



Parish  
Handbook  
2012



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## **Introduction**

This booklet is designed to give information about the prayer life of the Parish and of the organisations within it.

If you are a new parishioner we hope that it will help you to become one of the family.

We hope that all parishioners, whether new or long established, will take this booklet home for reference.

If you are able to offer your time and talents please don't wait to be asked, group organisers will be glad to hear from you now.

Your involvement in the parish community is eagerly awaited.

## History of St John's Cathedral

The Church was built in 1882 to accommodate Portsmouth's rapidly increasing community of Roman Catholics. It replaced a chapel built in 1796 in Prince George Street, Portsea, just half a mile to the west of the Cathedral.

The architecture of the Cathedral is in the style of Victorian Gothic Revival. Built in five phases between 1882 and 1925, it was consecrated in 1887. In 1941, during the Second World War, the Cathedral was extensively damaged when a bomb destroyed Bishop's House.

All the stained glass windows, except the rose window over the organ, were damaged or destroyed and had to be replaced or repaired. The internal arrangement has been re-ordered on many occasions.

At first the High Altar was in the apse of the chancel. In 1906 it was moved forward and placed under an elaborate baldacchino.

At this time the sanctuary walls were covered with elaborate paintings by Nathaniel Westlake. These were damaged during the 70's.

In 1971, Bishop Warlock instigated a major re-ordering which involved demolishing the baldacchino and constructing a new altar so that the priest now faced the congregation.

This was further re-ordered by Bishop Emery in 1982. With the Millennium approaching, Bishop Hollis decided that a programme of extensive restoration, re-ordering and enhancement of the Cathedral's interior should be implemented.











Today, the Mother Church of the Diocese, besides its many diocesan functions, serves a parish of some four square miles with regular services and activities.

## Parish People

Canon David Hopgood <i>Cathedral Dean</i>	023 9282 6170
Father Phillip Harris <i>Assistant Priest</i>	023 9282 6170
Sister Rita Andrew FMDM <i>Pastoral Assistant</i>	023 9296 0376
David Kennedy <i>Verger</i>	023 9282 6170 verger@portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk
Peter Newman <i>Director of Music</i>	07590 602437 dom@portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk
Catherine Christmas <i>Organist</i>	christmasc@aol.com
Keith Ellison <i>Organist</i>	
David Shaw <i>Financial Secretary</i>	023 9282 6170
Lily Peach <i>Parish Secretary</i>	023 9282 6170 info@portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk
Caroline Lewis <i>CDC Supervisor</i>	023 9287 0348 cdc@portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk

## City Parish Pastoral Council

Each Parish in the City of Portsmouth has a **Pastoral Group** consisting of 6 to 8 people who meet to oversee things which are particular to individual parishes. From each of these Pastoral Groups two representatives meet together with the Priest to form a **City Pastoral Council**. Their names are:

Canon David Hopgood	 023 9282 6170
Father Phillip Harris	 023 9282 6170
Fr Steven Restori	 023 9266 0927
Fr Joe McNerney	 023 9237 6151
Fr Simon Thomson	 023 9282 8305
Sr Fiona Jackson	 023 9282 3766
Sr Marie Elise Tay	 023 9282 8305
Catherine Hobbs	 023 9282 1055 (work)
Neil Galbraith	 023 9236 2971 Neil.galbraith@o2.co.uk
Roisin Gwyer	 023 9273 3766 Roisin.gwyer@port.ac.uk
Mo Griffiths	mogriffiths@hotmail.co.uk
David Kennedy	davidkennedy100@hotmail.com
Angela O'Donoghue	Odonoghuea.2003@yahoo.co.uk
Shilpika Sharma	S7pka@aol.com
Tess Pritchard	 023 9237 6151 Scsp.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Jannette Nevett	Janette.nevett@ntlworld.com
Peter Aspin	 01329 665 240 peteraspin@yahoo.co.uk

## Liturgy and Prayer

### Mass Times

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Saturday	1800	Vigil Mass
Sunday	1000	Mass
	1200	Mass
	1800	Mass
Monday	1215	Mass
Tuesday	1215	Mass
Wednesday	0730	Mass *
	1215	Mass
Thursday	1215	Mass
Friday	0730	Mass *
	1215	Mass
Saturday	1215	Mass

\* 0730 Wednesdays & Fridays except during the week after Christmas and August

### Holydays of Obligation

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School Mass at St. John's School at 0915

Masses in the Cathedral:

1930 (Vigil Mass)

1215

### Mass Intentions

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If you wish to arrange for a Mass Intention please give the details to the Priest or the Cathedral Verger. Alternatively, use the envelopes that are provided in the Cathedral.

### Foundations Masses

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An annual Mass for the donors' intention will be offered in the diocese for a period of 25 years for an offering of £100 or more to the Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees (PRCDTR).

### Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

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Saturday	1100 - 1200
Friday	0800 - 1800

## **Midday Prayer**

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Monday to Saturday prior to Mass.

## **Monthly Prayer Intentions**

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September	Civic Life and Ministry
October	Learning and Education
November	Loss and Bereavement: Hope and New Life
December	Expectation and Family Life
January	Ecumenism and Inter-Faith
February	Love and Relationships
March	Journey in Faith
April	Thanksgiving
May	Celebrating Sacraments
June	Justice for Creation
July	Striving for Peace
August	Re-Creation and Refreshment

## **Children's Mass**

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The 1200 Mass on the First Sunday of the month is a celebration aimed at and involving our children/young people.

## **Reconciliation**

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Confessions are heard:

Saturday                      1100 – 1200    1630 – 1730

Or please contact one of the parish clergy if you wish to have an appointment at another time.

The Priests visit the sick and housebound during the course of the year so that they may avail themselves of this sacrament. If you are in hospital please contact the Hospital Chaplain. Details are on page 13 of this booklet.

## **Baptism**

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Baptism (or Christening) is the Sacrament and a public ceremony brings a person into the family of the Church. Therefore on the two Sundays preceding the Baptism, the Preparation for you and your child to receive the Sacrament will take place during Mass.

On the first week you will be invited to the 1000 Mass in the Cathedral, during which you and your child will be presented with a Cross. After this Mass there will be coffee in the Discovery Centre followed by a short meeting of Preparation. On the second week you will be invited to the 1200 Mass during which your child will be named and anointed with the oil of Baptism in

preparation for the Sacrament. On the third week the Sacrament of Baptism will be celebrated at 1400.

The first step is to make contact with one of the priests to arrange a time when you can meet with him to discuss dates.

The Preparation Team consists of Bernard Timoney, Sally Anne Furtado-Mills, Catherine Hobbs and Sister Rita. A leaflet giving information on the Sacrament of Baptism and Dates throughout the year is available from the Cathedral Porch or Parish Office.

## **First Holy Communion**

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The First Holy Communion Programme is a parish-based programme. Children must be at least 7 years old for their First Holy Communion and First Confession. The programme begins in September and the children's sessions are normally held on alternate Sundays at 1130 in the Abingdon Room followed by 1200 Mass. This enables the parents to attend Mass and the children are able to go out for the Liturgy of the Word and the Preparation for the Eucharist before returning for the remainder of the Mass.

For further details please contact Louise Stokes on [loustjohns@yahoo.com](mailto:loustjohns@yahoo.com)

## **Confirmation**

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A course of preparation for this Sacrament usually takes place each year and is generally co-ordinated with the other parishes of the Portsmouth Deanery. Young people in their second year of secondary education (Year 8) are invited to take part.

For further details please contact: Lucy Sayer on 023 9275 5547

## **Marriage**

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Contact should be made with one of the parish clergy at least six months prior to the proposed date of the wedding. You will be invited to attend a Blessing of the Engagement Rings followed by a meeting with some married couples in our parish that are the **Cana Path Group**. They will help you, along with the Director of Music to choose the readings and music for your wedding. There will be further meetings with them as well as marriage preparation with the organisation **Marriage Care**.

A non-refundable deposit of £40 is required to secure a date for the wedding. Initial contact: Parish Office on 023 9282 6170.

## **RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults)**

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The R.C.I.A. is a process of enquiry, exploration and conversion to the faith for those who are interested in becoming a Catholic. Meetings take place on Thursdays from 1900-2045 in the Cathedral Discovery Centre.

The meetings begin each year, in September, and continue with weekly sessions for nine months until Pentecost. It is at the Easter Vigil Mass – the central celebration of the Church when the candidates are received into full Communion with the Catholic Church or celebrate Confirmation and the Eucharist.

Please contact Liz Kern on 023 9282 6170.

## **Altar Servers**

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Altar servers are encouraged to assist at the Altar during Mass. We welcome both girls and boys after they have made their First Communion. Required is a sense of commitment to serve God and his Church. Training is provided for potential candidates.

For further details, or application form please contact David Kennedy after the Sunday Masses, or email: [verger@portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk](mailto:verger@portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk) or the Parish Office on 023 9282 6170.

## **Eucharistic Ministers**

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Ministers are commissioned to share in the distribution of Communion at parish Masses and to take Communion to the sick and housebound. If you know anyone who would welcome Communion at home, please contact Sr. Rita Andrew on 023 9296 0376 or the Parish Office on 023 9282 6170. The rota Co-ordinator is Paul Hamer on 023 8076 6944 and [paul.j.hamer@btinternet.com](mailto:paul.j.hamer@btinternet.com)

## **Cathedral Choir**

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The choir consists of approximately 20 persons who inspire and enable the Liturgy to be celebrated at the 1000 Mass and on major feast days.

Rehearsals are held on Thursdays from 1900 - 2030. New members are always welcome.

For further details please contact Peter Newman on 07590 602437 or email: [dom@portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk](mailto:dom@portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk)

## **Celebrating the Liturgy of the Word with Children**

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During the 1000 and 1200 Masses, children aged three years and over are invited to share in their own liturgy of the Word. A simplified version of the Gospel is read and children are encouraged to reflect on its main theme in a variety of ways relating to their own lives and experience.

Younger children are welcome if accompanied by an adult and all parents are welcome to join us. New leaders and helpers are always needed. If you are interested in finding out about this important ministry, the Co-ordinator for both 1000 and 1200 Mass is:

Kirsty Galbraith on 023 0236 2971.

## **Hatha Yoga Classes**

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Hatha Yoga is a gentle way to fitness, health and sense of well-being. Classes are suitable for beginners, as well as those with experience. It includes breath work, postures, meditation and relaxation. They are held on Tuesday evenings from 1830 - 2000 in St Edmund's Hall, Cathedral Centre. The course duration is 10 weeks. For more information see the Newsletter or contact the Parish Office on 023 9282 6170.

## **Meditation**

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This is a group that meets in the Cathedral at St John's Chapel every Saturday from 1700 – 1730.

## **Taizé-Style Prayer Evening**

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This different style of prayer and meditation through readings, chants and silence is held every second Sunday of the month from 1700-1730 in St John's Chapel.

## **Confraternity of the Rosary**

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We aim to spread the devotion of the Rosary. Recitation of the Rosary takes place every Tuesday and Thursday after the 1215 Mass. For more information please contact Janet Bischof on 023 9282 0744.

## **Legion of Mary**

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The Legion of Mary's aim is for the self sanctification of its members through a weekly meeting on Sunday at 1100 in the Jubilee Room of the Cathedral Discovery Centre which includes the Rosary, a spiritual reading, a talk and a discussion on various topics. Its members place themselves at the disposal of Our Blessed Lady so that through them she can extend her motherhood to all of mankind. Its purpose is to train the members through Formation and Development in the work task taken from the meeting. The members participate in the life of the parish through collaboration in every apostolic and missionary undertaking sponsored by the parish. For more information please contact Mrs Chidi on 0797 9963 477.

## **Bethany Group**

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The Cathedral Bethany Group meets on the first Thursday of each month at 0945 in St John's Room followed by Coffee at 1030 in the Coffee Shop of the Cathedral Discovery Centre to pray for those who suffer loss or bereavement of any kind and to offer practical help, support or friendship to those who feel in need. All welcome.

For further information, please contact Peter Aspin on 01329 665 240 or Vivienne Johnson on 023 9246 3989.

## **Guild of St John**

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Those who are enrolled in the Guild take on the responsibility of preparing and serving for daily Mass in the Cathedral, assisting at weddings and funerals and being the duty Verger for concerts and recitals in the Cathedral. Members of the Guild are:

Samir Alqas

Dougie Waterman

Judy Pellatt

Dave Yates

Gabriel Somorjay

Brian Kidd

Richard Trist

Stephen Hewitt

## Church Environment

### Finance

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There is a Parish Finance Committee, which meets regularly to monitor income and expenditure and to prioritise future spending plans.

The Members are:

Len Edwards (Chair)  
Canon David Hopgood  
Leslie Jones  
Joe McGannan  
David Shaw  
John Wingfield  
Mary Amalathas

### Gift Aid

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If you pay income tax we can claim this back (25 pence for every £1.00 you contribute). All you need to do is fill in and sign a Gift Aid Declaration form, which only includes your name and address. We do not know and do not need to know anything about your income or tax.

Contributions are either in weekly envelopes or by Standing Order.

For forms or envelopes please contact the Parish Office on 023 9282 6170 or Joe McGannan on 023 9269 2080.

### Church Cleaning

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This is one of the less public ministries of the Church. We are noticed mainly by our absence. Nevertheless we provide a valuable service.

We have a good band of helpers who diligently keep our Cathedral clean and welcoming to visitors. Volunteers are always welcome on an occasional or regular basis on Saturday mornings between 0900 - 1030

For further details please contact Catherine Cassey on 023 9273 8136.

### Flower Arranging

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This ministry also takes place behind the scenes, but would be even more noticeable by its absence.

The flowers that are arranged reflect the liturgical year; they enhance worship and prayer and bring joy to the liturgy of our church.

Volunteers, please contact Marie Hodkinson on 023 9275 6985.

## Outreach

### Catholic Schools

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**Primary:** St. John's Cathedral Primary School

This school forms an important part of the parish's mission by providing a Catholic education for our children. Applications for places are open to all families in the area with children aged from 3 – 11 years. The Head Teacher is Miss Catherine Hobbs. For further information please telephone the School Office on 023 9282 1055.

**Secondary:** St. Edmund's School

This school provides Catholic education at secondary level for parishes in the Portsmouth Pastoral Area and beyond. The Head Teacher is Mr Simon Graham. Application should be made to the School's Office in Arundel Street, ☎ 023 9282 3766/7.

### Cathedral Discovery Centre

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This is an essential part of the Cathedral's mission to form and educate in faith (in God and oneself). The Centre also develops the pastoral and social aspects of its amenities and offers hospitality.

A refreshment service is available to all visitors to the Cathedral and Centre. Contact the Cathedral Discovery Centre Manager, Caroline Lewis on 023 9287 0348.

### Noticeboards

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Posters and information of interest to members of the parish are displayed on the notice boards at both entrances.

If you wish anything to be displayed (no larger than A4, please) kindly hand it to the Parish Office – not the Discovery Centre – marked 'For the Noticeboards' or contact the person responsible for maintaining the boards, Anne Dolby on 023 9282 6170.

### Child Protection

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A small group of parishioners ensures that we as a parish comply with all diocesan and national norms concerning the protection of our young people in the life of the community. Contact: Sue Smy on 023 9273 0885

### Catholic Women's League

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Whether you are married or single, young or older, with or without children or have just moved into the district, the Catholic Women's League has something to offer.

We work for the promotion of religious education and social welfare, both for civilians and armed forces and represent women's interests on national and international bodies. We meet once a month (3rd Monday) from 1400 - 1600 in the Cathedral Hall. New members are always welcome. Please contact Carol Taylor on 023 9247 9846.

## **Marriage Care**

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As well as preparing couples for marriage, Marriage Care provides counselling services for those experiencing difficulties and pressures in married life. Contact Marriage Care Regional Office 0800 389 3801

## **Feeding the Hungry**

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We work in conjunction with the other churches in the city and provide food and sandwiches. These are made during the week and distributed between 1100 - 1200 Monday to Friday from the car park.

## **Churches Together in Central Portsmouth**

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Representative of all member churches, this lay and clerical group meets to promote better understanding, to support ecumenical initiatives and to improve communications between the Christian denominations and the wider community.

Chairman - Canon Robert White of St. Mary's Church, Fratton. Tel: 023 9281 4444 / 023 9282 2687. The Parish Representative is Judith Dobbin on 023 92 36 6059 or 0795 8037 278.

## **The Apostleship of the Sea**

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Members of the Apostleship visit ships and welcome seafarers to our shores, many of whom are from other lands and so lack the spiritual and sacramental support of a parish community at home. Mass is often celebrated on the ship during the short time they spend in port. The contact Lay Chaplain for Seafarers is Elfie Ip on 01489 565727.

## **Hospital Chaplaincy**

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This Chaplaincy is an ecumenical team working in the Queen Alexandra and St. Mary's Hospitals, with pastoral responsibilities for all patients, their relatives and members of staff.

The Roman Catholic Chaplain, Fr. Joe McNerney and his assistants make regular visits to all wards. If you are coming into hospital or know someone who is in hospital and would welcome a visit please contact the Chaplain's Office at:

Queen Alexandra on 023 9228 6408  
St. James' on 023 9282 2444

## **University Chaplaincy**

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We welcome all students and staff whether you have a religious faith or not. Here in the Chaplaincy, hospitality and inclusivity are very important to us. Angela and CathSoc offer a programme of events. There is a monthly Mass in the Chaplaincy Centre. Please come along and visit us in the Centre whether to share faith, friendship, food or fun ...

Contact: Ms Angela O'Donoghue (RC Chaplain), Chaplaincy, Nuffield Centre, St Michael's Road, PO1 2ED Tel: 023 9284 3167/023 9284 3030 Email: Angela.Odonoghue.port.ac.uk Search Facebook for Portsmouth Uni Chaplaincy.

## **Pastoral Care Visiting**

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This is a ministry of befriending offered by a team from the parish community.

In addition to visiting, the team is also responsible for arranging and co-ordinating transport to enable the sick, elderly and housebound to join us three times a year for Masses of Anointing.

These are followed by lunch organised by the Hospitality Group. Contact Sr. Rita Andrews FMDM on 023 9296 0376

## **NARCS**

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NARCS is a 12 step Fellowship, based upon similar lines to AA. It is a self-help group of people who think they may have a drug or drink problem. Meetings are held as follows:-

Mondays: Southsea Community Centre.

Wednesdays: St. John's Cathedral Centre.

Fridays: Southsea Community Centre.

Saturdays: St. John's Cathedral Centre.

Sundays: Binstead Community Centre (This is a non- restrictive women's meeting)

All meetings are at 1900. Contact telephone numbers are 023 9245 2048 and 023 9282 3905.

## **Gunwharf Quays / Cascades Chaplaincy**

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This Chaplaincy consists of an ecumenical team and has been set up to support people in the workplace.

The Chaplains have been selected from the parishes of the City Centre Churches Together in Portsmouth. Support is offered to all those who work at Gunwharf Quays and Cascades of any, or no, religious belief.

Chaplains visit on an informal basis every Thursday between 1400 - 1600 but can be contacted at other times.

If people wish to talk, a chaplain has time to listen on any issue, whether work related, personal or concerning issues of life in general.

Our representatives on the team are:

### **Gunwharf Quays:**

Margy Kirby 01243 371 808

Esme Shaw 023 9275 6643

### **Cascades:**

Jacqui Fitzpatrick 023 9287 4168

Sr. Rita 023 9296 0376

## **Justice and Peace Group**

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This group brings together those within the parish who wish to work more actively for peace and justice.

Its role is to alert the parish of different needs and projects at home and abroad during the course of the year. This group is open to all.

Contact Neil Galbraith on 023 9236 2971.

## **Fairtrade**

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The St John's Cathedral Group is committed to strengthening the Fairtrade movement by campaigning for changes to the world economic order to end discrimination against the poorest in our global society. More details and some useful documents to read or download are available on the Cathedral website at [www.portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthcatholiccathedral.org.uk)

We lead on promoting Fairtrade Fortnight that is held annually in the spring. Other activities include working with Fairtrade campaigners in south Hampshire; in other churches in the deanery; with other Christian churches and with secular groups.

We work regularly with our sister cathedral of St Thomas. There are obvious links with Trade Justice Campaigns and Justice and Peace groups.

The Fairtrade group is represented on the Portsmouth Fairtrade Forum:  
[www.portsmouthfairtrade.org.uk](http://www.portsmouthfairtrade.org.uk)

Working with other Fair traders in the Portsmouth area, the group is also able to support specific events such as church fêtes if given enough notice. We can provide a stall to sell fairly traded goods such as tea, coffee, sugar, rice, jams and honey, chocolate and craft items. Prices are comparable with those in supermarkets but more of the money goes directly to the producers rather than to multi-national companies.

Any profits are donated to Third World development charities such as CAFOD, Christian Aid and Tradecraft Exchange.

A speaker is available to talk to interested groups about Fairtrade.

The group welcomes more members, with skills from running a stall to book-keeping and campaigning.

The usual commitment is a couple of hours a month.

For more details please contact either Mike Dobson on 023 9273 3193 and [mike.dobson@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:mike.dobson@yahoo.co.uk) or Lesley Woodhouse on 023 9278 6676.

## **Hospitality Group**

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The Hospitality Group is very much an action group that works in collaboration with the parish school of St. John's and the Cathedral Discovery Centre to bring people together and offer hospitality. Volunteers are always welcome. Contact Sister Rita on 023 9282 6170.

## **Overseas Missions APF (Association for the Propagation of the Faith)**

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The APF and Mill Hill missionaries support the work of spreading the Gospel throughout the world. It is Britain's own missionary society of Priests, Brothers and associates.

Please support this work by prayer, devotions and by having an APF red mission box in your home. For further information please contact Nora North, 42 Grafton Street, Portsmouth on 023 9283 1622 or Eileen O'Brien at the Discovery Centre on 023 9287 0348.

## **After Mass Refreshments**

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Teas and coffees are served in the main hall after the 1000 Mass on Sundays. Everyone is welcome to come and make new friends.

## **Liturgy Group**

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A small group involving the Director of Music, Cathedral Primary School and Clergy. Looking at the months ahead with regard to themes and seasons to see how we can best celebrate the liturgy.

Contact Rosina Kettle-Williams on 023 9281 5136.

## **Parish Parents' Group**

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Open to all parents, grandparents, carers and the babies and toddlers they care for. We meet every Thursday from 1000 - 1130 in the Abingdon Room of the Discovery Centre for a coffee and a chat. We have plenty of toys to keep the little ones happy!

You are very welcome to join this friendly and informal group. Just come along or call Sister Rita on 023 9296 0376 for more details.

## **Communications Working Party**

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Meets every five weeks to promote, support and improve communications within the Cathedral parish and beyond.

Areas of focus include the website, newsletter, notice boards, press releases, picture library and public announcements.

Contact Jay Kettle-Williams on 023 9281 5136.

## **Welcoming**

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We aim to be a welcoming community with a rota of parish members distributing Mass books and Newsletters to people on arrival. The team always needs volunteers. For further information please contact the Parish Office on 023 9282 6170.

## **Friends of St John's Cathedral**

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The aim and purpose of the Society is to raise awareness of the Cathedral as the mother church of the diocese, and in turn, of all it represents.

It is also to share the responsibility of important and ongoing maintenance of the building with the Bishop and Cathedral Dean, thus preserving it for future generations.

Members are asked to help ensure that information provided on the Cathedral's liturgical and other celebrations is made available in their parishes, along with information about the Society and to encourage new members.

Members are requested to give at least £20 a year to the Cathedral, through the Society.

They are also invited to attend the Annual Society Mass and reception and the Annual Gathering and Lunch. For more information please contact John Williams on 023 8026 0061.