



**The Parish of The Holy  
Trinity and Our Lady  
Fleet & Church Crookham**

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Charity No. 1199568

Parish Priest: Fr Johnpromise Umeozuru

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Our Lady (OL): Kings Road, Fleet, GU51 3ST

The Holy Trinity (HT): Aldershot Road,  
Church Crookham, GU52 8JU

**Mass Times & Venues**

3rd September 2023 — 9th September 2023

Psalter week 2

**Sun 3rd September: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9.00am (HT): Susan Vince (JV)

10.45am (HT): Mass said in Polish

11.00am (OL): People of the Parish

**Mon 4th Sept: Feria**

9.30am (OL): Norah Sinclair, John and Edna McGarry RIP

**Tue 5th Sept: Mother Teresa of Calcutta**

9.30am (HT): Rui Gomes RIP & Deceased Family

**Wed 6th Sept: Feria**

9.30am (OL): Fr Adrian Mckenna

**Th 7th Sept: Feria**

9.30am(HT): Paul Clarke RIP

7.00pm (HT): Mass said in Polish

**Fri 8th Sept: Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

9.30am (OL): HRH Queen Elizabeth II

**Sat 9th Sept: Our Lady on Saturday**

9.30am (OL): Ann Mann RIP

**Sun 10th Sept: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time**

9.00am (HT): People of the parish

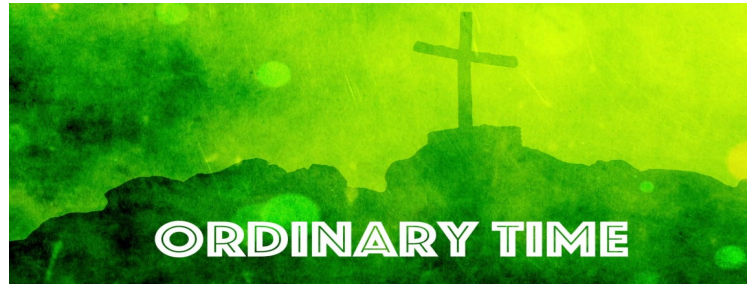
10.45am (HT): Mass said in Polish

11.00am (OL): Healing of the Parish

**PROFOUND APPRECIATION TO FR PETER HART**



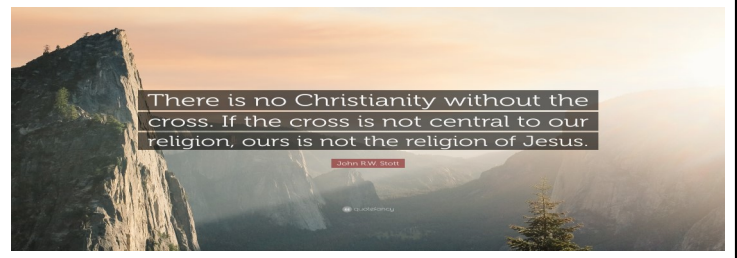
We thank our erstwhile parish priest – Fr Peter Hart, who after 2 years of service here in Fleet and Church Crookham, has now assumed his new appointment as the parish priest of St Mary's Parish, Alton. We thank him for the wonderful things he did in our parish and we pray God to continue to bless and enrich him in his new appointment. Thank You Fr!



**THERE ARE NO CROSSLESS CHRISTIANS**

In my last meeting with my Spiritual Director before embarking on the Canonical Retreat that led to my priestly ordination, he focused on a topic that sends shivers down my spine each time I think about it - MY DEATH ON THE DAY OF MY PRIESTLY ORDINATION. My Spiritual Director made it clear to me that as I prostrated on the floor of St John's Cathedral Portsmouth while the entire heavenly courts were invoked on me during the Litany of the Saints, I died to self, signed off my life and began a new life in and with Christ. According to him, after that incident, I would never lay any other claim on my life since it belongs to God, His Church, and His people even to the point of sacrificing it to defend them all. You can imagine the horror I felt when in his homily at my Priestly Ordination on the 20<sup>th</sup> of July 2019, Bishop Philip Egan echoed the above words of my Spiritual Director when he said: "The priesthood will cost you everything, even your own life." Based on my experiences the past 4 years as a priest, I can testify that the above statement is simply the truth. The priesthood and indeed the Christian life in general are very costly; no wonder Dietrich Bonhoeffer in his classic - The Cost of Discipleship, reminds us that we do pay a huge price when we follow Christ the right way. It is this cost of discipleship that we encounter in today's readings.

When the Lord called Jeremiah to be His mouthpiece to the people of Israel, he was reluctant due to the enormity of the tasks involved. Because of the being a prophet, he was ridiculed, maltreated, chained, and lost the contact and comfort of his close friends. In today's Gospel, Peter wanted Christ to abandon His destiny since the same Peter had confessed Christ to be the Anointed One last week; however, Christ rebuked him in anger but went on to educate us on the real Cost of Discipleship. To be His disciple, we must Renounce (*Aparneomai* - Deny and Forget) ourselves; Take up (*Airo* - Bear and Willing Accept) our Cross/es and Follow (*Akoloutheo* - To follow in the exact footsteps of one who proceeds) Him. None of these things are easy at all, that is why we all rely on the Mercy of God as St Paul tells us in today's Second Reading. Even in this 21st Century, Christians are still being persecuted throughout the world and here in Great Britain. Is it possible there are people in our parish who are persecuted for following Christ as they are? No cross no matter how small is sweet; however, we should not carry them alone. Are we ready to surrender them to Jesus? He is the only one who can give us the grace to carry the so many crosses of our lives without breaking down under the heavy load. Yes, the Cost of Discipleship is too expensive.



**WE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND:**

Fatima Alves, Robin Tinsley, Anne Wilcox, Rosemary Tyndall, Ann Mann, Geoff Neal, Stuart Neal, Terry McIntyre, Betty & David Hopkin, Kerry Scares, Anthony D'Costa, Mary Gibbons, Val Nicholas, Tony Mallins, Chris Bennett., Peter Parker.

**O MARY, HEALTH OF THE SICK, PRAY FOR THEM**

## LETTER TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS

### I AM HERE TO LOVE AND TO SERVE ALL OF YOU

I am Fr Johnpromise Ikenna Umeozuru, originally from Nigeria but a citizen of Great Britain. Born on the 1st of May 1982 in Aba town Nigeria, and into the family of Mr Marcel and Mrs Elizabeth Umeozuru of Umuchu village in Anambra State, Nigeria. I have five other siblings: four brothers and one sister. I felt the call to the priesthood at the age of 7 through the exemplary life of my then parish priest in Nigeria - Late Mgr Raph Nwosu. I entered the minor seminary when I was 11 years old and after 19 years of seminary formation in Nigeria, Rome and England, the amiable Bishop Philip Egan ordained me a priest on the 20th of July 2019. My long stint in the seminary led to my graduating with a B.A Hons in Philosophy from University of Ibadan Nigeria, a B.Phil and B.STh respectively from Pontifical Urban University Rome, a B.Tec from International School of Business Studies London and an MBA from Cardiff Metropolitan University Wales. After my priestly ordination, I worked in Jersey for 2 years as an Assistant Priest under Canon Dominic Golding. In 2021, I was transferred to City Centre Southampton Parish for 2 years as an Assistant Priest under Mgr Canon Vincent Harvey. Before joining the diocese of Portsmouth, I worked full time for 7 years as a deputy manager in a residential care home in London, and part time as a qualified Assessor/Tutor within the Health and Social Care Sector in England. My hobbies include: gyming, jogging, running, singing, cooking, movies, meditation, long walks, travelling, reading, and writing, arts, making friends and critical thinking.

I am here to love and to serve all of you. I am a strong believer in the 3 Principles of Divine Renovation - BELONG, BELIEVE, BEHAVE. It is only when people feel they Belong to a welcoming, loving, merciful and forgiving community that they would Believe in what that community tells them and then model their Behaviours on the community's principles. For the next few years, I would like all of us to focus on BELONGING. Yes, let us make Fleet and Church Crookham a WELCOMING HUB for all peoples be they practicing or lapsed Catholics, Christians of various denominations, people of other faiths and those of none. This is the first principle of Jesus Christ - He met people where they were, and He continues to meet us where we are. Let everyone who comes into our 2 churches find a welcoming, loving, merciful and forgiving community. I am aware many of our parishioners here and elsewhere have been hurt in the past either by the Church or by her Clergy; on behalf of the Church and all Clergy, I apologise to such persons and beg you to forgive us. Come back and join me in making your parish what you wish it to be. We need you and have missed you so much.

My Ministry of Service among you will be an INCLUSIVE ONE and my door will always be OPEN TO ALL. This is your parish and I want you to take ownership of it. I am here to serve you all and to walk with you all in that Synodal Journey of LISTENING and JOURNEYING TOGETHER. I am not perfect at all, and I might make mistakes along the way; however, do correct me when I make mistakes and do not be afraid to point me in the right direction.

Remember, I am here to love you and to serve all of you. Let us do this together for we are God's sons and daughters and God has no favourites.

**FR JOHNPromise IKENNA UMEOZURU,  
BA.Hons, B.Phil, B.STh, B.Tec, MBA**

## AN INVITATION TO OUR PARISH'S 9 DAYS NOVENA TO THE HOLY SPIRIT, FOR HEALING & TRANSFORMATION

From 3rd September – 11th September 2023

### PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Come, thou Holy Spirit come; And from thy celestial home; Shed a ray of light divine.

Come, thou Father of the poor; Come, thou source of all our store; Come, within our bosom shine.

Thou of comforters the best; Thou the soul's most welcome guest; Sweet refreshment here below.

In our labour, rest most sweet; Grateful coolness in the heat; Solace in the midst of woe.

O most blessed light divine; Shine within these hearts of thine; And our inmost being fill.

Where thou art not, man hath naught; Nothing good in deed or thought; Nothing free from taint of ill.

Heal our wounds, our strength renew; On our dryness pour thy dew; Wash the stains of guilt away.

Bend the stubborn heart and will; Melt the frozen, warm the chill; Guide the steps that go astray.

On the faithful, who adore; And confess thee, evermore; In thy sevenfold gifts descend.

Give them virtue's sure reward; Give them thy salvation, Lord; Give them joys that never end Amen!!!

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful

All: And kindle in them the fire of your love.

Leader: Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

All: And You shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: Let us pray:

All: Holy Spirit, Lord and Giver of life, it is You who will transform our lives, heal our hurts, and bend our wills to experience God, one another, and the Joy of the Gospel, - the Good News that welcomes all, loves all and cares for all, no matter their backgrounds and circumstances in life. Empower us all to forgive the past, embrace the present and to look forward to the future with hope and confidence. Bestow Your Gifts on us all to become missionary disciples who serve everyone in our community wholeheartedly and selflessly.

We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name. With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts; Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it. We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder. Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions. Let us find in You our unity, so that we may journey together to eternal life and not stray from the way of truth and what is right. Transform all of us and transform our Parish of Our Lady's, Fleet and Holy Trinity, Church Crookham.

All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time, in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever. Amen.

### FIRST COMMUNION 2023-24

The First Communion programme will be starting in November. The introduction for Parents will be on 7th November at 8pm in Our Lady's Hall. The sessions for Reconciliation will begin on November 11th at 10.15am 'till 11.45am in Our Lady's Hall. A full timetable will be sent via email to all participants. Several people have already registered their interest to the Parish Office. Could everyone please fill in the registration form on the Parish website. Click on the Forms tab and then on First Communion. Children must be 7 years of age by August 31st 2023 and above. It is very important that children attend all the sessions and also attend either of the parish Masses on Sunday. A record of attendance will be kept this year.

**CLOSING DATE 30TH SEPTEMBER 2023**