



Parish  
Handbook  
2008 -2009



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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 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 Team

Canon David Hopgood                      Tel: 023 9282 6170  
*Cathedral Dean*

Father Steven Restori                      Tel: 023 9282 6170  
*Assistant Priest*

Sister Rita Andrew FMDM                      Tel: 023 9296 0376  
*Pastoral Assistant*

Dave Yates                                      Tel: 023 9287 0348  
*Cathedral Verger*

Peter Newman                                      Mobile: 07590 602437  
*Director of Music*

David Shaw                                      Tel: 023 9282 6170  
*Financial Secretary*

Lily Peach                                      Tel: 023 9282 6170  
*Parish Secretary*

## Parish Pastoral Council

Canon David Hopgood	Tel: 023 9282 6170
Father Steven Restori	Tel: 023 9282 6170
Sister Rita Andrew	Tel: 023 9296 0376
Roisin Gwyer (Chair)	Tel: 023 9273 3766
Jane Bosonnet	Tel: 023 9282 1919
Mary Harkin	Tel: 023 9261 0214
Catherine Hobbs	Tel: 023 9282 1055 (work)
Anthony Quail	Tel: 01243 776757
Neil Galbraith	Tel: 023 9236 2971
Isaac Boateng	Tel: 023 9243 5708
Dervla McConn-Finch	Tel: 023 9237 5578
David Shaw	Tel: 023 9282 6170
Jordan James	Tel: 023 9284 3030



## Liturgy and Prayer

### Mass Times

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

\*0730 M-F except Holydays/Bank Holidays/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.

## **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament**

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Saturday	1100 - 1200
Friday	1100 - 1200

## **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, which 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 1430.

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 Susan & Bernard Timoney, Sally Anne & Marcus 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 during the 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 Sue Mackie on [Smackie71@aol.com](mailto:Smackie71@aol.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 a half-day on a Saturday of marriage preparation with the organisation "Marriage Care".

A deposit 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.

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 David Kennedy on 023 9246 2714.

## **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 Dave Yates after the Sunday Masses, or on 023 9282 7047, 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 Jay Kettle-Williams, on 023 9281 5136.

## **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:

Kristy Galbraith on 023 0236 2971.

## **Meditation**

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This is a group that meets in the Cathedral at St John's Chapel every Saturday from 1700 - 1730 for silent meditation based on the teaching and writing of John Main OSB. All are welcome.

## **Christian Meditation Group**

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This hour-long session includes quiet music and a little instruction before a 30-minute silent meditation.

Every Monday evening from 1900 - 2000 in St John's Room at the Discovery Centre.

For further information, contact Tim Gay on 07952 115735 or [teag11@ntlworld.com](mailto:teag11@ntlworld.com) or the website of the World Community for Christian Meditation at [www.wccm.org](http://www.wccm.org).

## **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 between 1830 - 2000 in St Edmund's Hall, Cathedral Centre. The course duration is 10 weeks and start dates for 2008-2009 are:

30<sup>th</sup> September 2008

7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> October 2008

4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2008

2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> December 2008

13<sup>th</sup> January 2009

21<sup>st</sup> April 2009

14<sup>th</sup> July 2009

13<sup>th</sup> October 2009

## **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.

## **Exploring God's Word**

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This group meets on Tuesdays at 1900 in the Jubilee Room of the Discovery Centre. This year we shall be celebrating the Year of St Paul. All are welcome.

For further information contact Kath Joyce on 023 9264 6248.

## **Healing Prayer Ministry**

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On the last Sunday of every month, in St John's Chapel from 1700 - 1745 a time of prayerful reflection with an opportunity to receive personal prayer for healing and anointing with the Oil of Gladness.

This is open to anyone to attend.

For further information contact the Parish Office on 023 9282 6170.

## **School of Spirituality**

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This small group meets a few times a year with the purpose of seeking to promote opportunities to explore different methods of prayer.

For further information please contact Esme Shaw on 023 9275 6643.

## **Bethany Group**

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The Cathedral Bethany Group meets each month 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.

For further information, please contact one of the Priests of the Parish Office on 023 9282 6170.

## **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

Judy Pellatt

Richard Trist

Dougie Waterman

## 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:

Mike Piper (Chair)  
Len Edwards  
Canon David Hopgood  
Leslie Jones  
Joe McGannan  
Ruth Piper  
David Shaw  
John Wingfield

### Gift Aid

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If you pay income tax we can claim this back (28 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 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 Sonja Baxendale on 023 9273 1816.

### 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 Mrs Isabelle O'Mara. Application should be made to the School's Office in Arundel Street, Tel: 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 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, Miss 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. Judith Dobbin is the Parish Representative; contact her on 023 9259 9098.

## **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. Andrew Chandler 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. Mary's on 023 9286 6080  
St. James' on 023 9282 2444

St James' Hospital is covered by Sister Teresa McGarry

## **University Chaplaincy**

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Everyone is welcome, Catholics, Christians, other faiths or no particular faith. Inclusivity and hospitality are priorities. Catholic Societies organise the programme, it is run by the students, for the students. Come and share faith, friendship, fellowship, food, fun etc, etc. Contact: Ms. Jordon James, Catholic Chaplain, on 023 9284 3030 or at the Chaplaincy Office, Nuffield Centre St Michael's Road.)

## **“Inside Out”**

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The magazine of St. John’s Cathedral “Inside Out” is published three times a year and aims to raise the profile of the Cathedral throughout the diocese and encourage greater use of its facilities.

It also acts as regular communication for the Friends of St. John’s Cathedral and as a souvenir for visitors.

The editorial team is made up of 10 volunteers who meet approximately every three weeks and new members are always welcome.

Articles, letters and suggestions for the content of “Inside Out” are warmly encouraged and should be addressed to the Editor at the following address:

The Editor, “Inside Out” c/o The Cathedral Discovery Centre, St. Edmund House, Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth PO1 3QA. Email: [crc-ports-dio@tregalic.co.uk](mailto:crc-ports-dio@tregalic.co.uk)

## **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 Andrew, 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.

## **Happy Club**

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The Happy Club is a self-funded, non-profit organization, set up to bring fun into the lives of people with learning difficulties. Ages range from 16 to 40+.

We meet in the Cathedral Centre on Wednesday evenings from 1900 - 2100 during school term time. Activities include snooker, table games, art, bingo etc. Helpers are always welcome.

For more information please contact Shirley Foster (Co-ordinator), 5 The Reldas, Oyster Street, Portsmouth, PO1 2JB, or on 023 9286 5488.

## **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:**

Betty Bellman	023 9283 2445
Jacqui Davis	023 9275 4446
Esme Shaw	023 9275 6643

### **Cascades:**

Jacqui Fitzpatrick	023 9287 4168
David Kennedy	023 9246 2714
Sr. Rita	023 9296 0376
Rosalie Rutherford	023 9235 0974

## **Catholic Association for Racial Justice (CARJ)**

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This group seeks to progress within the parish the work of CARJ. This was established in 1984 to empower Black and Minority Catholics and to promote racial justice both within the Catholic church and throughout the wider Community.

People of all races, cultures and ethnic backgrounds are encouraged to participate.

Contact Eileen McGannan on 023 9269 2080.

## **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.

## **Portsmouth Youth Justice & Peace Group**

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Open to all young people in Year 7 and above from the Parish and beyond. For young people who are interested in issues of injustice in our world and challenging them through awareness-raising and fundraising. We are a CAFOD Action Group and work with the Parish and Deanery Justice and Peace Groups. Regular events include a charity car wash, organising St John's Summer Fête, our Annual Summer Coach Trip and supporting Operation Christmas Child.

If you are interested in making a difference in your local, national and global community, then please contact us or just come along to one of our meetings (see Parish newsletter and website). You will be very welcome!

Emma Devine (Co-ordinator) Tel: 023 9279 2880 Email: [eldevine@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:eldevine@tiscali.co.uk)

Kelly Hunter Tel: 07530 339376 Email: [Kelly.hunter@twosaints.org.uk](mailto:Kelly.hunter@twosaints.org.uk)

Neil Galbraith Tel: 023 9236 2971 Email: [neil\\_galbraith@ntlworld.com](mailto:neil_galbraith@ntlworld.com)

## **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 fairtraders 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 01329 335143 ([mike.dobson@which.net](mailto:mike.dobson@which.net)), or Lesley Woodhouse on 023 9278 6676.

## **Hospitality Group**

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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 Eileen Gass on 023 9273 8059.

## **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, 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.

Contact people Norman and Nelly Price on 023 9273 3071.

## **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 Wednesday (in term time) 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.

For details of our Summer Coach Trip or Panto Tickets at Christmas, please contact Emma Devine on 023 9279 2880 or email: [eldevine@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:eldevine@tiscali.co.uk)

## **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 Verger, Dave Yates at the Cathedral or on 023 9287 0348.

## **Cathedral Guardians**

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Guardians are present during the opening hours of the Cathedral. Working in pairs over hour periods they are a sign of Welcome to visitors as well as providing a presence of safekeeping.

We are always looking for new volunteers to join us in this important ministry of guardianship and care for our Cathedral.

Contact Mary Harkin on 023 9261 0214.

## **Youth Worker for the City**

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Mary Ellen Donnelly is the youth worker for all the Catholic parishes in the city. Her office is based in the 'Mary Potter Room' at the Discovery Centre and she can be contacted on 07814 467102

## **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.