

Catholic Parish of Crowthorne and Sandhurst
Holy Ghost and the Immaculate Conception Churches
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Newsletter – Sunday 7th December 2025
Second Sunday of Advent

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Mass Times and Intentions

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
	11.00am (HG) Peter D'Allenger RIP
Monday	9.30am (HG) Patrick Meehan RIP
Tuesday	<u>No Mass today</u>
Wednesday	9.30am (IC) Clive Brisley RIP
Thursday	9.30am (HG) Peter Higgins RIP
Friday	9.30am (IC) Margaret & Alfred Smith RIP
Saturday	10.00am (HG) The well-being of Pauline Smith, & Ralph Smith RIP
	6.00pm (IC) Peter Hare RIP
Sunday	9.00am (IC) Kay & Joe Bird RIP
(14/12)	11.00am (HG) Maurice Delaney RIP

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

Feasts

Monday	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY
Friday	Our Lady of Guadalupe
Saturday	St. Lucy, Virgin, Martyr

As this is the first Sunday of the month the local priests will be moving around the parishes for Mass.
Father Marcus will be going to Wokingham and we welcome Father Danny McAvoy to our parish.

The following people's anniversaries will occur during the coming week: Bridie Goody, Margaret Snow-Soon, Peter D'Allenger, and Miroslav Kolinsky. 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

Confirmation – Congratulations to Meg, Patrick and Thomas (Dodie) Stokes who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this Wednesday. On the same occasion Dodie will receive his First Holy Communion.

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

Advent Penitential Service – On Thursday 18th December at 7.00pm in St. Joseph's Church in Bracknell. The local clergy will be available for Confession. This is a great way to prepare to celebrate the coming feast of the Lord's Nativity.

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.

The Social Committee would like to invite you to join them in the hall after the 9am Mass on Sunday 14th December, when there will be a glass of mulled wine and mince pies and Carols and Christmas songs provided by "Heavens Above". We look forward to seeing you then.

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.

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.

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.

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

Simbang Gabi (Night Mass) at Panunuluyan - This is a Christmas custom beloved in the Philippines and combines Mass with a tableau of Our Lady and St. Joseph seeking some shelter in Bethlehem before the birth of the Lord Jesus. It is always a wonderful occasion and this year will be at 6.00pm on Wednesday 17th December in the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Everyone is warmly invited to attend.

Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo, 8th March 2026. £899.00 per person. 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.

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. 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.*

Christmas Masses –

Christmas Eve: 5.00pm (IC)
10.00pm (HG)

Christmas Day 9.00am (IC)
11.00am (HG)

Save the date – Friday 30th January for a 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.

Missio Calendars – there are a few spare calendars in the IC porch -please help yourself if you would like one.

Donations - Having provided a highly discounted rate of bank charges for many years, our bank has recently raised its charges to the diocese and all parishes quite steeply.

We now pay:

Cheques paid in: - £1.00 each

Cash Paid-in: - £1.50 per £100 of cash banked.

So as to minimise our bank charges, please can we ask you to consider, wherever possible, the following ways of donating to the parish which incur very minimal, or no, bank charges.

-The contactless card payment machines in the porches - these can be used for offertory, second collections, and donations.

-Bank Standing Order - Forms are available in the porches, and any member of the finance committee will be pleased to help with their completion if required.

-Please also consider joining the Parish Gift Aid scheme which enables our parish to receive an additional 25% for donations made by UK taxpayers. Forms are available in the porches or from the Parish Office.

-Gift Aid declarations can now also be made online either by scanning the following QR Code, please see the notice board

or by clicking on the following link

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=aXEQD-Bnr06EKJ6fBel0q4Rua0kQk-BPsjWqtSnqkZFUMjdWVEVONDVXRzU4VIRVNkRRSVE4STQ0OC4u>

All your generous donations are gratefully appreciated no matter how made, and if you are able to help us minimise our costs this too will be most welcome.

Plate Collection – for last Sunday: £770.22 - Standing Orders: £575 - Digital Giving collection: £212.89. 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.

South Berkshire Pastoral Area
Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth
Registered Charity No. 1199568