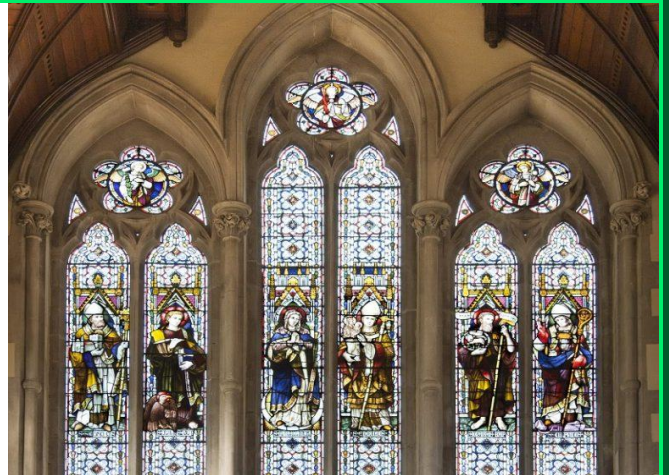


St Francis de Sales Church
 Warren Lodge, Warren Road, Wash Common,
 Newbury RG14 6NH
 Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Priory Road,
 Hungerford, RG17 0AF
 Web Site: www.stfrancisdesales.org.uk
 Registered Charity Number 246871
 Parish Priest: Revd Zbigniew Budyn
 telephone: 01635 40332
 Email: washcommon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



Mass Times and Intentions St F - St Francis; OLOL - Our Lady of Lourdes

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Feast of the Day</i>	<i>Mass Intention</i>
Sat Sept 12	5:15 pm 6:00 pm	St F St F	Adoration & Rosary MASS	Private Intention
Sun Sept 13	09:00 am	OLOL	MASS	Phyllis Gill RIP
	11:00 am	St F	MASS	Anne Palmer RIP
Mon Sept 14			THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS	Martin O'Neill RIP
Tues Sept 15	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	St F	Adoration MASS Our Lady of Sorrows	
Wed Sept 16	9:30 am 10:00 am - 10:30 am	OLOL	Adoration & Reconciliation MASS	
Thurs Sept 17	9:30 am - 10:00 am	St F	MASS Adoration & Reconciliation	Private Intention
Fri Sept 18				

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

Sat Sept 19	5:15 pm 6:00pm	St F	Adoration & Rosary MASS	Lucy Tyler RIP
Sun Sept 20	09:00 am	OLOL	MASS	Chrissy Hearn RIP
	11:00 am	St F	MASS	Fr Eammon Walsh RIP

The Popes Intention September

For the care of water

Let us pray for a just and sustainable management of water, a vital resource, so that everyone may have equal access to it.

Please help us to continue God's work by supporting us financially Lloyds Bank 30 93 04 a/c number 00882993 CDP Newbury StFrancis de Sales Ref: St Francis de Sales/ Name

The Parish Office is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am to 4pm Parish Administrator Yvonne Eaton

John 3:13-17

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross takes precedence over the ordinary Sunday Mass because it is a feast of the Lord. Bringing together the cross and 'exaltation' suggests immediately that the focus is on the paschal mystery of the death and resurrection of the Lord. It is true that this is the focus of every Mass. This feast originated in Jerusalem with the discovery of the true cross and the dedication of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

The writings of the New Testament help us to consider the true meaning of the death and resurrection of Jesus. The gospel for this feast is taken from the words of Jesus to Nicodemus in the third chapter of the Gospel of John. Jesus has been speaking about being 'born from above', the new birth through water and the Holy Spirit which Christians receive in baptism. This new birth, this new life, comes from the saving work of Jesus.

Jesus alludes to the lifting up of the serpent in the desert, which is narrated in the first reading from the Book of Numbers, in reference to his own being raised up on the cross. The final statements in the gospel passage are of extraordinary significance. The coming of the Son reveals the Father's love. The Son comes not to condemn but to offer life to the world.

The cross, the traditional instrument of torture and death in the Roman empire, is transformed into the symbol of new life, the life shared by Jesus with all those who believe. It is therefore logical that the cross becomes a symbol of triumph and exaltation. How strange it would be otherwise for Christians to 'cross themselves'!

CONFIRMATION 26/27

Monday 14th September - Parent and candidate meeting at St Joseph's Parish Church, Newbury, in the hall at 7.30-9.00pm

Please pray for Lily Brooke, Christopher & Robert Brown, Tim Burke-Gaffney, Lucy Curtis, Mary Dykes, Chris Dykes, Emma Dykes, Joe Emery, Sam Hearn, June & Jo Howard, Evelyn Lavers, Noreen McCann, Shomila Malik, Joseph Marletta, Marie O'Sullivan, Daryl Pike, Elizabeth Sage, Malcolm Higgins, Sofia Joseph, Corbert Joseph, Gillian Spencer, Krzysz Zablocki, Margaret McGuire, Sean Early, Tony Lavers, John Huckle, Elizabeth and Eveleen Softley who ask for our prayers. Please let the Parish Office know of any changes.

ALTAR SERVERS

It's that time of year again when we welcome a new group of Altar Servers to our team! Being an Altar Server is a special way to take a more active part in the Mass, serve our parish community and grow in your faith. If you have made your First Holy Communion - we would like to invite you to consider joining us. If you would like to become an Altar Server or would simply like to find out a little more about what is involved, please contact Andrew at andrewpolland@gmail.com by 20th September.

Sunday 13th September

Commissioning of Catechists for First Holy Communion, Confirmation, RCIA and Sycamore courses at 11.00 Mass

CHILDREN'S LITURGY at OLOL. The liturgy is for children aged 5 to 10. The dates for children's liturgy after summer break are: 13th & 20th September 3rd & 17th October, 1st & 15th November 6th & 20th December. Little brothers and sisters are most welcome to join us on the mezzanine, but please they must be accompanied by an adult to all sessions.

Sycamore Course

For those recently Received into the Church and for those Catholics wishing to learn more about their faith will be welcome to join Sycamore, a course crafted by Bishop Elect Stephen Wang. The first meeting will be on **Tuesday 22nd September** at 7.30pm in the parish hall. All will be welcome; it would help with planning if you could notify the parish office, washcommon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Meeting will be generally fortnightly on Tuesday's. Further details to follow.

Sunday 20th September

Harvest Festival Mass 11:00 am followed by a shared Lunch in the Hall

First Holy Communion 2027

We are now starting the early preparations for next year's First Holy Communion Programme and would like to welcome early registrations for the course. The course will start in October 2026 with the age for receiving the Sacrament being eight years of age or above (children in Year 3 to 6). Please register interest at the following link: <https://www.stfrancisdesales.org.uk/news/register-interest-first-holy-communion-2027>