

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*

**Safeguarding Representative:
Miriam da Cruz Fernandes**

☎ 0118 943 3524

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ALL SAINTS – SUNDAY, 31ST OCTOBER 2021

This Sunday, 31st October is the great Solemnity of All Saints (a Holy Day transferred this year to Sunday from Monday, 1st November). On this day, the Church venerates all those known and unknown, whose virtues and efforts in this life are considered to have earned them an eternal reward from God. In doing so, we the Church on earth traditionally give thanks for their lives, consider their example, strive to emulate them, ask for their intercession in the trials of this life, and glorify God through the multitude that have gone before us, remembering that we too are all called to be saints. Veneration of saints is giving glory to God in them and through them. Their graces are God's gift to them and their example is our hope. This feast also reminds us that great saints who have their own feast days, like these ones who do not, have come from all states and walks of life: clergy and lay, married and single, humble and mighty. Today, beatifications and canonizations are of people from a great variety of backgrounds and countries, and it is possible to form a more comprehensive view of what constitutes the universal holiness of the Church. In the early centuries, martyrs alone were venerated as saints and a feast of "the Martyrs of all the Earth" was celebrated in the East in the mid-fourth century. The feast caught on in the West, especially after Pope Boniface IV dedicated the Pantheon in Rome in 610 to Saint Mary and All the Saints. Subsequently, Pope Gregory IV (d. 844) formally fixed 1st November as the date for this feast.

ALL SOULS – TUESDAY, 2ND NOVEMBER

We honour and pray for the dead, especially for our own departed loved ones. It is definitely a day when, if we can, we should attend Mass, offering it for the faithful departed. YouCat, the Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church (London, CTS: 2011) explains well what we pray for on 2nd November in two of its questions:

159 What is purgatory? Purgatory, often imagined as a place, is actually a condition. Someone who dies in God's grace (and therefore at peace with God and people) but who still needs purification before he can see God face to face is in purgatory. When Peter had betrayed Jesus, the Lord turned around and looked at Peter: "And Peter went out and wept bitterly" - a feeling like being in purgatory. Just such a purgatory probably awaits most of us at the moment of our death: the Lord looks at us full of love - and we experience burning shame and painful remorse over our wicked or "merely" unloving behaviour. Only after this purifying pain will we be capable of meeting his loving gaze in untroubled heavenly joy.

160 Can we help the departed who are in the condition of purgatory? Yes, since all those who are baptized into Christ form one communion and are united with one another, the living can also help the souls of the faithful departed in purgatory. When a man is dead, he can do nothing more for himself. The time of active probation is past. But we can do something for the faithful departed in purgatory. Our love extends into the afterlife. Through our fasting, prayers, and good works, but especially through the celebration of the Holy Eucharist, we can obtain grace for the departed.

MASS OF REMEMBRANCE

A Mass of Remembrance will be celebrated at 12 noon and at 7 pm on Tuesday for the repose of the souls of all the faithful departed parishioners since March 2020. All are welcome to these two Masses to remember loved ones. *May They All Rest in Peace.*

PLENARY INDULGENCE - NOVEMBER

A Catholic who wishes to obtain a plenary indulgence must also fulfil the ordinary conditions of an indulgence, which are: 1. Sacramental Confession. 2. Reception of the Eucharist. 3. Prayer for the intentions of the Pope. Sacramental confession and reception of the Eucharist can occur within a week of the indulgenced act.

In the month of November, the Church has two traditional means of obtaining a plenary indulgence for the souls in Purgatory: 1. To visit a cemetery and pray for the dead during the Octave of All Saints' Day, which is 1st - 8th November. 2. To piously visit a church or oratory on the Feast of All Souls' Day, 2nd November and recite the Our Father and the Creed. Both indulgences must include the three ordinary conditions and full detachment from sin.

The Vatican also said that, because of the pandemic, the elderly, the sick, and others who cannot leave the house for serious reasons can participate in the indulgence from home by reciting prayers for the deceased before an image of Jesus or the Virgin Mary.

They must also spiritually unite themselves to other Catholics, be completely detached from sin, and have the intention of fulfilling the ordinary conditions as soon as possible.

The Vatican's decree offered examples of prayers that homebound Catholics can pray for the dead, including lauds or vespers of the Office for the Dead, the Rosary, the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, other prayers for deceased among their family or friends, or performing a work of mercy by offering their pain and discomfort to God.

MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 31ST OCTOBER – SUNDAY, 7TH NOVEMBER 2021		
Sunday, 31 st October ALL SAINTS , solemnity	5 pm (Vigil)	Gerald & Julie MacMahon's intentions
	8.30 am	Christine & Roy Fisher RIP
	10.30 am*	Gosia & Krystyna's intentions
Monday, 1 st November	NO MASS	
Tuesday, 2 nd November Commemoration of ALL SOULS	10 am	St Paul's School Mass (at school)
	12 noon	Deceased members of our families & souls in purgatory.
	7 pm	Deceased members of the parish (1) [since March 2020]
Wednesday, 3 rd November	12 noon	Wendy Kelly RIP (Foundation Mass)
Thursday, 4 th November St Charles Borromeo , Bishop	9.30 am	Deceased member of the parish (2)
Friday, 5 th November	7 pm	P T Antony RIP
Saturday, 6 th November Our Lady on Saturday	10 am	Gosia & Krystyna's intentions
Sunday, 7 th November	5 pm (Vigil)	Eileen Drake RIP
	8.30 am	Gene Ignatowski RIP (Foundation Mass)
	10.30 am*	Margaret Chaplin RIP

* 10.30 am Sunday Mass will be live-streamed: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCruCvuFlvKVpml2vvGWdDKQ>

There will be confessions before Mass on Saturdays from 9.30 am, followed by 10 am Mass and the Rosary.

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES

SATURDAY, 6TH NOVEMBER	
Purley Burial Ground	12.30 pm
Pangbourne Hill Cemetery	1 pm
St Mary's, Purley	1.20 pm
St Michael's Graveyard	2 pm
SUNDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER	
Henley Road Cemetery	3 pm

NOVEMBER – HOLY SOULS

It is the custom at St Joseph's to offer petitions in remembrance of the holy souls. This year, during the month of November, there will be a basket in front of the Sanctuary to receive the petitions. ***Please do not place any offerings in the basket.*** Any such offerings should be referred to *Sheila* in the *Parish Office*. The following seven designated Masses will be offered in November for the departed members of families, parishioners and friends:

1	Tuesday, 2 nd	12 noon & 7 pm
2	Thursday, 4 th	9.30 am
3	Wednesday, 10 th	12 noon
4	Saturday, 13 th	10 am
5	Tuesday, 16 th	12 noon
6	Friday, 19 th	7 pm
7	Thursday, 25 th	9.30 am

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND:

Nora Colley, Gerard Tomas, Charles Livingston, Barbara Turner, Stefen Griffiths, Nina Aramo, Jo Boase, Julie Thompson, Carmela Garzia, Kathleen Urban, Marek, Bridget, Maggie Tranter, Leszek Wlasak, Jackie Hopper, Donald, 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.***

BAMENDA SUNDAY

Next weekend, we celebrate our Diocesan link, since 1974, with the Archdiocese of Bamenda, Cameroon. Please pray for Bamenda and for peace and justice to be restored in the region.

The collection box is the main source of annual income for the various projects our Bamenda Committee will support during the coming year.

We appreciate that this is a difficult time financially for many parishioners, but please be as generous as you can to support our sisters and brothers in Bamenda in the very challenging times they are facing. Donations can also be made securely online via the Bamenda and Portsmouth website:

<https://www.bamendaandportsmouth.com/donate.php>. If you are able to set up a standing order, please download a form from the same Donate page: £5 per month would meet the annual primary school fees for an orphaned or vulnerable child. *Thank you.*

GREETINGS FROM BAMENDA

On behalf of All the members of Christ's faithful here in the Archdiocese of Bamenda, I send fraternal greetings to our Sister Church in the Diocese of Portsmouth. As the third metropolitan Archbishop of Bamenda, by the grace of God and the choice of the Apostolic See, I thank God for this link and the fruits it has borne for both churches in the over forty years. As we look forward to the celebration of the golden jubilee of this link, it is my vision that our link goes more to the evangelisation of our peoples through the exchange of human and spiritual resources.

When I heard how each year the diocese of Portsmouth dedicates a Sunday, not only to pray, but also to raise funds for the development and growth of the faith in the Archdiocese of Bamenda, I was so touched and moved by the gesture. Apart from this, during the socio-political crisis that we have been going through since 2016, I have got reports how the whole church in Portsmouth have been journeying with us spiritually, supporting us financially, and clergy and people petitioning to Her Majesty's Government through its parliamentary representatives to look for a lasting solution to our problem. Moved by these charitable acts, I have decided also to institute a Portsmouth Sunday to be celebrated here in the whole Archdiocese of Bamenda on the very day Bamenda Sunday is celebrated in Portsmouth. Our people here in Bamenda also need to pray and think of ways of supporting you too in your own challenges. We may not be able to reach your standards; but in our own way, we will be able to show a sign of solidarity with you in your own challenges. Covid-19 has revealed the poverty of humanity, no matter where we find ourselves on planet earth. The people of Bamenda need to learn to journey with you, not only in sending priests as you have them now in Portsmouth, but in other areas of evangelisation which our young Church can also help to inspire in Portsmouth. Hence, Portsmouth Sunday will be an opportunity for us to pray and reflect on other ways in which Bamenda can also be of more assistance to you our sister diocese.

Sharing our pastoral life is of paramount importance, and I am looking at a situation where our Catholic Women, Catholic Men, Youth and other groups will share their experiences of faith with their corresponding groups in the Diocese of Portsmouth, as brothers and sisters without making any material demands. As you well know, the Socio-Political crisis in the Anglophone area is now in its fifth year and we are very far from reaching a solution.

One of the greatest challenges facing us now is the revival of our schools and reinstating them to their glory before the socio-political situation we found ourselves in since 2016. Although parish life has continued unhindered in the whole of the archdiocese of Bamenda, with even more parishes and Eucharistic Centres created, our schools have suffered a lot because the main tool used by those craving for federation or the independence of the Southern Cameroons was the boycott of schools. While we did our utmost to keep schools going, we succeeded more in Bamenda, the regional capital since there was some security. Because most of the fighting between government forces and the 'Amba Boys' concentrated more in rural areas, there was mass exodus into Bamenda and other secured towns and villages in French Speaking Cameroon. Not only did schools stop totally, most of the buildings and infrastructures have dilapidated. In Bamenda town, make-shift structures were created in some of our primary schools and even secondary schools to accommodate students fleeing from St. Bede's College, Ashing-Kom, John Paul II Comprehensive College, Wum, St. Joseph's Comprehensive College, Mbengwi and St. Benedict XVI's Comprehensive College, Widikum. As for primary education, they have been almost inexistent out of the Bamenda town area since 2016.

The good news now is that schools are gradually resuming in almost all parts of the archdiocese and many families are returning to their homes and areas of resident prior to the beginning of the crisis. There is, therefore, the need to rehabilitate the schools' buildings and infrastructures that have been abandoned in the last 5 years and employment of more teachers, considering that with the closures of schools and lack of money to pay teachers, some have looked for greener pastures elsewhere. Unlike in the UK, teachers are paid solely from the meagre school fees children have to pay for their tuition. Also, the new schools opened in Bamenda town, as they expand at terrific speed need more structures equipment in order to accommodate the high enrolment and some of the students would not want to go back to their respective towns and villages. An example can be seen in the St Joseph's Comprehensive Secondary School opened last year in a section of the primary school here at the Cathedral premises run by Fr Bonaventure, who served at St John Bosco's parish in Woodley, Reading. Last year, the first year of its existence, there were just over 300 students. This year, its enrolment has gone over 600. There is dire need, therefore, of constructing good classrooms.

Considering that as more IDPs return with increased security, I think that donations for the Bamenda Sunday would help a lot in reviving Catholic Education in the Archdiocese of the young. Justice has not been done to these children in the past 5 years. As a church, believing and knowing that education is a fundamental human right, we need to put our hands on deck and see how fast and far we can make right the errors of these past years.

I have forwarded to your Bishop and to the Chairperson of the Portsmouth/Bamenda Committee, copies of the five-year Strategic Plan of the Archdiocese of Bamenda, for both pastoral, spiritual and material growth. It is my sincere hope that you will journey with us through this plan, especially by your prayers. Once more, thanks a lot and I commend all of you into the hands of St Joseph, the Patron of the Archdiocese of Bamenda and to the Immaculate Conception, the Co-Patroness of the Archdiocese of Bamenda.

+Andrew NKEA, Archbishop of Bamenda.

A MESSAGE FROM CAFOD:

Thank you for supporting our Climate Crisis Appeal for our recent Family Fast Day. Every donation helps us in our work and is gratefully received. cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis. Please pray for the success of the upcoming UN climate talks in Glasgow, COP26, from 31st October - 12th November. There are prayer cards in the church porch; please do take one and pray that that world leaders will put the needs of marginalised communities around the world, those most affected by climate change, right at the heart of these climate talks. For more information see cafod.org.uk/COP26. May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 and instill in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the most vulnerable.

Loving God, we praise your name with all you have created. You are present in the whole universe, and in the smallest of creatures. We acknowledge the responsibilities you have placed upon us as stewards of your creation. May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 as they seek to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society. Instil in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions for the poorest and most vulnerable, and commit their nations to the care of Our Common Home. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son. Amen.



JADWIGA WLASAK RIP

The parish offers condolences to the family of Jadwiga Wlasak who died recently. Please pray for the repose of Jadwiga's soul. *Further details to follow.*

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>

REPOSITORY

Please complete the sign-up sheet in the church porch, if you would like to volunteer to help run the Repository around specific Mass times.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2022

The First Holy Communion programme will start in January 2022. Preparation sessions will be held at St Paul's School, although they will be open to any child, regardless of school attended. The date for First Holy Communion will be towards the end of May 2022. *Further details will follow after half-term break.*

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Our next Confirmation programme will commence after Christmas with the Confirmation ceremony taking place the following year: Easter 2023. If you are currently in Year 7 or above, and interested in joining the programme, please send your name and contact details to the Parish Office.

NEWSLETTERS

Newsletters are available on the website or can be sent to you by email. Contact *Sheila* in the Parish Office if you would like to receive the newsletter by email each week. A few paper copies will be in the porch for people who do not have access to the internet or emails. SVP members will deliver newsletters to the housebound only. Any housebound parishioner can request delivery by contacting *Sheila*.

**** St Joseph's Parish Office will be closed on Tuesday, 2nd November ****

DIOCESAN SYMPOSIUM ON POLITICS AND RELIGION

On Saturday, 6th November, on-line: Two keynote speakers to tackle "Should Religion have a Role in Politics Today?" are Rt Hon Jacob Rees-Mogg and Rt Hon Ruth Kelly. There will be workshops on Immigration, Homelessness, Diversity, On Being a Christian in the Front line of Politics, Climate Change and Catholic Social Teaching. For details on how to book go to: Politics and Religion: A Symposium Tickets, Saturday, 6th November at 10 am. | Eventbrite.

THE UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS

The current members of the UCM at St Joseph's have sadly decided to close the foundation. With a dwindling membership and a shortage of leaders to run it, full membership of the organization is no longer viable. However, they will continue as a social group, planning to meet monthly for a chat and catch up. Initially, the meetings will be at The Mad Hatters Café from 2 - 3.30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month; the next being 10th November.

VOCATIONS

"You shall love your neighbour as yourself". Are you being called to a life of service as a priest or consecrated religious? Contact *Cn. John Cooke* vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869.

All Saints' Day Children's Party
Sunday 31 October 12.30pm
(until 3.30pm)

Fancy Dress
come as your
favourite saint!
Prizes for the best
(Visit catholic.org/saints
for inspiration)

Entertainment
and music

Divine Mercy
at 3.00pm

Food provided
(Donations welcome - please
contact the office if you'd
like to make something)

All welcome - not just for Catholics!

Our Lady of Peace & Bl Dominic Barberi RC Parish (Main Hall)
338 Wokingham Road Earley RG6 7DA (Sat Nav RG6 7DB)
T 0118 988 3711 E office@olop.org.uk W olop.org.uk

Sunday, 31st October from 12.30 pm - 3.30 pm
Children's All Saints party: In order to promote good spirit of All Saints Day & All Souls Days, Our Lady of Peace & Bl Dominic Barberi parish is organizing an event in the parish hall, 338 Wokingham Road, RG6 7DA. Children are encouraged to dress up as saints, and there is a prize for the best dressed saint.

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSE

The Catholic Universe newspaper had appeared weekly since 1860 but when the pandemic closed the churches it removed the main outlet for sales. Now under changed management the new Universe Catholic Weekly will be topical, controversial, stimulating and packed with news opinion and features. Every Catholic will enjoy it. You can have a weekly edition paper for just £20 a quarter paid subscription (13 copies) paid simply and directly to the publisher. <https://universecatholicweekly.co.uk>



ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The next, usual monthly CIRDIC and family collection will be on Saturday, 6th November 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.

NIGHT OF LIGHT (HALLOWEEN ALTERNATIVE)

At the English Martyrs Church, Reading, on Sunday, 31st October from 6 pm - 8 pm: 6 - 6.30 pm - Praise and Worship, 6.30 pm - 7 pm - Rosary procession, 7 pm - 8 pm - Fun, Food and Games, Hot Dogs, Games and Goodie Bags for all Children. Some may like to wear an item of clothing, in communion with the Saints. Children may wish to dress up in white angel costumes or like their favourite saints. Donations of sweets are welcome at the English Martyrs Parish Office, or on the night.

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.*

MARRIAGE CARE

Are you a natural, empathic listener, looking for an opportunity to develop and use your skills to help couples in distress? Marriage Care in Reading is looking for volunteer counsellors. We will train you on our Certificate in Relationship Counselling (CRC) providing you with all the skills, knowledge and practical experience you need to start counselling couples safely and effectively. For the right candidate this will be a life-changing opportunity to train and volunteer within a supportive, nurturing and inspiring community and make the world of difference to couples and families. For further details visit www.marriagecare.org.uk or contact Sue Cooper at sue.cooper@marriagecare.org

PASSING ON LOVE FOR THE EUCHARIST TO OUR CHILDREN

Sr Hyacinthe OP, Leader of our Formation for Mission Team shares news of an exciting new online course to support our Diocesan Year of the Eucharist beginning next month on Monday evenings

In this Year of the Eucharist, our Formation for Mission Team is delighted to offer an opportunity to share advice and ideas on how to foster love for the Eucharist in our families. We are offering 4 online sessions for parents, grandparents, catechists, teachers and everyone passionate about passing on love for the Eucharist to our children, led by Sr Hyacinthe and Angela Wood, with practical advice, discussions, testimonies and prayer, finishing each session with Adoration. The sessions will run on Mondays evenings from 22nd November - 13th December at 7 pm. The sessions will be:

1. Why the Eucharist is Important and how to pass on love of the Eucharist.
2. Going to Mass as a Family.
3. Making the Home a Place of Communion.
4. Taking and Making Opportunities to foster love for the Eucharist.

You can register for 'Passing on love for the Eucharist to our children' [here](#).

TRAVEL COTS

We have two travel cots which we would be delighted to give to anyone who needs one or both of them. They are in good condition, easy to put up, and fold up nice and small. Suitable for babies and toddlers. Please contact Parish Office if interested. *Colin and Brigid Parkes.*