

The Oratory Church is open daily from 6.30am to 6.30pm (weekends from 7.30am) for Daily Mass and daily Confessions.

We are designated by the Bishop of Portsmouth as a Eucharistic Shrine Church, with privilege of Plenary Indulgence, and hosting the International Exhibition of world-wide Eucharistic Miracles.

To arrange your Pilgrimage please email: sacredheart@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or 'phone 01202 41140

THE BOURNEMOUTH ORATORY is officially designated as one of the three Shrine Churches in Portsmouth Diocese (with the Cathedral, and S James, Reading) for parishes, schools, groups, families, and individuals to come on pilgrimage, and to gain the Plenary Indulgence.

A YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST has been declared by the Bishop of Portsmouth from the Solemnity of Corpus Christi 2021 ~ *Bringing People closer to Jesus Christ through His Church.* Bishop Philip reminds us that "this is the overall purpose of our Diocese", enabling us all to "grow in faith so that we might be better equipped for mission and service" This Year of the Eucharist will help "to rekindle our love for Jesus Christ really and truly present and active in the Holy Eucharist".

PILGRIMS can come on any day at any time but the primary Pilgrimage Programme runs especially on Wednesdays and Saturdays when there's a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Exposition with opportunity for the Sacrament of Confession (Penance / Reconciliation) from 11am to 12 noon, followed by the 12.15pm daily Mass and Rosary.

There are also options for lunch, and a spiritual talk on the Eucharist, or on S Philip Neri and the Oratory, concluding with Benediction.

PILGRIMAGE PROGRAMME

Wednesdays & Saturdays

10.00 Tour of the Shrine Church and the Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles

11.00 Holy Hour of Eucharistic Exposition and the Sacrament of Confession

12.00 The Angelus

12.15 Pilgrim Mass

12.50 The Rosary

13.10 Visit to the Oratory Shop

13.30 Lunch (optional, by arrangement)

14.30 Spiritual Talk for Pilgrims (optional)

15.30 Benediction (group option, by arrangement)

Walk on Bournemouth beach, ice cream, fish supper, etc.

The Oratory Fathers and Brothers are happy to arrange special Pilgrimages suitable for Schools, and for Parish groups of children or young people. Please let us know if you're coming as a pilgrimage group, and what arrangements you would like. email: sacredheart@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or 'phone 01202 41140.

Our Shrine Church hosts the International Exhibition of Eucharistic Miracles of the World (as recognised by the Church) and as created by Blessed Carlo Acutis, who was born in London on 3rd May 1991 and died on 12th October 2006, aged only 15.

Carlo and his family soon moved back to Italy, where he grew up as an ordinary only child. He loved football, Pokémon, action films, and all animals (he had four dogs, two cats and many goldfish as pets). From early childhood, his first love was Our Lord in the Eucharist.

Neither of his parents were religious, yet from an early age Carlo never wanted to pass a church without going in to “say hello to Jesus.” As a result, his mother came back to faith, then his father. Carlo received his First Holy Communion early, at his own request, in a local convent, entering under a doorway that said “God is enough.”

Carlo’s love, appreciation and reverence for the Eucharist were exceptional. “The Eucharist is my highway to Heaven!” he would say. And, “If we get in front of the sun, we get sun tans, but when we get in front of Jesus in the Eucharist, we become Saints.”

He never missed daily Mass, even when (from the age of eleven) he began visiting Eucharistic miracles all over the world with his parents, documenting them. A “computer genius” and possible future patron saint of the internet, by age fourteen he had created the Eucharistic Miracle exhibition that is touring the world, along with a website. He believed that if people knew that Jesus was truly in the Eucharist, they would turn to God.

Carlo knew he would die young, even predicting the cause of his death and his weight at the time. His mother **said**, “Carlo always had a sense that he couldn’t waste time.” He hated to be enslaved by anything, so although he loved computer games, he allowed himself to play for only one hour a week, and gave the rest of his time to good works helping children, the elderly, and the poor. As soon as he was confirmed, age eleven, he became a catechist. He met and chatted with many migrants, standing sponsor for one when he got baptized. He was popular at school, but also befriended children who were unhappy at home, defended the disabled, and treated girls with an old-fashioned purity that challenged everyone. He would defend his Catholic faith — including his pro-life views — fearlessly in class.

Then, in early October, 2006, Carlo became ill with flu — so it was thought, until his condition deteriorated. He was admitted to hospital, receiving a terrible diagnosis: “It is a devastating leukemia.” The fifteen-year-old boy who loved to laugh had days to live. Carlo took the news calmly, immediately offering all his sufferings for the Pope, the Church, and his own direct entry into heaven (he had a horror of purgatory). “I am happy to die,” he said, “because I have lived my life without wasting a minute on those things which do not please God.”

“I would like to leave this hospital,” he told his mother, “but I know I will not do so alive. I will give you signs, though, that I am with God.” He died on 12th October (now his Feast Day). Some of his last words were to a nurse who offered to wake his mother, since he was suffering. He refused: “She is very tired as well and she will only worry even more.”

Exactly four years later, on the anniversary of Carlo’s death, at the age of forty-four, his mother gave birth to the promised ‘signs’ — Carlo’s twin brother and sister.

Carlo’s mother has said that God chose Carlo to be “an example for the young people of this period in history.” Blessed Carlo walks alongside our young people and leads them on the highway to heaven. Blessed Carlo Acutis, pray for us.

From an article by Corinna Turner in The Catholic Herald, 9th October 2020.