

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

Parish Safeguarding Ministers – Penny Romaya & Brian McDermid: safeguarding@htaol.org.uk

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

Mass Times & Venues

17th March 2024 — 24th March 2024
Year B (II) Psalter Week 1

Sat 16th March: 5th Sunday of Lent

6.00pm (HT): Sr Alberta Lally OP RIP

Sun 17th March: 5th Sunday of Lent

9.00am (HT): Stasia Cody RIP

10.45am (HT): Mass celebrated in Polish

11.00am (OL): People of the Parish

Mon 18th March: No Mass—Day Off

Tue 19th March: St Joseph (Solemnity)

9.30am (HT): Robin Tinsley's Intentions

Wed 20th March: Wednesday of Lent

9.30am (OL): John & Kitty, Trevor & Fr Keith
Hardless RIP

Thurs 21st March: Thursday of Lent

9.30am(HT): Nadine West's Private Intentions

7.00pm (HT): Mass celebrated in Polish

Fri 22nd March: Friday of Lent

9.30am (OL): Dot Freeman's Intentions

Sat 23rd March: Saturday of Lent

9.30am (OL): Nadja Smith & Her Family's Intnts

6.00pm (HT): Valentina Bogatyreva RIP

Sun 24th March: Palm Sunday

9.00am (HT): Francisco & His Family's Intnts

10.45am (HT): Mass celebrated in Polish

11.00am (OL): Barbara Wilson's Intentions

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.

THE PATRON SAINT OF IRELAND AND NIGERIA



If this Sunday wasn't the 5th Sunday of Lent, we would have been celebrating the Solemnity of St Patrick. He was born in Roman Britain around 387 AD, when he was around 14 years old, he was captured by Irish pirates during a raiding party and taken to Ireland as a slave. Although Ireland was a land of Druids and pagans at the time, upon his escape back to Britain, he saw a vision wherein he was appealed to go back to Ireland and save souls. That led him to the priesthood; he was later ordained a Bishop and sent to preach the Gospel in Ireland. In Ireland, he was a Missionary Bishop who preached the Gospel by concentrating on educating the local chieftains and their families. He ordained many priests, divided the country into dioceses, and founded monasteries.

In following the great footsteps of St Patrick, when Nigeria was under the British Empire and the Eastern part of Nigeria (which is where I come from) was in need of evangelisation, Bishop Joseph Shanahan born in Tipperary in 1871, was consecrated and sent to us in 1902 to evangelise us. He was so humble, loved the people, and worked tirelessly for them by providing them with education, healthcare and other social services. To ensure the work of evangelisation continued in Nigeria, Bishop Shanahan invited the Holy Ghost Fathers and St Patrick's Missionaries, who brought God and civilisation to the people. St Patrick Missionaries went further by appealing to Irish Catholics to send money to Nigeria for the education of babies there; I am one of the beneficiaries of their generosity. I have a very soft spot for Irish people for all their sacrifices for us. Yes, in Nigeria, Guinness is the official beer as it is the case in Ireland. Happy Solemnity to all our Irish parishioners. Thanks! Fr Johnpromise



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, Anna & Phil Day, Graeme Healey, Ray Swinburne, Maeve King, Lesley O'Toole and John Sheehan.

PARISH NOTICES

PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP PHILIP: Bishop Philip has written a Pastoral Letter on the importance of **REGULAR CONFESSIONS**, to be read at all Sunday Masses this weekend in our Diocese of Portsmouth.

OUR PARISH LENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE: To help us prepare adequately for Easter, our Lent Penitential Service comes up on **Wednesday, 20th March 2024 at 7pm at Holy Trinity Church Crookham**. Other priests from our Pastoral Area would be helping out with our individual confessions. Let us utilise this opportunity.

PARISH FINANCE UPDATE: Having completed the first half of the parish year (Sept to Feb) I am pleased to say that our income is doing quite well. **Total income to 29th Feb 2024 was £91,813.51, expenditure, £85,944.00 with a surplus of £5,869.51.** The average STO Giving is approx. £3.3k pm, Envelopes £1k pm, and Cash £1.7k pm with the benefit of a Gift Aid Tax reclaim to end of Dec 2023 of £8.3k. Hall hire brings in £3.2k pm, with income from rental of Our Lady's Presbytery, £1.1k pm. The average monthly running costs for the Church, Office & Presbytery is £14.3K (30% of planned budget for the full year). **The Parish overall balances are £42k in credit.** Within the second half of the year there will be significant expenditure for repair works on the Church heating systems, but this expenditure is within the budget. Thank you all for your giving to the parish by whichever means you use. Any thoughts on this financial update please contact the Chair of Parish Finance Committee – Michael Gallagher micheal.gallagher@sky.com

WEEK OF ACCOMPANIED PRAYER – IT'S HERE!



We have 32 participants and nine visiting guides - six of whom are staying with us in the parish for the week. I know you will make them all very welcome. Please pray for everyone involved in the week. Thank you so much for all your support. God bless you all.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE 2024



PALM SUNDAY MASSES: Saturday 6pm at Holy Trinity, 9am at Holy Trinity and 11am at Our Lady's.

MAUNDY THURSDAY: 8pm at Holy Trinity & Watching at HT Hall till 12pm.

GOOD FRIDAY MORNING: 10am Stations of the Cross at Our Lady's for FHC Children & Young Families. 10am Stations of the Cross at Holy Trinity for adults.
Good Friday Service: 3pm at Our Lady's.
Prayers around the Cross: 7pm at Holy Trinity.

HOLY SATURDAY MORNING: 10:15am & 11am - Blessing of Food at Holy Trinity with the Polish Community.

HOLY SATURDAY NIGHT (EASTER VIGIL): 8pm at Our Lady's, Fleet.

EASTER SUNDAY: 9am at Holy Trinity and 11am at Our Lady'.

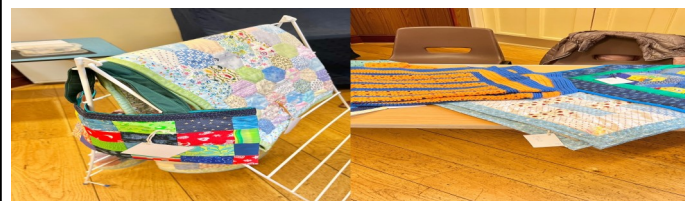
EASTER HAMPER FOR RAFFLE



We have a wonderful Easter Hamper to be raffled. Tickets for this raffle would be sold in all our Sunday Masses this weekend and next. It costs £5 for a strip of the raffle ticket. The draw takes place during tea/coffee after the 11am Mass at Our Lady's on Palm Sunday. All proceeds will go to our Parish Account. Thanks for your anticipated support.

DROP IN CAFÉ LENT LUNCH FOR CAFOD 1PM-3PM: On **Wednesday 20th March**, from 1pm -3pm, the Drop in Café will be serving Soup, rolls, teacakes and fruit for our Lenten Lunch in support of CAFOD. All your donations will go to CAFOD to support fishermen in Liberia. Please come along and support this worthy cause and give generously. This will be the last Drop in Café until April 10th. Thank you for your support in making this a friendly space for all.

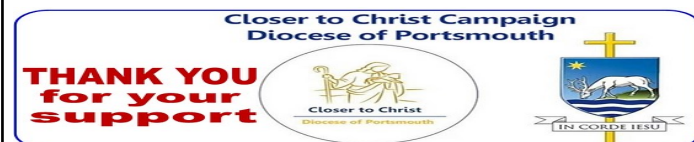
HANDMADE QUILTS & BLANKETS FOR SALE



Anne & Peter Slimming have some amazing handmade quilts and blankets which they would be displaying in Our Lady's hall after the 11am Mass this Sunday. They are giving all proceeds from the sale to the parish. Do support them if you can. Thanks!

2ND COLLECTION FOR EASTER FLOWERS: Today's 2nd Collection is for Easter Flowers to beautify our churches. We want our churches to be welcoming and inviting throughout Eastertide and beyond. Do support this collection, please.

CLOSER TO CHRIST CAMPAIGN THANKSGIVING WEEKEND



We have now raised over £158,970 from 59 families in our parish; it is time now to officially bring the Campaign to a close during this Thanksgiving Weekend. To ensure we have reached out to all our parishioners, on entering the church, each family will be given a little postcard to complete; after the homily, our welcomers will collect them back.

FLEET ½ MARATHON ON SUNDAY 24TH MARCH: This takes place on Palm Sunday meaning there would be road closures and traffic around our Fleet. For all our 11am Mass parishioners, do plan ahead to arrive Our Lady's in time for our Palm Sunday celebrations. Our wishes go to all those taking part in the marathon and raising money for good causes.