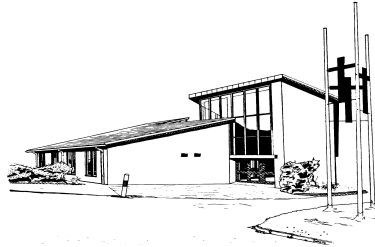


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S, TILEHURST



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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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD (A)

8TH JANUARY 2017

Wise Men, Magi, Three Kings, Astrologers or Astronomers – who knows exactly what these men were who arrived ‘from the east’ to pay homage to the new-born child. There are plenty of theories about who they were and where they came from but to get hung up on these details is to miss the point as far as the Gospel story is concerned. Right at the very beginning of Christ’s life on earth people are drawn to his presence to worship him, just as the prophecy in Isaiah foreshows.

First come representatives of the Jewish people – the shepherds on whom the brightness of heaven had shone to direct their way. Then, sometime later, come representatives of nations far away and with different cultures and religions. They too are given a sign, and a guide: the star. This was a sign which was significant in their own culture, for God always starts leading us from where we are at the moment; he will use all kinds of incidents and experiences we are naturally involved with in order to draw us to himself.

At the beginning of another year, we can look forward with hope because of our faith in Jesus Christ. What we cannot know are the challenges and may be tough situations we will need to face during the twelve months ahead. There will be lots of good – new relationships, the birth of babies, young people branching out and embracing new opportunities, new jobs and promotions. All of which provide ways for us to grow and ‘live life to the full’. And, yes, mixed in with those there will be times of sadness, of loss, of coming to terms with things we would rather not face. But in all of it we are never ever alone because ‘God-is-with-us’. This is why he came and why he beckons us to draw closer. Don’t gaze from a distance at the child in the manger – come closer and allow him to take and hold your hand as you walk through this year.

MASS INTENTIONS: 8TH – 14TH JANUARY		
Sunday, 8th January The Epiphany of the Lord	8.30 am	Paul Spackman’s Intentions
	10.30 am	Ciara Wooller RIP
Monday, 9th January The Baptism of the Lord	NO MASS	
Tuesday, 10th January	NO MASS	
Wednesday, 11th January	12 noon	Steven McCreight RIP
Thursday, 12th January	9.30 am	Fr Colm Kelleher RIP
Friday, 13th January	7 pm	Chris Foley RIP
Saturday, 14th January	10 am	People of the parish
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT:	Saturday: 9.30 – 10 am	
CONFESSIONS:	Saturday: After Mass at 10.30 am	
Responsorial Psalm: “All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord”.		

COLLECTIONS FOR 1ST JANUARY 2017

Gift Aid:	£387.50
Planned Giving:	£28.00
Loose Plate	£264.67
TF3 (CAFOD)	£20.00
Christmas Collection	£85.00
Candles	£82.96
Hall Hire	£1,512.00
Donation (Syro Malabar)	£40.00
Flowers (Christmas)	£79.22
TOTAL	£2,499.35
<u>RUNNING TOTALS</u>	
Divine Mercy	£222.07
TF3 (CAFOD)	£265.00
Christmas Collection	£2,506.22

REMINDER

Counters next Sunday, 15th January will be Maurice O'Brien and Ryan Hawkins.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer Group will meet on Wednesday, 15th December at 9.30 am at St Catherine's. *All are welcome.*

NEXT SUNDAY'S MASS INTENTIONS

15 th	8.30 am	Paddy Moore RIP
January	10.30 am	Renato Goncalves RIP

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.***

THURSDAY MORNING MASS

St Philip's Class, from St Paul's School, will be attending Mass on Thursday, 12th January at 9.30 am. *Parents are more than welcome to attend.*

UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS

We will start the new year with our AGM on Wednesday, 11th January. We meet in the small hall at 7.30 pm. *All ladies are welcome to join us.*

DROP IN CENTRE AND PARISH SVP

Thank you to everyone for your most generous donations to the Drop-in Centre and parish SVP January 2017 Collection. Your donations were very gratefully received. The next collection will be as usual on the first Sunday of the month which will be on **Sunday, 5th February 2017**. Thank you very much for your continued support with this collection and Happy New Year to you all.
Margaret Bailie.

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.

Divine Mercy Meeting at St John Bosco **TODAY** from 2.30 - 3.30 pm with Exposition, hymns and the chaplet is sung. Refreshments afterwards, all are most welcome.

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

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.*

Congratulations St Joseph's College on winning the Outstanding Leadership Team at the Leadership Awards in London. The award recognises the schools remarkable progress over the last 5 years growing from a girls' school of just over 300 pupils to a fully co-educational school of over 500 pupils. It was also named Independent School of the Year at the end of 2015, and received the Outstanding Progress Award at the Education Business Awards in July. The school has made a great contribution to Reading over the years and we wish them every blessing in the future.

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).

PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE MAGAZINE

Please take a copy of the Portsmouth People home with you - available today at the back of the church.

SOUND AND VISUAL SYSTEM: INFORMATION MEETING

There will be an information session about the new Audio-Visual system in the small hall at 11.45 am (after Mass) on Sunday, 22nd January. All are welcome. If you are interested but are unable to attend on this date, please leave your name in the Parish Office for us to make contact with you. We are also looking for people who would like to be part of 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 Mass: 8.30 am, 10.30 am, and weekday. Thank you to those that have already volunteered. If anyone else is interested, please send your name via the Parish Office.

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 soon. Closing date 1st February 2017. See website www.cymfed.org.uk/flame2.

IGNITE YOUTH GROUP

Did you receive some exciting games at Christmas that you would like to share with your friends? Then our next session is the perfect opportunity for you to bring them along and have some fun! The date for your diary is FRIDAY, 20TH JANUARY between from 7.30 - 9.30pm. Don't worry if Santa didn't leave you any under the tree, we will have a great selection for you to choose from including Twister, Pie Face and Uno, table tennis, snooker and table top football. Delicious handmade cookies, hot chocolate with cream and marshmallows will also be on the menu! Please join us for a fun filled evening - all those of secondary school age welcome. For more information, please contact *Patrizia Chessell* on 07740 547922 or email at igniteyouth16@outlook.com.

Any feedback to encourage the young people of the parish to be part of the youth group will be appreciated; your contributions will lead to the improvement and growth of the youth group this year. Please continue to share your thoughts and ideas.

Wishing you all every blessing and happiness this New Year - 2017!

