

CATHOLIC PARISH OF WESTBOURNE NEWSLETTER



6 SEPTEMBER 2026

23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

A GOOD EXAMPLE?

In our modern world, there are far too many Christians who pay no heed to the serious obligation of encouraging an erring brother or sister to give up their sinful ways. They shrug it off by saying, *"I have more than enough to do to keep myself from sin"* or *"Am I my brother's keeper?"* The answer is in this lesson we have just read. We are our brothers and sisters' keepers, and even if we have many temptations and inclinations to sin, we shall not overcome them if we have no time to think of our neighbours' needs.

There are, alas, millions of lapsed or lukewarm Christians who could and would have been active members of Christ's mystical body if their neighbours had fulfilled this grave obligation which Christ has imposed on us all. They are now a source of scandal to the weaker and youthful members of the Church and an impediment to the possible acceptance of the faith by non-Christians. Would the Reformation, which has caused whole countries of the western world to lose almost all faith in Christ and indeed in God, have had such disastrous effects if those who remained within the Church had put this law of fraternal charity into practice?

However, it is no use crying over spilt milk! Let us see our present-day obligations and what we are doing to help our neighbours retain their Christian faith and practices. How much of the indifference to religion that the youth of today seem to be showing is due to a lack of parental control and example? How many children of Christian families



grow up as practical pagans because their parents placed little value on their Christian faith? It is in the home that the religion of the next generation is firmly established or lost. When parents are loyal to their faith in their daily lives, their children will, as a rule, be loyal to it too; where parents are careless and lax, their children will be still more careless and more lax.

The first neighbours and fellow Christians whom you must kindly and charitably correct are your own children. Their future salvation and your own too will depend on how well you fulfil this obligation. Parents who are obedient to Christ in this will find time and many opportunities to have a
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Visit our website: www.catholicwestbourne.org

MASS TIMES

Sunday 6 September - 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9.00am

11.00am

Monday 7 September - FERIA

No Mass

Tuesday 8 September - THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

10.00am

Wednesday 9 September - FERIA

10.00am

Thursday 10 September - FERIA

10.00am

Friday 11 September - FERIA

10.00am

Saturday 12 September - THE MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY

10.00am

Sunday 13 September - 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9.00am

11.00am

OUR PARISH

**OUR LADY IMMACULATE CHURCH
SEAMOR ROAD, WESTBOURNE,
BOURNEMOUTH, BH4 9AE**

Parish Priest: Fr. Leslie Adams

Telephone: 01202 764027

Email: ladams@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

*(Baptism, Marriages, Sick Visits,
Funerals and Confessions)*

Parish Administrator: Peter Murdock-Saint
General enquires and hall bookings

Telephone: 01202 760640

Email: oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Safeguarding Officers:

Joan Smithies and Edward Adamson
safeguarding.boush@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Donations: CDP Bournemouth

Our Lady Immaculate

Sort code: 309304 **Account:** 00875075

SUNDAY READINGS

Entrance Antiphon

*You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right;
treat your servant in accord with your merciful
love.*

Responsorial Psalm

*O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.*

Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia. God was in Christ reconciling the
world to himself and entrusting to us the message
of reconciliation. Alleluia.*

Communion Antiphon

*Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so
my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is
thirsting for God, the living God.*

A GOOD EXAMPLE? (FROM PAGE ONE).

charitable word of help for an erring neighbour outside their household. On the other hand, the lax parents, who give little or no thought to getting to heaven or to their children getting there in God's good time, will hardly bother with their neighbour's salvation. Thus this problem of infidelity and irreligion grows and spreads.

Let each one of us look into their past conduct in relation to this law of charity. Have we really tried to help our fellow men and women on the road to heaven? Have we given them the good example of a truly Christian way of living? Have we offered advice and encouragement when it was needed and correction in private where that was possible? If so "we have gained our brother." We have brought a prodigal son or daughter back to a loving Father. The loving Father will repay us a hundredfold in this life and especially in the next.

PLEASE WRITE TO YOUR MP. The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is back in the House of Commons and seeks to legalise assisted suicide. The vote will take place on Friday 11 September. Please write to your MP and oppose the Bill.

THANK YOU for your continued generosity to our parish. *Fr. Leslie*

PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

OUR PARISH PRAYER GROUP will resume again on Tuesday 8 September at 7.00pm in the parish hall and will meet every second and fourth Tuesday of the month thereafter. Our aim is to pray for the needs of our parish and the wider community and deepen our own faith by basing our prayer on scripture. We look forward to seeing you all there.

INVITE TO ALL FEMALE PARISHIONERS. Our parish women's group is returning after the summer break, and we would like to invite you to come and join us for faith, friendship and fun. We have an afternoon group and an evening group, so please come to either or both. You can be assured of a warm welcome. The meetings are held in the hall.

The afternoon group meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. These begin on 10 September from 1.30pm - 3.00pm. The evening group meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month beginning on 17 September from 7.30pm - 9.00pm. For further details please see the notice in the foyer of the church.

SAVE THE DATE. In place of the usual parish lunch, we will be having a carol service followed by a Christmas international buffet on Wednesday 16 December at 6.00pm. More details will follow. Please do join us if you can.

MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER. *For the care of water.* Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

MASS INTENTIONS. If you would like a Mass to be celebrated for a loved one, please speak to Fr. Leslie or Peter in the office.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT. If you're experiencing problems in your relationship, please consider contacting Retrouvaille. This service is completely confidential. Visit the website to find out more: www.retrouvaille.org.uk.

BOURNEMOUTH AND CHRISTCHURCH PASTORAL AREA PRAYER. *Lord Jesus Christ, you call us to be your witnesses in this area and in this time. Root us deeply in your love, shape us as missionary disciples, and teach us to steward wisely all that you have entrusted to us. Give us the courage to change, the humility to listen, and the faith to trust where you lead. May your Spirit guide our prayer, our planning, and our action, so that all we do may give glory to the Father and draw others to you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

PLEASE REMEMBER all the sick and housebound in our parish: *Mary Stone, Cecilia Agnes Grimston, Geoffrey Dixon, Christopher Browne, Teresa Wraith, Elizabeth Lubrow and Liz Judge.*

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND. If you are interested in a home visit, please contact the office.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE. Please send any newsletter items to the office by 9.00am on Wednesday. They can also be emailed to the parish inbox at: oliadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Thank you!

BREAK THE CHAINS OF DEBT. Right now, millions of people around the world are being held back by a crippling debt crisis. Countries facing extreme poverty are forced to spend vast sums repaying debt instead of investing in healthcare, education, clean water, and opportunities for their people.

CAFOD is calling for urgent action to help build a fairer world where the poorest communities can thrive, not merely survive. Please sign the petition on the CAFOD website to end this injustice. This is a simple action that can make a real difference. www.cafod.org.uk. Thank you for your anticipated support.

PORTSMOUTH VOCATIONS. If you're considering a vocation to the priesthood, please contact Canon John Cooke on 01329 318 869. Please continue to pray that more men will come forward for the priesthood.

GOSPEL - MATTHEW 18:15-20

If your brother listens to you, you have won back your brother

Jesus said to his disciples: *'If your brother does something wrong, go and have it out with him alone, between your two selves. If he listens to you, you have won back your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you: the evidence of two or three witnesses is required to sustain any charge. But if he refuses to listen to these, report it to the community; and if he refuses to listen to the community, treat him like a pagan or a tax collector.'*

I tell you solemnly, whatever you bind on earth shall be considered bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth shall be considered loosed in heaven. I tell you solemnly once again, if two of you on earth agree to ask anything at all, it will be granted to you by my Father in heaven. For where two or three meet in my name, I shall be there with them.'

40 DAYS FOR LIFE begins on Wednesday 23 September. We are all encouraged to participate, either in person by prayerful witness in the proximity of one of the local abortion centres or remotely by prayer, fasting / sacrifice in church or at home.

DIOCESCAN CATECHIST DAY. Saturday 10 October, 9.30am - 1.30pm, St. Bede's, Basingstoke. Join catechists from across the diocese for a morning of prayer, inspiration, and practical formation as we reflect on our shared mission to form missionary disciples. Whether you are an experienced catechist or new to the ministry, all are welcome. To register your interest please email Meghan at: ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

ARE YOU GOING INTO HOSPITAL? When a Catholic is admitted to hospital, the family should ensure that the Catholic Chaplaincy is contacted so that appropriate support can be given. It is suggested that the patient have a note to give to hospital staff on admission, notifying staff that they are Catholic and would appreciate the Catholic Chaplaincy.

SVP UPDATE. Our Lady Immaculate and Sacred Heart Churches have a joint St. Vincent de Paul Conference that serves both parishes. The purpose of the SVP is to tackle poverty, loneliness, and disadvantage through person-to-person volunteer work. The core aims are to befriend people who are lonely or isolated, by visiting them in their homes, care homes or hospital, to provide practical assistance such as food, clothing or other essentials and to help members grow in their faith through acts of kindness and direct service to those in need. SVP has a broad range of activities that members undertake to support people from the cradle to the grave, meeting a wide variety of needs. If you, or somebody you know, would benefit from our support, please get in touch.

The recent national SVP raffle was extremely well supported by both parishes, with a total of £800 raised. A proportion of the monies raised will be used to support people locally. Thank you to all those who bought tickets. The results will be announced in September. A list of the winners will be placed on the notice boards of each church.

The SVP holds a monthly lunch that is open to all parishioners, their friends and family members. This is held in the Undercroft at Sacred Heart Church at 1.00pm (after the 12.15pm Mass). The next lunch is on Thursday 17 September and thereafter on the third Thursday of each month. Please join us for food, entertainment, and a bit of social time. If you feel that you could offer support to others and wish to speak to somebody about becoming a member, please call Mary (Secretary) on 01202 512375 for more information. Thank you.

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