

CATHOLIC PARISH OF WESTBOURNE NEWSLETTER



18 OCTOBER 2026

29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SPIRITUAL WELFARE

God's plan for man on earth was that he should live in the society of his fellow men and women. Society must be governed; there must be authority which will direct the actions of the component members toward the common good, which common good is principally, though not exclusively, the material welfare of the members as a whole. As his ultimate end, however, man has his spiritual welfare. This government, this temporal power to rule and direct the human groups or societies or states, comes, therefore, from God, for it is his will that such societies should exist.

The answer of our Lord explicitly restates this fundamental norm of the divine natural law. *"Give to Caesar what is Caesar's;"* the state authorities have a right to the obedience and cooperation in all things that tend to the material welfare of the state, provided always the spiritual welfare of the members is not impeded by the rulers' demands. As a partly spiritual being, man is destined to be a citizen of a spiritual eternal kingdom, and while on this earth he has the duty and the possibility of preparing himself for citizenship in that kingdom. And since this kingdom is of a higher and much more important nature, man's primary aim in life must be to reach that kingdom. He must, in other words, find out and fulfil his duties toward God; he must *"give to God what is God's."*

This dual citizenship of man and the dual obligations that arise from it are the common knowledge of all from the natural law but are



made more explicit still in the divine revelation, of which today's answer, given by Christ to the Pharisees, is a precise and perfect resume. We have duties to God and duties to our country, and the fulfilment of the latter is part of the fulfilment of the former.

We Christians have no doubts as to our obligations under these two headings. We fulfil our duties to God by being faithful, loyal, active members of the spiritual kingdom, the Church, which Christ established on earth in order to lead us to our eternal kingdom. We fulfil our duties to our country by loyally obeying the just laws of the State, by paying all lawful taxes, and by
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Visit our website: www.catholicwestbourne.org

MASS TIMES

Sunday 18 October - 29TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

9.00am

11.00am

Monday 19 October - ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS

No Mass

Tuesday 20 October - FERIA

10.00am

Wednesday 21 October - FERIA

10.00am

Thursday 22 October - ST. JOHN PAUL II

10.00am

Friday 23 October - ST. JOHN OF CAPESTRANO

10.00am

Saturday 24 October - ST. ANTHONY CLARET

10.00am

Sunday 25 October - 30TH 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: Vacant

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

*To you I call; for you will surely heed me, O God;
turn your ear to me; hear my words.*

*Guard me as the apple of your eye;
in the shadow of your wings protect me*

Responsorial Psalm

Ascribe to the Lord glory and power.

Gospel Acclamation

*Alleluia, alleluia! Shine as lights in the world,
holding fast to the word of life. Alleluia!*

Communion Antiphon

*Behold, the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear
him, who hope in his merciful love, to rescue their souls
from death, to keep them alive in famine.*

SPIRITUAL WELFARE (FROM PAGE ONE).

contributing our share, whenever called on,
toward the common good.

Both St. Peter (1 Pet. 2:13-14) and St. Paul (Rom. 13:1-7) stressed the obligation on the early Christians of being an example to all in their loyalty as citizens of the state. The same necessity obliges us too. We who know the divine, positive and natural law so much better than many others, must help to enlighten those others by our faithful observance of these laws.

And our loyalty, too, will give the lie to those enemies of the faith who, in their ignorance and foolish opposition to things spiritual, are only too ready to think that loyalty to our Church and our God must of necessity make us disloyal to our country. History already has given the lie to such calumnies, for the loyal Christian has always been the loyal citizen, but we must keep on writing such history in glaring lights of daily deeds, for there are, and there always will be, those enemies who cannot read history books.

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

THANK YOU for your continued generosity.

PARISH AND DIOCESAN NEWS

TODAY'S SECOND COLLECTION is for the Foreign Missions.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2027. Please pray for Olivia, Livvy, Esperanza, Emma, Christopher, Geo, Luna, Maria and Fernandez and their families as they begin their preparation towards receiving First Holy Communion next year.

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.

MONTHLY PRAYER INTENTION OF THE HOLY FATHER. *For mental health ministry.* Let us pray that the mental health ministry be established throughout the Church, helping to overcome the stigma and discrimination of persons with mental illnesses.

PARISH EVANGELISATION CELL FORMATION DAY. Saturday 31 October, 9.30am - 1.30pm, Christ the King, Reading. Are you passionate about sharing your faith? Then come to this event where an inspiring day of teaching, prayer, practical information, and fellowship are designed to equip clergy and laity to build a vibrant parish evangelisation group. To register please email ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

DISCOVER THE LONDON JESUIT CENTRE. Looking to deepen your faith, grow in prayer, or explore theology? Rooted in the Ignatian tradition, The London Jesuit Centre offers a wide range of inspiring courses, retreats and events in theology, spirituality, and social justice. Whether you're just beginning or seeking to go deeper, there's something for everyone. Visit the website www.londonjesuitcentre.org to find out more.

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 to them.

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, Geoffrey Dixon, Christopher Browne, Elizabeth Lubrow and Liz Judge.*

SICK AND HOUSEBOUND. If you are interested in a home visit, please contact the office, so Fr. Leslie can arrange this for you.

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 22:15-21

'Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's'

At that time: The Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle Jesus in his words. And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, *'Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?'* But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, *'Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax.'* And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, *'Whose likeness and inscription is this?'* They said, *'Caesar's.'* Then he said to them, *'Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'*

CAN YOU HELP with organising a Christmas Day lunch for those adults who are on their own? Please contact Allan on 07782 968593.

REFLECTION (Canon Mark Hogan from The Liturgy Project). Too often, we approach discipleship as if it depends entirely upon our efforts. We strive to be patient, loving, generous and holy through willpower alone. Yet the Christian life was never intended to be lived solely by human strength. We cannot save ourselves, nor can we become the people God calls us to be without his grace. What we need is the power of the Holy Spirit.

Throughout the Gospel, people were struck by the power and authority of Jesus. They witnessed lives transformed, the sick healed, captives set free, storms calmed, and hearts renewed. The source of that power was the Holy Spirit, who rested upon Jesus and animated his mission. At Pentecost, often described as the birthday of the Church, that same Spirit was poured out upon the disciples. The signs accompanying this outpouring were wind and fire.

The biblical word for 'spirit', '*ruah*', also means 'wind' and 'breath'. Wind can be gentle or overwhelming. It can move ships across oceans or

uproot mighty trees. Breath is intimate and life-giving. In the same way, the Holy Spirit is both infinitely powerful and deeply personal.

QUOTE OF THE HOLY FATHER. To fulfil the Gospel mission effectively, it is necessary for every baptized person to commit to cooperating with the grace of the Holy Spirit, so that their faith may be living and expressed in consistent behaviour. Indeed, as the Council Fathers reiterate, the discrepancy between professed faith and daily life "*deserves to be counted among the more serious errors of our age*" (GS, 43).

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Stella Maris, the Catholic charity supporting seafarers and fishers, is seeking volunteers to join their ministry at Poole Port and among the fishing fleet in Poole Harbour. As a volunteer, you will accompany the Port Chaplain or experienced volunteers in visiting merchant ships and fishing vessels, offering a warm welcome, practical support, and a listening ear to those who work at sea.

This is a rewarding opportunity to live out the Church's mission to people of the sea and make a real difference to seafarers and fishers, many of whom spend long periods away from home. No previous experience is necessary and full training will be provided by the Port Chaplain. Email: luke.phillips@stellamarismail.org.

BAPTISM, being the doorway to fullness of life and to the kingdom of God, is the first sacrament of imitation celebrated. If you are thinking of having your child baptised and raised in the practice of the faith, please speak with Fr. Leslie. He will be happy to give you the relevant form and to arrange a meeting.

GETTING MARRIED? Congratulations! Please speak with Fr. Leslie after Mass, so he can discuss the preparations with you.

Visit our Pastoral Area website: www.bccatholics.uk