

NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S, TILEHURST



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

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🌐 www.st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk 📘 <https://www.facebook.com/stjosephstilehurst>

Registered Charity No. 246871

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Glas

**Parish Secretary:
Sheila Jones**

*Parish Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
9 am – 12.30 pm, for telephone and email contact only*

**Safeguarding Representative:
Miriam da Cruz Fernandes**

☎ 0118 943 3524

✉ miriam@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – 12TH SEPTEMBER 2021

While COVID cases remain high locally, we will continue with our existing system for attending Mass. Restrictions will be reviewed every few weeks. We ask everyone to continue to wear a face-covering. The weekend Mass invitation system, sanitizing and social distancing will all continue for the time being. We have a responsibility to keep each other safe, especially the vulnerable.

Registration for Mass attendance at St Joseph's is restricted to parishioners and local residents. Please email stjo@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk or contact the Parish Office, and Sheila will pass on your request. Registration required for attendance at weekends. No invites required mid-week.

Please continue to keep Fr Peter's mother Theresa, Fr Peter and his family in your prayers: Bishop Philip has granted him a leave of absence to remain in Poland until after the funeral and Fr Peter hopes to be back with us from 17th September.



MARGARET CHAPLIN RIP

The parish offers condolences to the family of Margaret Chaplin, who died recently. Margaret's coffin will be received into the church at 4 pm on Tuesday, 14th September. Her Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, 15th September at 12 noon, followed by interment at Purley Burial Ground. The Mass will be livestreamed. Due to Covid restrictions, numbers inside the church are limited. *Please pray for the repose of Margaret's soul.*



BERNADETTE SMEESTERS RIP

The parish offers condolences to the family of Bernadette Smeesters, who died recently. Bernadette's Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, 29th September at 10.45 am. Further details to follow. *Please pray for the repose of Bernadette's soul.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND:

Nora Colley, Pat Togher, Gerard Tomas, Charles Livingston, Barbara Turner, Stefen Griffiths, Nina Aramo, Jo Boase, Julie Thompson, Carmela Garzia, Kathleen Urban, Marek, Bridget, Maggie Tranter, Leszek & Jadwiga Wlasak, Jackie Hopper, Donald, Hilary Cameron, Tess Heenan, Sisters of St Ann (in Bamenda), Caroline Hurst, Kevin Keep, Brigid, Adrian Robson, John Cronin, Alan Allen & Veronica Williams. *If you would like to add a name to this list, or if you have any queries, please contact Sheila in the Parish Office.*

TODAY is the 24th Sunday of the Year, and the Gospel reading is Mark 8:27-35. The identity of Jesus is the mystery at the heart of Mark's Gospel. This week, Peter proclaims Jesus to be the Christ - the one anointed with the mission of saving God's chosen people from the darkness of sin and death. Jesus' reaction makes it clear that to truly believe that Jesus is our Saviour takes more than saying a few words. To believe in the Good News of Jesus is to take up our own cross and follow Him. You can find the Sunday readings [here](#) and read Scott Hahn's reflection [here](#). You can register to watch our Diocesan Wednesday Webinar [here](#), or join via [Facebook live](#). If you can't join on Wednesday, you can subscribe to the podcast [here](#).

TODAY is Education Sunday in England and Wales. The annual national focus on Catholic education this year will home in on the theme of "Thank You, Teachers!" We give thanks to God for all those who work in Catholic schools, for their hard work and for their dedication over what has been a very challenging 18 months. The Catholic Education Service has provided a special prayer to say at home: *Dear Lord, Thank you for the gift of Catholic schools. Thank you for all those who have given their talents to educating our young people. Through the challenges they encounter each day, lead them to an ever-deeper appreciation of the sacred duty to which you have called them. Thank you for all those who contribute to the efficient running of our schools; support staff, kitchen staff, maintenance staff, governors and chaplains. We thank them for their hard work and dedication. Thank you for all those who lead our Catholic schools. May they be people of integrity so that they can be witnesses as well as teachers. We pray that the schools they lead will become places where our young people can experience your love in their lives. Thank you for our pupils. May your love strengthen and nurture them through the influence and example of those who care for them. We pray that through their time at school they will flourish and grow to discover who you have called them to be. We make this prayer through your Son, Jesus Christ, our teacher and our Lord. Amen.*

MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 12TH SEPTEMBER – SUNDAY, 19TH AUGUST 2021		
Sunday, 12 th September <i>TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</i>	5 pm (Vigil)*	Fr Richard's intentions (70 th Birthday)
	8.30 am*	Vidot François, Marie Thérèse & Joseph Louis Capron RIP
	11 am*	Mary Ralph's intentions
Monday, 13 th September <i>St John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor of the Church</i>	NO MASS	
Tuesday, 14 th September <i>THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS</i>	12 noon*	Brigid Wilchusky RIP
Wednesday, 15 th September <i>Our Lady of Sorrows</i>	12 noon*	Funeral: Margaret Chaplin RIP
Thursday, 16 th September <i>Ss Cornelius, Pope, & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs</i>	Private	Mick Joyce RIP
Friday, 17 th September	Private	Joan & Norman Bricker RIP
Saturday, 18 th September	11 am	Syro Malabar First Holy Communion
	Private	Paul Spackman's intentions
Sunday, 19 th September <i>TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME</i>	5 pm (Vigil)*	Veronica & Raymond Brown RIP
	8.30 am*	Mr & Mrs Domingo Rodrigues RIP
	11 am*	Private intention

Masses marked * will be live-streamed: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCruCvuFlvKVpmI2vvGWdDKQ>

There will be confessions after 12 noon Mass next Wednesday, and after 5 pm Mass on Saturday.

ROSARY

Every Saturday at 10 am, please join us online to recite the Rosary. *Further details are available on our web site.*

MASSES

Registration for Mass attendance at St Joseph's is restricted to parishioners by emailing stjo@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk. If you do not have email, please call the Parish Office, leave a message, and *Sheila* will pass on your request.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH OFFICE

Telephone and email contact only. There is still no face-to-face contact possible. Please post Mass offerings or correspondence through the Presbytery letterbox, and email/telephone *Sheila* in the Parish Office, if you would like *Fr Peter* or *Fr Richard* to offer a Mass, or for newsletter items.

YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST

Diocesan Survey Results – from Bishop Philip



Some months ago, I issued a survey to understand better what you the people and parishioners of our diocese think and what you consider is important as we journey in faith together. I wished to explore what you thought was good about the diocese, that we should celebrate; what might be identified as the challenges across our diocese; and what we may need to put in place to develop further our mission. The online questionnaire ran over Christmas and into the New Year and was promoted through parish newsletters and websites, parish groups and in the notices at the end of the Mass.

I want to express profound thanks to all those of you who took part in the online survey. We had a magnificent response with 1,775 respondents sharing over 40,000 comments and moments of personal insight. I would like to thank Professor Tim Cain, and the team who completed the analysis for the Herculean effort involved in pulling together the analysis of this survey and presenting them for us here.

'A Thousand Voices: The views, hopes and fears of the lay faithful in the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth' reflects several cross-cutting themes that emerged from the data. Our clergy featured strongly throughout, and parishioners provided a rich insight into their thoughts on the Mass and the Sacraments, on Prayer, Faith and Catechesis, and on Mission, Service and Evangelisation. *Ctrl Click on the image to download it.*

I have asked our clergy to start working with me on developing a pastoral plan for our diocese and to reflect on and consider the themes that have emerged. I hope that you too will take the time to read and reflect on the document. Over the coming months, there will be opportunities for clergy to work with laity at a local level so that we can together develop plans and priorities for the diocese so that we can truly be faithful missionary people in a flourishing and vibrant diocese that brings the joy and hope of the Gospel message to our communities and the wider world.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The next, usual monthly CIRDIC and family collection will be on Saturday, 3rd October from 2 - 3 pm, in the church car park. ***These collections will continue on the first Saturday of each month.*** We will be collecting Food, Donations and Clothes, (particularly T-Shirts, Jeans, Hoodies & Trainers). You can also donate directly to our bank account; Account Name: Saint Vincent de Paul. Sort Code: 60-60-04. Account No: 46075070. If you are a tax payer and wish to Gift Aid your donation, SVP gets 25% extra money to spend on good causes. To Gift Aid, let me know your full name and address or include it in the envelope with your donation. Your contributions are helping the needy at an extremely crucial time. *Many thanks for your generosity.* Key contact: Jack Ewins - Mobile: 0773 449 9190. Email: jackewins9@gmail.com.

*Happy 70th Birthday, Fr Richard!
Thank you for all that you do.
God bless you.
From all at St Joseph's xxx*

COLLECTION FOR 4TH/5TH SEPTEMBER 2021

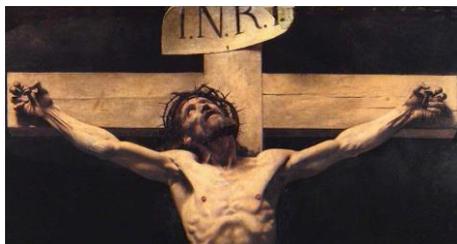
Gift Aid (envelopes)	£105.00
Planned Giving (envelopes)	£13.00
Loose Plate	£179.90
TOTAL	£297.90
RUNNING TOTALS	
TF9 ("On Fire!")	£3,874.77
Clergy Assistance Fund	£328.12
Clergy Training Fund	£289.56
Holy Places	£213.75
World Communications	£195.00
Day for Life	£392.50
Peter's Pence	£195.00
Apostleship of the Sea	£228.50

OFFERINGS, DONATIONS & SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

Various **DONATE** buttons are available on our web site, as well as information about the easiest way to make your contributions online, for Sunday collections, donations and Mass offerings. If you wish to make any donation to St Joseph's parish, please see 'Donations' on the home page of our website, or follow this link directly: <http://www.st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk/upload/newsletter/DonationStJosephsTilehurst.pdf>

HOME MISSION SUNDAY - 19TH SEPTEMBER

Each year in the Catholic Church, on the third Sunday of September, we celebrate Home Mission Sunday. On this day the bishops invite parishes to pray for the mission of the Church in England and Wales and there is a second collection to support the bishops' work of evangelisation. Please be as generous as you can.



FEASTDAY OF THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

Next Tuesday, 14th September, is the feast day of the Exaltation of the Cross. The Magnificat publication puts it well when it says this feast day "stems from the truth that 'apart from the cross there is no other ladder by which we may get to heaven' (St. Rose of Lima). Christ won our salvation on the Cross, redeeming us from sin and meriting all the graces we continue to receive through the sacraments. Exalting the Holy Cross each year encourages us in the midst of our own sufferings, assuring us that suffering is a sign not that God has abandoned us, but that we are being invited into a closer union with our Saviour." Crucifixes came into use from the mid-4C when, according to tradition, St. Helena, the mother of Constantine, brought back from Jerusalem pieces of the true Cross, which she then distributed throughout the world for veneration. The feast of the Exaltation originated with the dedication on this day in 335 of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem where relics of the cross were kept. It also marks the rescue of the relic of the true Cross by Emperor Heraclius in 629 after they had been captured by the Persians. But our focus on this day is on the Cross itself, the instrument of our salvation. 14th September is, in many ways, an extension of Good Friday.

PAINT-A-SHED?

We have two sheds in the parish garden which will need a coat of wood treatment before the winter. Any volunteers? Materials can be supplied. *Please leave your name with the Parish Office.*

ST JOSEPH'S NURSERY

St Joseph's Nursery has a few spaces available. Children are funded by the Local Authority from the term following their third birthday. There are no "top up" fees payable. Children under three years old can be funded under certain circumstances. For more information, please contact: *Mrs Petersen - 0118 941 3602.*

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

There has been a group for pre-school children in the parish for about 40 years. The Toddler Group has an excellent stock of toys and equipment. Children can play outdoors in a secure garden area. Each week, activities are arranged and healthy snacks are provided. So, if you are a Mum, Dad, grandparent, child-minder, etc., and are looking for a friendly toddler group, give us a go: Thursdays from 8.45 am - 11.30 am in the large hall, term-time only. *All welcome.*

CAFOD

CAFOD is responding to significant crises across the world. We are working in Haiti and in Afghanistan as well in Tigray in Ethiopia, South Sudan and north-east Nigeria. More details on the CAFOD website: <https://cafod.org.uk/News/Emergencies-news>. Your compassion, generosity and prayers enable us to support many in these difficult times. *Thank you.*

APPLY TO WORK FOR RIGHT TO LIFE UK

Right To Life UK is currently hiring for a number of positions across media, public affairs, digital and operations. In particular, they are looking to urgently fill positions in their Public Affairs team, to ensure that they have the right team in place ahead of their opposition making further attempts to introduce radical changes to abortion and assisted suicide legislation. If this is of interest to you or if you know of anyone that would be suitable for one of the positions, please visit the link below to view the roles they are looking to hire for and learn how to apply. www.righttolife.org.uk/jobs/

ST ROBERT BELLARMINE - 17TH SEPTEMBER

Montepulciano, a town 112 miles northwest of Rome, is probably better known for its wine rather than the birthplace of St Robert Bellarmine, whose optional memorial we celebrate on Friday. Robert Bellarmine was born in 1542, the third of ten children. His mother was a niece of Pope Marcellus II [whose pontificate lasted only twenty-two days, in 1555]. In 1560, Robert entered the newly formed Society of Jesus (Jesuits) and was ordained in Louvain (Belgium), and taught there from 1570 -1576. He was created a cardinal though his greatest legacy was as a theologian and controversialist, especially in defending the Church from its Protestant critics, including James I of England. Pope Clement VII said of Robert that "the Church of God has not his equal in learning". In 1597 and 1598, Robert Bellarmine produced two catechisms, one long, one short which have been translated into fifty languages. He is the patron saint of catechists and catechumens. Robert Bellarmine died on 17th September 1621 in St Andrew's Jesuit College in Rome. However, he was only canonised in 1930 by Pope Pius XI, and declared Doctor of the Church the following year. *St Robert Bellarmine - pray for us.*
Mike Tomas.