



SOLENT PASTORAL AREA - UNITED IN CHRIST

THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

IN FAREHAM AND PORTCHESTER



Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King

Jubilee Year of Hope

23rd Nov. 2025

WHY HUMANS GAWK AT THE IDEA OF A KING

Bishop Robert Barron - www.wordonfire.org

I imagine that most of the English-speaking world watched at least sections of the coronation ceremony of King Charles III at Westminster Abbey. I took in the delayed broadcast on YouTube and found it fascinating for a number of reasons. Perhaps this shouldn't have surprised me - but it did - just how extraordinarily religious, indeed explicitly Christian, an observance it was. It was presided over, of course, by the archbishop of Canterbury, and Anglican hierarchs and clergy were thick on the ground at the Abbey. The name of Jesus was invoked numerous times, readings from the Bible occurred, a communion service unfolded, and the new King and Queen partook of the sacrament. Though it happened demurely behind screens, Charles was anointed in the manner of a priest or bishop at his ordination, and afterwards, he was clothed in what looked, for all the world, like priestly robes. In point of fact, the conflation of the sacerdotal and kingly roles was remarkably redolent of Old Testament figures such as Saul, David, and Solomon.

There were two sacred moments in particular that caught my attention. First, at the very outset of the ceremony, King Charles declared, "In imitation of the King of Kings, I have come, not to be served, but to serve." And secondly, just after the anointing and just before the coronation, the archbishop of Canterbury presented Charles with an orb, topped by the cross of Jesus, and commented that it symbolized how the new King's rangy authority was under a higher divine authority.

Now, there is no question that we human beings are beguiled by power and those who exercise it. Most of us want power in some form and so look with a combination of longing and envy on the people who have it. This goes a long way to explaining why we look with dazzled eyes at a ceremony such as the coronation of a king. But the religious element, so obviously on display in Westminster Abbey, speaks to something else - namely, how legitimately afraid we are of power. Long and dreadful experience has convinced us that the concentration of power, unrestrained by moral duty and consideration, is one of the most dangerous forces on earth. Kings, emperors, warlords, princes, and dictators, permitted to exercise their authority in an arbitrary way, have wreaked havoc on untold millions and have been responsible for the piling up of mountains of corpses.

This terror of power was, of course, uppermost in the minds

of the founders of America, which explains why they adopted a network of checks and balances in the government, assuring that no individual or representative body could capriciously impose its will on the collective.

But such internal, institutional constraints will never definitively solve the problem of the abuse of power - which brings us back to the coronation. The only finally satisfactory answer to our difficulty is the placing of power within a hierarchy of moral values, culminating in the supreme good who is God. This means that we understand that power serves the basic goods of life, knowledge, friendship, art, play, etc. It is meant to foster those ends and is, accordingly, legitimate only when it moves outside the ambit of the ego-needs of the one who exercises it. And those moral goods, in turn, are grounded in the nature of God, the ultimate good. If we do not acknowledge this transcendent point of reference, those basic moral values lose their integrity and come to be seen, soon enough, as private whims or the fruit of changeable cultural consensus.

And this is precisely why all of the language during the coronation ceremony regarding the King being under the authority of God is not mere pious decoration or simply a vague nod to the now-fading religiosity of the British people. Properly understood, it is deadly serious, born of a very real fear, and expressive of some of the best spiritual instincts that we human beings possess. Power is under God or it is tyranny. It's as simple as that. When Abraham Lincoln was preparing the final version of the Gettysburg Address for publication, he added two words to the famous closing sentence, which now reads, "that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish from the earth." By a deep and sure instinct, Lincoln knew that our much cherished American freedom loses its meaning when unmoored from moral truth. Whether we are talking about a king, a representative government, or the people as a whole, those who exercise freedom without consideration for moral purpose become, in short order, lethally dangerous.

Though we Americans have thrown off our allegiance to the British monarch, we remain stubbornly fascinated with him and his family. It might be a salutary exercise, as we watch all of the colourful pageantry, to remark that this new English King, by his own admission, serves under the authority of the King of Kings.

Bishop Robert Barron

REST IN PEACE

Please pray for **Julie Nally RIP**

Requiem Mass: Tues 16th Dec. 10am. Sacred Heart Church.
Please remember Aidan and Angela in your prayers.

Also **Susan Griffiths RIP** who died recently.

PLEASE PRAY FOR ...

the sick, and those who care for them, especially:

Patrick Tongs, Debbie Mead, Richard Bursell, Esme Vivian, Barbara and Joan and Michael Green.

SCRIPTURE GROUP - FEASTING ON THE WORD OF GOD

Friday mornings: 11.15am Sacred Heart Hall

The last meeting before the Christmas break will be 12th December, returning Friday 9th January 2026.

LITTLE TREASURES - MOTHER & TODDLER GROUP

Christmas Party, 9th December, 9.30am at SPHH

To book your space please see us when you attend on 2nd December or send an email to cfairman85@gmail.com.

We finish for the Christmas break on 9th December and will be back on 6th January.

UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS 'UCM' MEETING

Monday 24th November, 7pm at Sacred Heart Hall

From 7pm for coffee/tea with the meeting starting at 7.30pm and closing at 9pm. All are very welcome!

For more info contact: lornefrey1954@hotmail.com

MEN'S GROUP *First Weds. 7.30pm. St P. Howard Hall*

A confidential, prayer and fellowship group helping us to be the best husbands, fathers, brothers and sons we can be.

Contact Tom at: tom_fairman@yahoo.com

LADIES' GROUP *Second Weds 7.30pm. St P. Howard Hall*

Join our Ladies' Group, getting to know each other, sharing our faith, and growing deeper in our relationship with the Lord. Every woman is so welcome - no age limit applies.

Contact Eloise at: eloise@olimcomms.com

CONVERSATION GROUP

Every other Thurs, 2pm - 3.30pm, Sacred Heart Hall

Next meeting 4th December.

Do you have APHASIA or communication difficulties after a stroke? Come and join our friendly group. Donation of £2.
For info. contact Angela at: amnally65@gmail.com

CRAFT GROUP

Tues from 1pm at Sacred Heart Church Hall

All are very welcome. And a "ploughman's lunch" too!

WE ACKNOWLEDGE WITH THANKS

The anonymous donation towards the Parish Advent Appeal (Mary's Meals), CMA Debt Advisory Service, and Parish SVP.

BAPTISM www.catholicchurchfareham.org.uk/baptism

Please visit the parish website for details and to register online. Why not take part while "still expecting"?

Next Preparation Pathway dates:

Meet & Greet - in person	Saturday 14th Feb, 10am
Online Session 1	Tuesday 17th Feb, from 8pm
Online Session 2	Tuesday 24th Feb, from 8pm
Welcome & Anointing	Sunday 1st March

Closing date for this Preparation Pathway - Fri. 30th January

"CHOSEN" CONFIRMATION PATHWAY

Session 4. Fri 28th November 7- 8.30pm.

Topic 'Love seen through the lives of Saints Maximillian Kolbe and Sean Devereaux.'

7pm - 7.20pm. The Chosen group commence their evening with Exposition, Adoration and Prayer. All are welcome to come and pray for and with our young people.

ADULT JOURNEY IN FAITH GROUP

Wednesdays 7pm Church, for 7.15pm-9pm. S.Heart Hall

For those wanting to know about the Catholic faith and come into full communion with the Church. Come & see!

Topic this week: Prayer.

Contact Dcn Larry: lmurawski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CONFESSIONS

Let us not leave this sacrament of peace and of freedom to just Advent or Lent. Trust in this sacrament of healing.

Thursdays: After the 10am Mass

Saturdays: 5-6pm (first Saturdays 10-11am)

MARRIAGE SANKOFA RETREAT DAY

Sat. 29th November 12.30 – 5.30pm

Holy Family Church, Redbridge Hill. So'ton. SO16 4PL

For everyone interested in deepening their knowledge of the marriage covenant; couples, spouses, young & old.

Contact Aba: marriagesankofa@hotmail.com 07780 390 102
No charge, just 'donations welcome'

PARISH ECOLOGY GROUP (PEG) Meeting

Friday 28th November, 7-9.30pm Sacred Heart Hall

Our annual pre-Advent mulled wine & mince pies.

We will be collecting Christmas gifts and warm clothing for the Seafarers charity Stella Maris on this evening. We will also be running a raffle and would be grateful for any donations of raffle prizes – please give directly to John Vivian or drop off at the parish office.

CHURCHES TOGETHER - LENT GROUPS

York Course 'Daring to see God now'

We are looking for Hosts and Leaders. Groups can meet in the morning, afternoon or evening, any weekday for the 5 weeks starting 23rd Feb. Able to help? Please contact Liz: lizdunning@ntlworld.com / 07879 685 556 by 20th Dec.

SVP MASS & CHRISTMAS PARTY

Wed 3rd December, 1:30pm at St Philip Howard

The SVP will be hosting a Christmas Party for our older parishioners. It will start at 1:30pm with Mass, followed by a Christmas Tea in the Hall. All are welcome and please pass this invitation on to anyone who might not otherwise receive it. If you need help with transport, no problem, please phone 07435 880 190 or contact the Parish Office.

ADVENT REFLECTION - TEAMS OF OUR LADY

Saturday 6th Dec, 7:30pm, St Margaret Mary, Park Gate

You are warmly invited to a short service of reflection, followed by light refreshments. All are very welcome.

ADVENT BOOKLET 'Praying with the Psalms'

We have copies of a booklet to guide you through Advent with prayerful reflections. Three-minute devotions inviting you to ponder the wonder of God becoming human in Christ Jesus. They are £2.50 a copy. In the church foyer...

STELLA MARIS - CHRISTMAS CHOCOLATE APPEAL

Support seafarers visiting our Southern Region ports in the days before Christmas through the offering of the gift of chocolate. Please bring in any donations of chocolate tubs/boxes to the Parish Office by Fri 12th Dec. Thank you.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING HELP NEEDED!

Saturday 20th Dec, 10am, St Philip Howard

Come and help us put up the crib and prepare decorations for the church. Please contact the Office if you can help.

ORGANIST - Sacred Heart Sunday 9am Mass

Does anyone know of a competent organist (as the console and its' stops are a bit "tired") we could approach?

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, STUBBINGTON, Bells Lane, Stubbington, PO14 2PL

1ST SUNDAY OF ADVENT 6PM SOLEMN VESPERS AND SOCIAL
30th November – All are very welcome.

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BL. VIRGIN MARY

Mon 8th December. 7pm Solemn Mass followed by Filipino supper and entertainment. All are very welcome.

ADVENT DAWN MASSES

Thursday 4th/11th/19th December

During Advent there will be a Dawn Mass on Thursdays at 7am followed by breakfast in the hall hosted by the UCM. All donations will go to our Advent Appeal Mary's Meals.

ADVENT APPEAL "MARY'S MEALS"

On 29th and 30th November we will be launching our Advent Appeal in support of Mary's Meals.

Mary's Meals provides school meals for children in 16 of the world's poorest countries, providing much needed nourishment and opening the door to education.

With help from generous supporters and volunteers we are now feeding more than 3 million children every school day, and the global average cost to feed a child for a year is £19.15. We believe that these children can be the ones to break the chains of poverty in their communities.

Thank you in advance for your generous support.

CAROL SERVICE

Sunday 14th December, 3pm, St Philip Howard Church

Join us for Traditional Carols and Christmas music led by singers from the Solent Pastoral Area. Organist - Sarah Gallop. Refreshments & Raffle afterwards in the hall. All welcome! Hamper donations gratefully received.

Mass Times, Intentions and Locations, including Adoration & Confessions

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST KING OF THE UNIVERSE Year C <i>Psalter Week 2</i>	Sat Vigil 22nd	6:30pm	Sacred Heart	For the People of the Parish
	Sun 23rd Nov	9am	Sacred Heart	Cynthia Snell RIP
		11am	St Philip Howard	Jim Syred RIP
		6pm	St Philip Howard	John & Mary Byrne RIP
St Andrew Dung-Lac + Feria Adoration Feria Feria Reconciliation Adoration Feria Reconciliation	Mon 24th Nov	-	Sacred Heart	<i>Sorry, no service</i>
	Tues 25th Nov	10am	Sacred Heart	Holy Souls
	<i>Holy Hour</i>	'til Noon	Sacred Heart	Adoration - Silent prayer
	Wed 26th Nov	10am	St Philip Howard	Brian Biddle RIP
	Thurs 27th Nov	10am	Sacred Heart	Monica & Stephen Escott RIP
		...after	Sacred Heart	Confessions
	<i>Holy Hour</i>	7-8pm	Sacred Heart	Holy Hour for Vocations
	Fri 28th Nov	10am	Sacred Heart	Angelika Ware RIP
	Sat 29th Nov	5-6pm	Sacred Heart	Confessions
	Sat Vigil 29th	6:30pm	Sacred Heart	Joseph Mathew Pickard RIP
FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A <i>Psalter Week 1</i>	Sun 30th Nov	9am	Sacred Heart	Christine McNulty RIP
		11am	St Philip Howard	Mgr. Jim Joyce RIP (PACT)
	Nuptial Mass	2.30pm	St Philip Howard	Ints. of Arathy Babu and Kenny Charles
		6pm	St Philip Howard	For the People of the Parish

WOMEN'S RETREAT DAY

Saturday 29th November, 9.30 - 4.00pm, Sacred Heart, Waterlooville PO7 7 SR.

Catholic Mothers Portsmouth & Southampton look forward to welcoming you. Speaker: Fr Tom Hiney. Lunch provided. Babes in arms welcome! £10 suggested donation. For more info. email: catholicmotherssoton@gmail.com

PARISH PRAYER WALKS

**Sunday 30th November 1:30pm. from Sacred Heart Church
Tuesday 2nd December 2pm. from St Philip Howard Ch.**

Two monthly walk routes of one hour or less. Please join us as a walker praying for our parish and for others in need. Prayer like this is known to bear fruit! Join us when you can.

Please get in touch with Deacon Larry and David Cockshoot. Imurawski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or 01329-318 869 David on davidcockshoot@gmail.com or 07881-956 644 We do need to know contact information for those aiming to walk, in case of cancellation.

DCN ANDREW'S 'DRILL DOWN' BIBLE STUDY GROUP

Immaculate Conception Church, Bells Lane, Stubbington.

Every Monday 10am – Meeting Room. A 'second look' at the readings of the previous Sunday. Get your fill of Scripture. Something to get your teeth into.

CHOCOLATE TOMBOLA

Please can you help by donating any Christmas treats such as chocolate and biscuits? All donations can be given to the Parish Office. Funds for our 150th Anniversary celebrations.

CATECHISTS' FORMATION DAY – LENT '26

Saturday 14th March 9.30am - 3.30pm at St Philip Howard
A date for the diary, please, for all our Catechists.

LICENCES: COPYRIGHT & PERFORMANCE

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Lumo Bible Images - www.freebibleimages.org/contributors/lumo

Parish Office: 41 Portland Street, Fareham. PO16 ONF Tel: 01329 318 869
Email: farehamporchester@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
www.catholicchurchfareham.org.uk

Parish Clergy: Cn. John Cooke, Fr. Benedikt Timpe and Dcn Larry Murawski

Parish Administrator: Mrs Pauline McNamara *Parish Office Opening Times:* Monday to Friday 09.30-12.30pm
Parish Finance: farehamgiftaid@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Safeguarding: Stephanie Campbell 07414 685 955. Email: safeguarding.fare@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Diocesan Safeguarding: Ruth Attfield Email: rattfield@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish SVP Group: 07435 880 190 - Call in confidence, any day between 8am - 6pm

Fareham: Sacred Heart Church, Portland Street, Fareham, PO16 ONQ
St. Philip Howard Church, Bishopsfield Road, Fareham, PO14 1ND

Wickham: The Chapel of St. Thomas More, Park Place Pastoral Centre, Wickham, PO17 5HA

St Jude's Primary School Headteacher: Mrs Sarah Wall. Email: admin@st-judes.info Tel: 01329 235 131

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth - Registered Charity Number 1199568

PARISH REPOSITORY *Sacred Heart / St Philip Howard Ch*

Christmas cards and gifts available.

Opening Times: SHH after Mass.

SPH Sunday before and after the 11am Mass.

BASICS BANK - APPEAL ...

Any food donations would be most welcome. You can leave your offerings in the box in the foyer at St Philip Howard church. Collection day is Sunday 30th November.

SUGGESTION BOX

Have a great idea? Or noticed something we could improve? Drop a note in our suggestion box at Sacred Heart Church or St Philip Howard Church. We value your input.

CHURCH WC FACILITIES - CLEANING

In light of our "rock" of a Church Toilets' Cleaner sustaining a nasty injury, we will need volunteers to clean the toilets at Sacred Heart and St Philip Howard. So Cn John will be looking to 'press gang' some volunteers, please!

GREGORIAN CHANT COURSE

3 parts for Beginners and Advanced

2nd Saturdays of January, February and March 2026
St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth PO1 3HG

All welcome. For more information and to register visit <https://portsmouthgregorianchant.blogspot.com>
Tel. Neville McNally on 07424 371 938

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINCY Please make certain that you or your family advise the Ward Clerk and Chaplaincy that you are Catholic, as the staff are not allowed to ask.

PARISH FINANCE

Dona Plates Contactless giving made easy Gift Aid optional
Standing Orders Please contact the Parish Office for details.

BACS Transfer Our bank details if you need them are:

CDP Fareham Sacred Heart (Lloyds Bank)

Sort Code 30-93-04 Account 00877744

Cheques Payable to 'CDP Fareham Sacred Heart'

Gift Aid Tax payers are encouraged to contact in confidence at: farehamgiftaid@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
