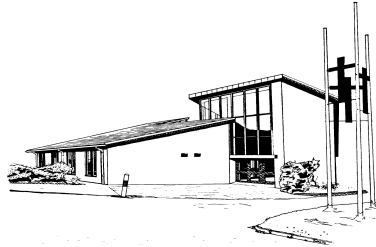


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S, TILEHURST



St Joseph's Presbytery, Berkshire Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, RG31 5JJ

☎ 0118 942 8632 ✉ sjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

🌐 www.st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 246871

<p>Parish Clergy: Fr Peter Glas MA (Parish Priest)</p> <p>Fr Richard Maniak (RBH Chaplain) ☎ 0118 322 7105 (RBH) ☎ 0118 958 6637 (H) ✉ fr.richman@hotmail.co.uk</p>	<p>Parish Secretary: Sheila Jones Parish Office: 0118 942 8632 Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9 am – 12.30 pm</p> <p>Safeguarding Representative: Miriam da Cruz Fernandes ☎ 0118 943 3524 ✉ miriam@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk</p>
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NEWSLETTER COVERING:
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A) - 18TH DECEMBER 2016
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD - 25TH DECEMBER 2016
MARY, MOTHER OF GOD - 1ST JANUARY 2017

A HOLY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS!

CHURCH CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS

The Church will be cleaned for Christmas on Monday, 19th December from 9.30 am onwards. Any help from parishioners would be most welcome.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve - Saturday, 24 th	2 pm	Syro Malabar Vigil Mass
	6 pm	Vigil Mass
	11.30 pm	Carols followed by Midnight Mass
Christmas Day - Sunday, 25 th	8.30 am & 10.30 am	Masses
St Stephen's Day - Monday, 26 th	11 am	Mass

Due to annual leave, St Joseph's Parish Office will be closed week commencing Monday, 19th December and will re-open on Thursday, 5th January 2017. Please bear this in mind should you need to contact the office at this time.

THANK YOU!

A huge 'THANK YOU' to each and every one who generously gave their time and effort during the year. We are always in need of volunteers to be able to become a viable and successful Parish. Without your continued help and support many will feel disenchanting with the lack of vibrancy in the house of God. Please make this your New Year resolution to become more involved in Parish life.

Wishing you and your families a very peaceful and joy filled Christmas.

Fr Peter

MASS INTENTIONS: 18^H DECEMBER 2016 – 7TH JANUARY 2017**Responsorial Psalm: "Let the Lord enter! He is the king of glory."**

Sunday, 18th December	8.30 am	Jack Kerrigan RIP
	10.30 am	Michael Kennedy RIP
	6.30 pm	Syro Malabar
Monday, 19th December	NO MASS	
Tuesday, 20th December	12 noon	Mary Gouge RIP
	7 pm	St Paul's School Advent Service
Wednesday, 21st December	12 noon	People of the parish
Thursday, 22nd December	9.30 am	Steven McCreight RIP
	11 am	Funeral: Mrs Margaret (Peggy) Winship RIP
Friday, 23rd December	7 pm	Robert Thompson RIP

Saturday, 24th December **NO MORNING MASS****Responsorial Psalm: "Today a saviour has been born to us; he is Christ the Lord".**

THE NATIVITY	2 pm	Syro Malabar Vigil
OF	6 pm	Michael Heneghan RIP
THE LORD	Midnight	Tim O'Leary RIP & Ciara Wooller RIP

Responsorial Psalm: "This day new light will shine upon the earth: the Lord is born for us".

Sunday, 25th December	8.30 am	Michael Kelly RIP
	10.30 am	Joyce Hopkins RIP & Tomas Ibarrondo RIP

Responsorial Psalm: "All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God".

Monday, 26th December ST STEPHEN	11 am	Brian, Bridget-Ellen & their son Barney Clarke RIP, and John Donoghue & his wife Nellie RIP
Tuesday, 27th December ST JOHN	12 noon	Louie Fearn's RIP
Wednesday, 28th December THE HOLY INNOCENTS	12 noon	Dominic Burgess' Intentions
Thursday, 29th December ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY	9.30 am	Kathleen O'Shea RIP
Friday, 30th December THE HOLY FAMILY	7 pm	Ellen McCormack RIP
Saturday, 31st December	10 am	Charles & Julia Newman RIP

Responsorial Psalm: "O God, be gracious and bless us".

Sunday, 1st January 2017	8.30 am	Deceased members of the Dent family RIP
MARY, MOTHER OF GOD	10.30 am	Michael Lanigan RIP
Monday, 2nd January Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen	NO MASS	
Tuesday, 3rd January	12 noon	Robert Thompson RIP
Wednesday, 4th January	12 noon	People of the parish
Thursday, 5th January	9.30 am	Thanksgiving – Hopper family
Friday, 6th January	5 pm	Reading Marian Prayer Group
	7 pm	Jim Ward RIP
Saturday, 7th January	10 am	Thomas Walshe RIP & Annie Kate Walshe RIP

**BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON
SCHOOL REUNION**

The 60th reunion celebrations will be taking place on Saturday, 8th April 2017 at the school between 5 – 11 pm. Tickets (£12 per head) are available from the following ex-pupils:

- Gabriele Scicluna - 0777 834 0444
- Ron Tyler - 0784 516 2497
- Paul Blake - 0786 043 3411

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

Representatives from each parish in the Reading Pastoral Area have been meeting with a view to setting up Bereavement Support Groups in each parish to work alongside the Parish Priest. We are about to set up our Parish Bereavement group, which may be a support at Funeral Masses and to those who have lost a loved one. It will consist of volunteers who are kind and sympathetic, have good listening skills and who are prepared to meet with those who have suffered the loss of a loved one. Training will be provided. DBS clearance and safeguarding training will be required. The group will meet to consider how best to do this and support one another. Please contact Fr Peter or the Parish Office for further information.



The St Vincent de Paul Society has launched their Christmas Time Appeal. Although they always need and welcome financial donations, they're also asking parishioners for a little of their time to help others by joining our SVP group. As you plan your Christmas celebrations, spare a thought for those who dread the festive season. For many it's a time of profound loneliness and solitude, while for others it means not being able to afford the family presents or delicious foods that the rest of us take for granted. But giving a little of your time or money (or both) to help those in need could transform someone's bleak Christmas. It might be the best gift you've ever given. To find out more phone Jack Ewins, SVP President on 0773 449 9190.

Divine Mercy Meeting at St John Bosco on 8th January 2.30 - 3.30 pm with Exposition, hymns and the chaplet is sung. Refreshments afterwards, all are most welcome.



MRS MARGARET (PEGGY) WINSHIP RIP

The parish offers condolences to the family of Peggy Winship who died recently. Peggy's funeral service will take place on Thursday, 22nd December at 11 am here at St Joseph's Church, followed by interment at St Michael's Churchyard. *All are welcome.*

Gift Aid:	£282.98
Planned Giving:	£37.92
Loose Plate	£249.65
TF3 (CAFOD)	£15.00
Hall hire	£198.00
Donation: Funeral fee	£50.00
Stole fees	£100.00
TOTAL	£933.55
<u>RUNNING TOTALS</u>	
Divine Mercy	£222.07
TF3 (CAFOD)	£245.00

COLLECTIONS FOR 11TH DECEMBER 2016

REMINDER FOR COUNTERS

25 th December	Peter & Crystal Chesworth
1 st January	Terry Clarke & Jenny Horton
8 th January	John Macbeth & Rosalind Gilbert

CRIB OFFERINGS

Crib offerings, as in past years, will go in support of Christian Communities in the Holy Land via Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Traditionally, your Offerings at Christmas are for the personal use of the priest serving the parish and form the major part of his annual income.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP

The next meeting of the Prayer Group will be on Wednesday, 4th January 2017 at 9.30 am at St Catherine's. *All are welcome.*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK
& HOUSEBOUND**

Especially for Nora Colley, Richard O'Brien, Terri Hadland, Marie Minien, Sheila Robinson, Ellen Knox, Pamela Humphries, Pat Togher, Brian Sheridan, John Sullivan, Zoie Kathleen Barr, Patricia Kusta, Richard Owens, Gene, Bernadette Smeesters, Fr Terry Burke, Yvonne Millichap, Gino Marengi, Jacqueline Million, Rosa Maria Santos, Fr Vincent Convery, Gerard Tomas & Ashley Gilbert.

If you know anyone who is unwell and would like to be prayed for at Mass, please let St Joseph's Parish Office know. Their names** will then be included in the bidding prayers. Please make sure the person is happy for their name to be mentioned.

*** Please advise the Parish Office if any of the above named people no longer need to be included in prayers for the sick.***

<u>ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES - DECEMBER</u>		
<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>
Sunday, 18 th	3 pm	St Anne's
Monday, 19 th	7.30 pm	St James'

"SIMBANG GABI" MASS

The Reading Filipino Community invites everyone to their Traditional Christmas Mass "Simbang Gabi" at English Martyrs Church on Tuesday, 20th December at 7.30 pm (7 - 7.30 pm Children's Carols). Food/roast hog (Lechon) shared after Mass. *All are welcome.*

CAFOD PORTSMOUTH SUPPORTERS'

MEETING - SATURDAY, 4TH FEBRUARY 2017

Join us at our next CAFOD Portsmouth Supporters' Meeting on Saturday, 4th February 2017 from 10 am - 1.30 pm at St Bede's Catholic Primary School, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX. There will be a special talk on our livelihoods work in Zambia (our Lenten focus) by Mark Chamberlain and a chance to hear an update on all our exciting campaigns from Dan Hale. Please book a place in advance via 01252 329385 or portsmouth@cafod.org.uk. *Thank you.*

ST PAUL'S SCHOOL ADVENT SERVICE

All Middle and Upper school pupils will be involved in the annual Advent Service, which takes place here at St Joseph's Church on Tuesday, 20th December at 7 pm.

THURSDAY MORNING MASS

St Philip's Class will be attending Mass on Thursday, 12th January. *Parents are more than welcome to attend.*

Last New Year's night, the St William's Latin Mass Community had a Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration from 11 pm to Midnight, which also proved popular with some of St William & St James parishioners, particularly some Indian families. This year, given that New Year's Day falls on a Sunday, we are going to have another Holy Hour from 11 pm on New Year's night, followed immediately by a sung Midnight Mass and then a little celebration in the church annexe. We would be very pleased to welcome any of your parishioners. Obviously a full Holy Hour followed by a Sung Mass would feel quite a liturgical marathon for many, and so folk are welcome to pick and choose which elements they feel comfortable to attend. *With my prayers and best wishes. Fr Matthew Goddard.*

PARKING AT

6 PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

Due to the traffic chaos which occurred in Berkshire Drive following last year's Mass, would you kindly consider walking to Mass or parking your car considerably further away from Berkshire Drive.

LOST PROPERTY - HALL

Two childrens' coats/jackets have been handed in. These may be collected from the Parish Office during office hours.

SOUND AND VISUAL SYSTEM

We have had several companies in to give us quotes for improving the sound system in the church and also to fit a screen so that we can have information/images/videos shown during Mass. We will hold an information session in January to give parishioners more information and to encourage requests and feedback. We are looking for people who have an interest in this area and would like to join a small volunteer group of people who understand how it all works and can help if/when required. Ideally this group will have a couple of representatives from each Sunday Mass: 8.30 am, 10.30 am, and weekday.

FR FRANCIS SASINOWSKI

Those of you who would like to send Christmas greetings to Fr Francis, his address is as follows: St Thomas' RC Church, 17 Val Plaisant St Helier, Jersey, JE2 4TA. UK postal charges apply. *Mike Tomas.*

MARRIAGE PREPARATION FACILITATORS AND A HEAD OF CENTRE NEEDED

Marriage Care is the largest faith-based relationship support organisation in England and Wales. We are looking for Marriage Preparation Facilitators and a Head of Centre to volunteer with us at our Reading centre and help us in our mission to support couples in the best and worst of times. Please visit: www.marriagecare.org.uk or email: volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk for more information.

IGNITE YOUTH GROUP

IGNITE Youth Group would like to thank all the young people and their families for their support in 2016. We wish you all a blessed Christmas filled with joy & laughter and every happiness in the New Year. See you all in 2017!

NEW HEAD TEACHER AT BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON

The governors are pleased to announce that Mr Simon Uttley, newly appointed Head Teacher at the school, is now able to take up his new position in January rather than at Easter. This is good news for all and ensures a continuity of leadership from the former HT Mr John Casey. All of us rejoice in this early start for Mr Uttley at the school.



ST JOSEPH'S PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be closed from week commencing Monday, 19th December, and will re-open on Thursday, 5th January 2017. Fr Peter will do his best to answer any urgent queries. Any non-urgent matters may be left until the Parish Office opens again in the New Year.

KNITWITS

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 3rd January 2017 at 2.30 pm at the home of Maureen English: 94 Blewbury Drive.

We would like to wish you all a holy and happy Christmas and warm wishes for 2017, and to say "thank you" for your help with wool and squares through another year. We have now made 13,658 blankets, clothes, school jumpers for Bamenda and lots for the fishermen – *Margaret Chaplin*.

P.S. Thank you to the kind person who left us two blankets in our box.

THE BACKPACK PROJECT

In response to requests from parishioners, a box to collect donations for The Backpack Project will now be made available in the church porch after all weekend Masses. Donations will be collected by a team member from IGNITE Youth Group on a regular basis. We would also like to take this opportunity of thanking everyone for their offers of help and kind donations so far – it means so very much and we are truly grateful. For more information or if you have any questions, please contact: *Patrizia Chessell* on 07740 547922 or via email on igniteyouth16@outlook.com.

FLAME – CATHOLIC YOUTH EVENT

11th March 2017 at The SSE Arena, Wembley, 12 noon – 5.30 pm. For young people aged 14 - 21 years (Year 10+) accompanied by parish Youth Leaders. Tickets £20 pp. Transport by coach and Diocesan "Hoodie" paid for by the parish. Parents meeting in January. Booking forms available from the church porch. For more information please contact *Patrizia Chessell* on 07740 547922 or via email on igniteyouth16@outlook.com. Closing date 1st February 2017. See website www.cymfed.org.uk/flame2.

BAPTISM COURSE

The next Baptism course at St Joseph's will be on Wednesday, 11th & 18th January 2017 from 8 pm until 9.30 pm in the large church hall. We will be using a programme called: Baptism – helping your child get the most out of life. Godparents are also welcome to join us for discussion and to watch a DVD. The courses only run every few months, so if you are new or expectant parents, it might be better to attend this course if you wish your child to be baptised fairly soon.

If you are considering Baptism for your child, whatever their age, please register for the course by contacting *Mary Phillip* on 961 5905 email: mphilip@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or alternatively email the Parish Office (details on the front of this newsletter).

REMINDER: DROP-IN CENTRE AND PARISH SVP

Our monthly collection for the Drop-in Centre and parish SVP will be held on Sunday, 1st January 2017. The items that are most useful are as listed below:

- Tinned meat such as, ham or corned beef.
- Tinned meals e.g. beef/chicken casserole or stew, Fray Bentos pies in tins.
- Tinned soup. Instant coffee, tea, sugar.
- Tinned vegetarian meals. Tinned vegetables.
- Men's boxer shorts and socks. Disposable razors. Warm hats.
- Men's warm winter coats in good condition.

All donated food items must have a long "use by" date, to be of use. Please leave your donations in the church porch on Sunday the 1st January. Any queries, please contact *Margaret Bailie* on 941 1483.

