

Catholic Parish of Crowthorne and Sandhurst
Holy Ghost and the Immaculate Conception Churches
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Newsletter – Sunday 2nd November 2025
All Saints

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Mass Times and Intentions

Saturday 10.00am (HG) The well-being of Josie Fordree

6.00pm (IC) The people of the parish

Sunday 9.00am (IC) Francis Reilly RIP

11.00am (HG) The well-being of Carol & Eddy Jacks

Monday 9.30am (HG) The Faithful Departed

Tuesday **No Mass**

Wednesday 9.30am (IC) Bill Williams RIP

Thursday 9.30am (HG) Doreen O'Toole RIP

Friday 9.30am (IC) Douglas Almeida RIP

Saturday 10.00am (HG) Martin Stubbs RIP

6.00pm (IC) Sandra McSorley RIP

Sunday 9.00am (IC) The people of the parish

(9/11) 11.00am (HG) Those who have lost their lives in armed conflict.

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

Feasts

Monday Commemoration of All Souls

Tuesday St. Charles Borromeo, Bishop

Friday St. Willibrord, Bishop, Patron of the Netherlands

This weekend, being the first of the month, we welcome Canon Simon Thomson from Wokingham to celebrate all of our Masses.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Monsignor James Joyce, former Parish Priest of Wokingham, who died on Monday 20th October. Please also remember another of our Diocesan priests, Father David Quarmby, who was at one time Parish Priest of Yateley and who died on Sunday 26th October.

The following people's anniversaries will occur during the coming week: Michael James; Alma Hughes; Douglas Almeida; Michael Grealish; Ryan Fuller; John Barrett and Sandra McSorley. May they all rest in peace.

November, Month of the Holy Souls – In Catholic tradition this month is dedicated in a special way to praying for the Faithful Departed. As a focus for our prayers, Books of Remembrance will be placed at the front of both of our churches and you are invited to write in them the names of those for whom you wish to pray.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of the following who have died since this time last year: Denise Monteiro; Peter Hare; Peter D'Allenger; Monique Steele; Philip Deacon; Kay Bamfield; Isabella Fordham; Martha O'Grady; Maureen Russell; Teresa O'Toole; and Ralph Smith (passed away on 17th October).

The Church offers a Plenary Indulgence, applicable only to those who have died, daily from 1st until 8th November to those who fulfil the following requirements:

1. Go to Confession and subsequently receive Holy Communion (not necessarily on the same day).
2. Visit a cemetery to pray for the dead. Our own Parish Garden of Remembrance at the church in Sandhurst would meet this requirement.
3. Pray for the Pope's intentions – this can be any prayer of your choice (an "Our Father" and a "Hail Mary" suffice).

Only one Plenary Indulgence can be gained on any one day. As long as a person remains in a state free from sin, one Confession suffices to gain several Plenary Indulgences. However, for each Indulgence a separate reception of Holy Communion and prayer for the Pope's intentions is required.

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

Baptism – Joshua Declan Godinho is to be Baptised on Saturday 8th November in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Sandhurst. Congratulations to Joshua and to his family.

Sacraments of Initiation – Biel Marti Towndrow will receive the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and First Holy Communion) during the 10.00am Mass on Saturday 8th November. Congratulations to Biel and to his family.

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

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.

HG Coffee Rota volunteers needed – Thank you to the parishioners who take it in turns to do the Sunday coffee rota after the 11.00am Mass at Holy Ghost Church. It would be a great help if anyone else is willing to join the rota to do this. If you are willing to volunteer, please contact Lesley Geary at 07554 641 687.

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 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.

Bingo – This Sunday, 2nd Nov 2.00pm until 4.00pm. The cost of the tickets will be £5 which includes 8 games plus light refreshments. Prizes will be given for a complete line and for a full house on each game. Please come and join us for a fun afternoon. All eyes down for a full house. Good Luck.

Afternoon Tea – This will be served from 2.00pm – 4.00pm on Wednesday 5th November in the Meeting Room at the Church of the Holy Ghost in Crowthorne. All are very welcome to attend.

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.

Seniors Christmas Lunch is on the horizon. Please save the date on 6th December. This is for our parishioners who are 75 years old and above. Please call the Parish Office at 01252-876820 if you would like to join. We would need your telephone number and your address to send your invitation.

Christmas Fayre 2025 – in the Immaculate Conception church hall on Saturday 22nd NOVEMBER = 10am – 4pm + 7pm - 8 pm + Sunday 23rd Nov 10am – 11am. **STALLS** to include Gifts, Jewellery, Toiletries, Cakes and Produce (with ingredient list please) Christmas, China and Glass, Tombola/Bottles, Toys, Games, Jigsaws and Pre-loved. **DONATIONS**, gratefully accepted, from the 25th/26th OCTOBER after the WEEKEND Masses in the Christmas Boxes in the porch at each church. Please DO NOT leave items during the week. Thank You.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE - 1ST Prize = £150.00 plus 11 other prizes. Tickets £1.00 each. To ensure your chance please place your cash in an envelope marked with your name, telephone number and amount enclosed. They will be collected after each Weekend Mass from the 25th/26th October - Sherrie has a very efficient system. The draw will take place between 7pm - 8pm on Saturday 22nd November. **OFFERS OF HELP** even for an hour or two to set up on Friday 21st between 11am – 3pm, help on a stall even for an hour or two on Saturday 22nd or to tidy up on Sunday 23rd between 11am – 1pm will be greatly appreciated. Questions, queries or offers of help to Sherrie or Pat after Mass or Pat on 01344 774746. Thank 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.

Mass Count – Each year we are required to count the number of people attending Mass in the parish over a number of weeks and then work out the average. For 2025 our average for the whole parish (both churches) was 290 people (2024: 263; 2023: 253).

Bamenda Sunday – Each year on the first Sunday of November we celebrate the link between our diocese and the archdiocese of Bamenda in Cameroon. It is a time where we also ask for your financial support to help our brothers and sisters, who are still impacted by the civil unrest that has affected the region since 2016. Despite the risks and challenges the archdiocese continues to run its parishes, provide education and health services, and support thousands of displaced people. Currently, most government services in the region are closed and the only services available are those the archdiocese provides to people of all faiths. During a recent visit to Portsmouth, Archbishop Andrew, Archbishop of Bamenda, acknowledged that our diocesan support does not only provide practical benefits to the people of Bamenda but also the encouragement that they are not forgotten in difficult times. If you would like to support our Diocese's continuing assistance to the Diocese of Bamenda, please place your kind donation in the box or **through digital plate** in the porch after Mass. Donations can also be made online - <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/bamenda/donate/>

CHARIS Portsmouth is happy to welcome you to Cast out your Nets, an online evening of renewal focussing on evangelisation, on Thursday 13th November from 7.15 -9.15pm. Our main speaker will be Fr Chris Thomas, involved in running the Irenaeus Project in Liverpool, while Mike Watson, a member of CHARIS Portsmouth CDSC will also give his testimony. Come and see what the Lord has in store for you! To join the meeting, please register <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/gaVly-XhQh-CtBUDfbsjIA> for the Zoom link here to be sent to you nearer the time. Closing date to register is 12th November.

Plate Collection – for last two Sundays: £1,435.63 (plus £209 for Missio and £148.65 for CAFOD) - Standing Orders: £575 - Digital Giving collection: £235.99. 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.