

Catholic Parish of Crowthorne and Sandhurst
Holy Ghost and the Immaculate Conception Churches
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Newsletter – Sunday 5th November 2023
Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time
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Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday	6.00pm (IC)	Douglas Almeida RIP
Sunday	9.00am (IC)	Bill Williams RIP
	11.00am (HG)	The People of the Parish
Monday	9.30am (HG)	Bill Smallman RIP
Tuesday		<u>No public Mass today</u>
Wednesday	9.30am (IC)	Sandra McSorley RIP
Thursday	9.30am (HG)	Doreen O'Toole RIP
	1.15pm (SL)	Private Intention
Friday	9.30am (IC)	Stella FitzPatrick RIP
Saturday	10.00am (HG)	Deceased members of Heery & Claydon families
	6.00pm (IC)	Mary & Bert Hill RIP
Sunday	9.00am (IC)	The People of the Parish
(12/11)	11.00am (HG)	Canon Glyndŵr Williams & deceased relatives

Feast –

Tuesday	St. Willibrord, Bishop, Patron of the Netherlands
Thursday	The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica
Friday	St. Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor of the Church
Saturday	St. Martin of Tours, Bishop

This Sunday we will use Sunday Preface 6 and Eucharistic Prayer 2

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) –

Church of the Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst: Saturday 5.15pm – 5.45pm

Church of the Holy Ghost, Crowthorne: Saturday 10.30am; Sunday after 11.00am Mass

The sacrament is also available by appointment.

Anniversaries – The following people's anniversaries will occur during the coming week: Douglas Almeida, Michael Grealish, Ryan Fuller, John Barnett, Sandra McSorley, Kate Chapman, Mary Sharpe, John Grealish, Stella FitzPatrick and Lillian Moss-Terry. Mass they rest in peace.

Books of Remembrance – in the Roman Catholic Church November is a time when we pray in a special way for those who have died. As a focus for our prayers throughout this month, the Parish Books of Remembrance will be available at the front of our churches from the evening of 31st October and you are invited to write in them the names of your deceased loved ones.

Plenary Indulgence – The Church grants a Plenary Indulgence, applicable only to the Faithful Departed, which can be gained every day from 1st to 8th November, The conditions for gaining the Indulgence are:

1. Go to Confession.
2. Receive Holy Communion.
3. Saying any prayer for the Pope's Intentions (one "Our Father" & one "Hail Mary" suffice for this).
4. Visiting a cemetery to pray for those who have died. A visit to our Parish Memorial Garden at the church in Sandhurst would be suitable for this.

Help for Palestinian Christians – Because the present conflict in the Holy Land is due to the terrorist attacks carried out on 7th October by the Islamist group Hamas, and television coverage tends to show Moslem people in the Gaza Strip, it is easy to forget that some Palestinians are Christians and belong to a community stretching back to the Apostles. A Sister at Gaza's Catholic parish – now caring for more families following the bombing of the local Greek Orthodox church – has made a heartfelt plea for peace and for practical support from the Catholic charity Aid to the Church in Need. Sister Nabila reports that the parish has no electricity or running water and has resorted to drinking from a well, which they fear could soon run dry, or bottled water, which costs three times its original price. She expressed concern for around 100 traumatised children they are caring for and who have known nothing but war throughout their lives. The Holy Family Catholic Parish has been providing aid and shelter to about 700 wounded and displaced Christians (most of whom have lost their homes) affected by the ongoing violence. The number of those taking refuge in the Holy Family Parish complex increased by around 200 after the Greek Orthodox church of St. Porphyrios (one of the oldest churches in the world) was hit by a missile which killed 18 people. Sister Nabila said "Peace, peace, we just want peace. There is so much suffering. It's terrible. Right now, we only have God". Aid to the Church in Need is dispatching food coupons, medicine and funds to cover electricity, water and other utilities, supporting families in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem. If you feel you would like to make a donation to this, please go to their website (acnuk.org), click on "Donate", then on "I want my donation to help a particular cause", then on "Holy Land" in the drop down box.

Refreshments at the Church of The Immaculate Conception - Refreshments are available after the 9.00am Mass on Sundays so please join us in the Hall. The refreshments will be available on a fortnightly basis on 5th and 19th November, 3rd, 17th and 31st December and so on. The refreshments schedule is posted on the notice board. Refreshments are also served in the Parish Room at the Church of the Holy Ghost each Sunday after the 11.00am Mass.

Christmas Fayre - is at the Immaculate Conception church hall on Saturday 2nd December 10am – 4pm + 7pm – 8pm + Sunday 3rd December 10am – 11am. Stalls to include: tombola, cakes and preserves, gifts, toiletries, Red and Green etc. Donations gratefully accepted during November, after the weekend masses in the Christmas boxes in each church porch. Please do not leave items during the week – thank you

Offers of help for Christmas Fayre - even for an hour or two to set up, help on a stall or tidy up would be much appreciated. Questions, queries or offers of help to Sherrie or Pat after Mass or on 01344 774746 Thank you.

Christmas Raffle - 1st Prize = £100.00 plus 11 other prizes. Tickets 50p each. To ensure your chance please place the amount in an envelope clearly marked with your name, telephone number and amount enclosed and they will be collected after each weekend mass. The draw will take place between 7pm - 8pm on Saturday 2nd December. If you wish to purchase Tombola tickets then please follow the same format and they will drawn during the day on Saturday the 2nd December.

Seniors Christmas lunch is on Saturday 9th December. We will be hosting a lunch for our parishioners who are over 75. This will take a slightly simpler format this year with a buffet lunch. Formal invitations will be sent in November, but please save the date. If you have not previously attended and would like to do so, please let the Parish Office know in the next week. Please let us know also your contact details (phone and home address). Because of numbers in a smaller venue we will need to restrict attendance to people who are currently parishioners (those who live in the parish or, if they live elsewhere, usually attend Mass in one of our two parish churches).

The 40 Days for Life peaceful prayer vigil at the BPAS abortion in Reading started last week and goes on until November 5th. See <https://www.40daysforlife.com/en/readinguk> Please join if you can, and pray

Bamenda Sunday – We shall be celebrating Bamenda Sunday in the Diocese on 5 November, when we shall be giving thanks for our link with the Archdiocese of Bamenda and for the ministry of their five priests serving in our Diocese; praying for our brothers and sisters in Bamenda and for the restoration of peace and justice in the region; and giving to our annual appeal to support projects in Bamenda in 2024, the 50th anniversary of the formation of the link! Please read our annual Bamenda News for an update, which can be accessed on the Bamenda and Portsmouth website: <https://www.bamendaandportsmouth.com/index.php>. Donations can be made via the parish second collection or online securely at : <https://www.bamendaandportsmouth.com/donate.php> where gift aid and standing order forms can also be downloaded and bank details can be found for direct transfers. If you already have gift aided your donations to Bamenda, please complete and submit a new form to address the change of name to CDP Bamenda Commission. Thank you for your generosity!

Gift aid – Parishioners who are already Gift Aiders, can you please download and sign the gift-aid declaration form. Since we have changed the charity name (but still same bank account details), we need to have an updated signed form. You can download the form here: <https://www.crowsand.co.uk/gift-aid>. There will be forms too available at the back of the church or you can ask the Parish Office for the form. We must do this in order to be compliant with HMRC. Gift Aid will not be claimed unless a new CDP GAD has been signed. Please send your signed gift-aid declaration form to the Parish Office. Thank you.

Mass Intentions – We are now fully booked with Mass Intentions until the first week in January.

Hymn books come home ! – We have noticed that the number of hymn books we have in our two churches has rather reduced recently. It is very easy inadvertently to leave Mass still carrying a hymn book and Mass card under your arm so, if you have any at home, please would you return them. Thank you.

Keys – A set of house keys, on a ring with a Tesco Clubcard fob and a Waitrose card, were left in the church in Sandhurst after the 9.00am Mass last Sunday. They are safe in the Parish Office for collection by the owner.

Church open – The Church of the Immaculate Conception in Sandhurst is open for private prayer every day except Tuesdays from 8.00pm until about 4.00pm.