

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



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 Charity No. 1199568
 Our Lady (OL): Kings Road, Fleet, GU51 3ST;
 The Holy Trinity (HT): Aldershot Road, Church Crookham, GU52 8JU



Parish Priest: Fr Johnpromise Umeozuru, email: jumeozuru@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
 Holy Trinity Presbytery Landline: 01252 974664

Parish Deacon: Rev James Snyder, email: jsnyder@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
 Safeguarding email: safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Jacqueline Bradley-Green, office@htaol.org.uk (Office Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-3pm)

Mass Times & Venues

17th December 2023 — 24th December 2023
 Year B (II) Psalter Week 3

- Sat 16th Dec:** 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)
 6.00pm (HT): Bernard & Eva Chancellor RIP
- Sun 17th Dec:** 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)
 9.00am (HT): People of the Parish
 Alison Berry RIP (2nd Anniversary)
- 10.45am (HT): Mass celebrated in Polish
 11.00am (OL): Ellen Gotel's Intention
- Mon 18th Dec:** NO MASS — DAY OFF
- Tue 19th Dec:** O Stock of Jesse!
 9.30am (HT): Elsa B. Mabutol RIP
- Wed 20th Dec:** O Key of David!
 9.30am (OL): The Jackson Family RIP
- Thurs 21st Dec:** O Rising Sun!
 9.30am(HT): The Dune Family RIP
 7.00pm (HT): Mass celebrated in Polish
- Fri 22nd Dec:** O King of the Peoples!
 9.30am (OL): Daphne Weeks' Full Recovery
- Sat 23rd Dec:** O Emmanuel!
 9.30am (OL): Sheila Alice Tinsley RIP
 6.00pm (HT): John Searle RIP
- Sun 24th Dec:** 4th Sunday of Advent
 9.00am (HT): Letitia Convery's Intention
 10.45am (HT): Mass celebrated in Polish
 11.00am (OL): Sally Dunn's Full Recovery

ARE WE 'PO-FACED' CATHOLICS?



There is one irrefutable observation that has always bothered me concerning Christians in general and Catholics in particular—Many of us wear gloomy looks while in Church, and I cannot wrap my head around it. Is our God so serious that we cannot be happy and relaxed in his presence? Or do we think God would be so mad at us if we are happy, smiley, and relaxed in His presence? I wonder why? On the 15th of November 2023, Pope Francis celebrated the 10th Anniversary of his 1st Apostolic Exhortation — *Evangelii Gaudium*, and sent us a clear but strong message: “The Christian message, as we have heard from the angel’s words to the shepherds, is the proclamation of “a great joy”... Either we proclaim Jesus with joy, or we do not proclaim him, because another way of proclaiming him is not capable of bringing the true reality of Jesus. This is why a discontent Christian, a sad Christian, a dissatisfied, or worse still, resentful or rancorous Christian, is not credible.”

On this Gaudete Sunday when we are asked to rejoice always in the Lord, we look at the faces of Saint Teresa of Calcutta and Blessed Carlo Acutis, and remind ourselves that our God is a joyful one, and not a melancholic or sadistic God who is devoid of joy. Hence, when next we are at Mass, let our faces light-up; we are no ‘Po-Faced’ Catholics. Yes, God wants to see our happy and smiley faces. *Gaudete in Domino Semper!* Fr Johnpromise

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession)

Saturday 10:15am — 11:15am (OL), Saturday 5pm — 5:45pm (HT) and by appointment

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
 Daily Before weekday Masses
 Thursday Exposition — TBC

Baptisms, Funerals & Weddings — By appointment

Sacrament of the Sick & Anointing — Please speak with the parish priest or contact the parish office and leave a message if there is no reply.



WE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND:

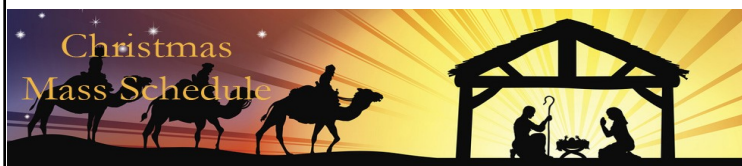
Fiona Pearson, Fatima Alves, Robin Tinsley, Anne Wilcox, Geoff Neal, Stuart Neal, David Hopkin, Kerry Scares, Anthony D’Costa, Mary Gibbons, Val Nicholas, Tony Mallins, Chris Bennett, Anna & Phil Day, Daphne Weeks, Graeme Healey, Ray Swinburne and Maeve King.

PARISH NOTICES

COLLECTION FOR CHRISTMAS FLOWERS: There will be a Second Collection at the end of our Sunday Masses this weekend for flowers that would be used to decorate our churches during Christmastide. It is important that our churches wear festive looks during the festive season. Thank you for all your support.

OUR PARISH ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE: Our Advent Penitential Service with the opportunity for individual confessions takes place on Tuesday the 19th of December at 7pm at Holy Trinity. I have invited some priests to help me out in this regard. This is a great way to prepare spiritually for Christmas. Pope Francis reminds us: "The confessional is not a torture chamber, but the place in which the Lord's mercy motivates us to do better."

OUR PARISH CHRISTMAS WEEK MASS SCHEDULE 2023



19th December 2023 - Parish Penitential Service: 7pm at Holy Trinity, Church Crookham.

23rd December 2023 - 4th Sunday of Advent Mass: Saturday Evening: 6pm at Holy Trinity, Church Crookham.

24th December 2023 - 4th Sunday of Advent Masses: 9am at Holy Trinity, Church Crookham & 11am at Our Lady's Church, Fleet.

24th December 2023 - Christmas Vigil Mass for Children: 6pm at Our Lady's Church, Fleet.

24th December 2023 - Christmas Midnight Mass: 8:30pm at Holy Trinity Church, Church Crookham.

25th December 2023 - Christmas Day Mass: 10am at Our Lady's Church, Fleet.

CALLING ALL INSTRUMENTALISTS - WHATEVER AGE OR ABILITY: The first Mass of Christmas is the Children's vigil Mass at Our Lady's at 6pm on Christmas Eve. It is always a joyous occasion for all in the parish and if you would like to help the music liturgy by playing your instrument, please contact Katherine Lewis at pilgrimsofhart@gmail.com with your details and instrument (for children, parents please provide age and rough playing ability so I can get the right music for your child). Music will be provided in advance and there will be a practice before Mass on Christmas Eve. For safeguarding purposes, children will need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

MISSIO RED BOX HOLDERS: Church of Our Lady Missio Red Box holders and those who make Direct Payments are asked to pick up your 2024 Calendar from the back of Church.

CHRISTMAS DROP IN CAFÉ: Our last Drop in Café for 2023 which we term "CHRISTMAS DROP IN CAFÉ" will be open on Wednesday 20th December in Our Lady's Hall from 1pm-3pm. Soup will be served from 1pm-2pm; while teas/coffees, cakes and scones will be served till 3pm. Donations towards costs will be highly appreciated. ALL are welcome. The Cafe will reopen the 10th of January, 2024. Come along and join in the Christmas spirit!!!

CHRISTMAS GIVING: Dear Parishioners, the money you give at all the Masses over the Christmas period, is traditionally a donation to support our Parish Priest. This can be done via the collection bags, use of Envelopes or a direct payment to the parish account. The Diocese has set up a link which can be easily accessed via the DONATE BUTTON on our own parish website: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/fleet-and-church-crookham-parish-of-the-holy-trinity-and-our-lady-christmas-collection-2023> that also pays funds via our Parish to Fr Johnpromise. Father has been a breath of fresh air to our parish, and I hope you agree with me that he has made it a great pleasure to be at Mass at weekends and weekdays. Please, do give generously via which ever means that works best for you, and hopefully these donations will help sustain Fr Johnpromise during the coming months. When placing cash or cheques in an envelope, do give your name so that Gift Aid can also be added to your giving. Thanks & A Happy & Holy Christmas to all from the Parish Finance Committee. **Michael Gallagher – Chair, Parish Finance Committee.**

OUR PARISH LITURGICAL TEAM: After due consultation, I am happy to re-constitute The Parish Liturgical Team with these parishioners:

- ◆ Jerome Farrell – Chair & Choir, 9am Mass
- ◆ Ellen Gotel – Deputy Chair
- ◆ David Parry – Readers' Rota and Coordinator
- ◆ Christine Siddall – Choir, 6pm Mass
- ◆ Dorina Latawska – Choir, 11am Mass
- ◆ Katherine Lewis – Choir, 11am Mass
- ◆ Phil Marshall – Core Member HT
- ◆ Pam Chevalier – Core Member OL
- ◆ Aileen Smith – Core Member HT
- ◆ Anne Morgan-Jones – Core Member OL
- ◆ Deacon James – Ex Officio
- ◆ Fr Johnpromise – Ex Officio

It is important to note that the Members of the Liturgical Team are not there to instruct me on how to celebrate Mass; that aspect has been taken care of by 'The General Instructions on the Roman Missal', which every priest must abide by. The Team's responsibility is to assist me with debriefing on past parish liturgical events, planning new ones and executing them brilliantly. Thanks For Accepting This!

VACANCY FOR HART FOOBANK MANAGER: The Trustees of Hart Foodbank are looking for someone with leadership and organisational skills who can lead the Foodbank. The person has got to:

1. Have a passion for serving the poor in our local community.
2. Have experience of leading operations, largely staffed by volunteers.
3. Have the zest to engage with local authorities and other stakeholder organisations.
4. Be able to demonstrate experience of similar or related work, paid or unpaid.

If you or someone close to you fit the above, do take the Job Description from the porch and make contact with Mark Mabin on: Telephone: 07534 038457, E-Mail: mark.mabin@hartfoodbank.org.uk

PURPLE COMMUNITY FUND: Thank U for D Support.

PARISH CONFIRMATION 2024

We are hoping to run a Confirmation Program for our teenagers who have not been confirmed. Forms are available on the parish website. Book Your Place now!!