

Catholic Parish of Crowthorne and Sandhurst
Holy Ghost and the Immaculate Conception Churches

Parish Priest: Father Marcus Brisley BD MTh

Parish Secretary: Mrs. Elizabeth Ramos

Parish Safeguarding Team: Mrs. Sandra Owoso & Mr. Gerry Picozzi

Email: safeguarding.crosa@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding Office: 023 9281 6396

Presbytery and Office located at
The Immaculate Conception Church,
63-67 Yorktown Road, Sandhurst, GU47 9BS
Telephone: 01252-876820
Email: crowsand@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Website: <https://www.crowsand.co.uk>

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Newsletter – Sunday 14th December 2025
Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)

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Mass Times and Intentions

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
	11.00am (HG)	Maurice Delaney RIP
Monday	9.30am (HG)	Martin Stubbs RIP
Tuesday	<u>No Mass today</u>	
Wednesday	9.30am (IC)	The well-being of Pauline Smith, & Ralph Smith RIP
	6.00pm (IC)	Simbang Gabi
Thursday	9.30am (HG)	Dawn Jones RIP & Mabel Grant RIP
Friday	9.30am (IC)	Michael & Mary Picozzi RIP
Saturday	10.00am (HG)	Holy Souls
	6.00pm (IC)	Ryan Claydon RIP
Sunday	9.00am (IC)	Francis Reilly RIP
(21/12)	11.00am (HG)	The people of the Parish

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

This Sunday we will use Advent Preface 1 and Eucharistic Prayer 3

The following people's anniversaries will occur during the coming week: Joan Thomas, Yvonne Drewelus, Peter Hare, Philip Ellis, Brian Baigrie, Anne Dennison, David Rhodes, Salvina Starfrace, Blake Parsons-Kilburn, Tricia Crabb and William Mackett. 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.

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.

Refreshments after Sunday Mass – Refreshments 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 9.00am Mass this 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.

The Parish would like to give our thanks to the Social Committee for the wonderful Christmas Lunch they provided for the Senior Citizens of our community. A tremendous amount of planning and work went into this, and it was a very enjoyable occasion.

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.

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.

Series of Advent Talks - This coming Wednesday 17th December starting at 7pm at Corpus Christi, Wokingham will be the last of our series of Advent Talks given by our seminarian Owen. This week's talk is entitled 'Let us Adore the Lord with the Magi: The Mystery of the Incarnation'. The talk will last approx. 30 minutes followed by a brief period of Eucharistic Adoration and then Benediction, finishing with some refreshments in the Keenan Rooms kindly provided this week by the Spirit and Grace Prayer Group. Many

thanks to all those who have turned out in such good numbers so far in Bracknell and Sandhurst. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Christmas Masses –

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

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

If anybody would like to donate a Poinsettia to place around the Crib in memory of a loved one that would be very much appreciated. The plants can be brought to the church from the weekend of 20th/21st December.

For the convenience of people wishing to give Christmas cards to other members of the parish a box has been placed in the porch of each of our churches and you are invited to place your cards in these. Please only leave cards if you know that the intended recipient actually attends that church as we don't have an arrangement for transporting cards between the two locations. Also, please be sure to check if there are any cards for you.

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 QR Code (displayed on 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: £688.89 - Standing Orders: £575 - Digital Giving collection: £219.24.
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.