to support those exploring the Catholic Faith and we are inviting parishioners to consider being part of this as catechists, sponsors, welcomers or in hospitality. More information will be available in the coming weeks but if you would like to explore the matter further please speak to Father Marcus or contact the Parish Office.

Romanian Orthodox Community – Father Dragos and his community, who have been worshipping at the church in Sandhurst since September 2024, have now moved their services back to St. Joseph's Church in Bracknell. We wish them God's blessing.

Christmas Fayre – A BIG thank you to all who helped raise in excess of £1878.00 at the Christmas Fayre - those who donated, those who attended and those who helped over the 3 days. Your support was invaluable and all monies donated to the church funds. **A special thank you to Pat and Sherrie who work so hard and put a considerable amount of time into preparing for this annual event. Their labours are much appreciated !**

Christmas Afternoon Tea is on Wednesday 3rd December from 2.00pm – 4.00pm in the Parish rooms at the Holy Ghost church Crowthorne, come and enjoy in your Christmas sparkles! Look forward to seeing you.

Mass Intentions – The Parish Diary for 2026 has now arrived and Elizabeth & Sue are waiting with pens poised. It is sometimes very important to people to have Mass offered on a particular date, such as the anniversary of the death of a loved one. If this is the case, please can we advise that these Intentions be arranged as soon as possible so that we can avoid disappointing people. Please note the Parish Diary for 2025 is now fully booked.

Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 8th March 2026. £899.00 pps. Price includes flight from Heathrow or Luton, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with dinner, bed & breakfast. Full use of leisure facilities. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock Shrine, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre & Kylemore Abbey. Irish music nightly. Single supplement on enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

Cathedral 150 Appeal – In preparation for the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese an appeal is being launched to do major necessary repair works to St. John's Cathedral in Portsmouth. These will cost in the region of £2.5 million. An appeal to raise this money will be launched on 30th November this year. The Cathedral Parish is situated in the poorest part of the Diocese and the cost of the required works is completely beyond its limited resources. Consequently, support is being sought from across the Diocese for our Mother Church. Each parish is being asked to find several people to act as link persons between the parish and the appeal. If anybody feels that this is something they could help with, please would they contact Father Marcus. It would be an immense help to our parish and to the Diocese

Series of Advent Talks - To prepare ourselves this Advent for the celebration of Christmas, Owen Dugan, a seminarian for our diocese who is on extended placement with Canon Simon in Wokingham, will be delivering a series of Advent Talks across our Pastoral Area. The talks will take place on the Wednesdays of Advent and after each talk there will be a brief period of Eucharistic Adoration, followed by refreshments. This is a great opportunity for us to come together as a pastoral area to grow in faith and prepare our hearts well for Christmas and hopefully get to know each other a little better as we prepare to become one parish in the fullness of time. You are all warmly invited to attend! The talks will begin at **7.00pm** and take place as follows:

Wed. 03rd Dec. – St. Joseph's, Bracknell – *Christ Will Come Again: Are we Prepared?*

Wed. 10th Dec. – Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst – *Preparing Our Hearts to Receive the Baby Jesus this Christmas with the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

Wed. 17th Dec. – Corpus Christi, Wokingham – *Let us Adore the Lord with the Magi: The Mystery of the Incarnation.*

Churches Together in Crowthorne - Knitted Christmas Angels. We would be very grateful for as many Christmas Angels as we can produce, as in previous years. There will be copies of the patterns available in both Churches - a collecting box for the angels has been placed in the porch of each church. Please place your completed angels in them. We need some angels for the end of November and then more during December.

As usual Churches Together in Crowthorne will be taking part in the Late-Night Shopping in Crowthorne High Street on Friday 5th December between 5pm-7.30pm. Do come and support the Carols and the Christmas Story as well as the other offerings. The High Street will be closed to traffic and volunteers are needed to make sure that people crossing Dukes Ride use the crossing near the Methodist Church as Dukes Ride is open to traffic. Please contact the Parish Office or Angela Greenwood, 01344 774254, if you would like to help.

Save the date – Friday 30th January for church quiz at Sandhurst Day Centre. Doors open at 6.30pm. Quiz starts at 7.00pm till 10.00pm. Tickets will be sold beginning of January. Please bring your own drinks and nibbles.

Plate Collection – for last Sunday: £675.42 - Standing Orders: £575 - Digital Giving collection: £101.28. Thank you for your generosity. If anyone wishes to donate by cheque to the parish, cheques should be made payable to CDP Crowthorne HG & Sandhurst IC.