

The Parish of St Saviour and The Ascension, Portsea

August 2025

Dear Friends,

Finding time and space for silence can be very difficult. The world in which we live prioritises activity, noise, speed, and haste over stillness and recollection. Portsmouth can be an exciting and energising place, but it is also one in which many voices vie for our attention. Amidst these sources of distraction, our churches offer a point of stillness in which we are able to find calm, hear the voice of the Lord, and reconnect with our own inner world. This is one of the reasons why keeping our churches at the centre of our community is so important. The number of visitors who find our churches by chance and come in to spend a few moments in prayer, to spiritually catch their breath, or light a candle, is astounding. I pray that the beauty of our buildings and the peace to be found inside is something that speaks to visitors of God's presence and of his love for them. To extend the opportunities for people to find our churches open the PCC have recently agreed to open our churches in the afternoon on Thursdays at The Ascension and Fridays at St Saviour, to include a sign outside encouraging people to come in and see what is inside, this will also be an ideal time to arrange weddings and baptisms etc

Many of our parishioners also find that attending one of our weekday Masses offers a time for recollection and quiet. The Low Masses offered on weekdays are an opportunity to reconnect with the Lord present in Word and Sacrament. It is a good way of punctuating our busy days with a moment of peace and calm as we seek to refocus and reorientate our lives to what is really important. A reminder that there is no Friday evening Mass during August (or December).

August itself is a quiet month with less going on, but there are three important occasions to be aware of:

Wednesday 6th August is the Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord and also marks the 7th Anniversary of my installation here as Priest-in-Charge, which worryingly makes me one of the longer serving vicars here! We will celebrate with a Sung Mass at St Saviour at 11.30am, followed by drinks and nibbles.

The 15th August is The Feast of The Assumption, when we celebrate the end of Our Lady's life on earth as she was taken up into heaven. On the eve there will be Solemn Evensong at The Ascension at 7pm. On the day itself, Friday 15th we are invited to join with St Mary's Portsea for their Patronal Festival at 7pm where the preacher will be The Archdeacon of the Meon. Most importantly on Saturday 16th our new Bishop hosts a Richborough Festival at Portsmouth Cathedral, beginning with Mass at noon, please do make every effort to attend.

Finally it has been a great joy to have Kerensa Matthews here with us on placement as our Pastoral Assistant for the past year. Kerensa's final service with us will be Evensong at The Ascension at 6pm on Sunday 31st August and I'm sure you will all wish to be present on that occasion to send her off with our best wishes. Luke our Bishop will be in attendance and will be giving Benediction. We will be taking a leaving collection for Kerensa, any donations would be gratefully received by Neville Reed or Elizabeth Weitzmann.

If you are going away on holiday over the summer, please remember to find a church and attend Sunday Mass, a full list of churches affiliated to The Society may be found on the website www.sswsh.com/map.php so please check before you go. Whilst thinking of the internet, do check out our updated parish website if you have not done so; the address is at the bottom of this sheet, and please like and follow our pages on Facebook.

With my love and prayers,



Fr Benjamin.

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Calendar for August 2025

Saturday 2 nd	1.00pm	Salmon & Strawberry Lunch at The Vicarage	
Sunday 3 rd	THE 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
	9.30am	Family Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Family Mass	The Ascension
Monday 4 th	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 6 th	11.30am	Sung Mass for the Transfiguration of the Lord	St Saviour
Thursday 7 th	6.30pm	Evensong & Low Mass (BCP)	The Ascension
Sunday 10 th	THE 19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11am	Parish Mass	The Ascension
Monday 11 th	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 13 th	11.30am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Thursday 14 th	THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY		
	6.30pm	Vigil Mass	The Ascension
	7pm	Solemn 1st Evensong & Benediction	The Ascension
Friday 15 th	7.00pm	Choral Mass - Patronal Festival	St Mary's, Fratton
Saturday 16 th	11.00am	Holy Baptism	The Ascension
	12noon	Richborough Festival at Portsmouth Cathedral	
Sunday 17 th	THE 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass	The Ascension
Monday 18 th	10.00am	Low Mass	St Saviour
Wednesday 20 th	11.30am	Low Mass followed by Community Lunch	St Saviour
Thursday 21 st	6.30pm	Evensong & Monthly Requiem Mass	The Ascension
Sunday 24 th	THE 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass	The Ascension
Monday 25 th		No Mass – Late Summer Bank Holiday	St Saviour
Wednesday 27 th	11.30am	Low Mass followed by Community Lunch	St Saviour
Thursday 28 th	6.30pm	Evensong & Low Mass	The Ascension
Sunday 31 st	THE 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME		
	9.30am	Parish Mass	St Saviour
	11.00am	Parish Mass	The Ascension
	6.00pm	Solemn Evensong & Pontifical Benediction with Valediction of a Pastoral Assistant	The Ascension