

# NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S, TILEHURST



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

☎ 0118 942 8632 ✉ [stjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

🌐 [www.st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk](http://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

✉ [miriam@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk](mailto:miriam@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk)

## THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) – 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021

### ADVENT: DREAMING BIG

The first reading and the Gospel for the fourth Sunday of Advent remind us that religion is not about sufficiently impressing a reluctant God, but rather opening our hearts and minds to the great things God wants to do for us. We hear the story of Our Lady's Visitation to her, thought to be, barren cousin Elizabeth who, filled with the Holy Spirit, gave a loud cry and said, 'Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.' In this short video message (8 mins), Bishop Robert Barron invites us in Advent to "dream big": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ncg05Jh00yY&list=RDLVncg05Jh00yY&index=2>

### CHRISTMAS MASSES

Friday, 24 <sup>th</sup>	4.45 pm Carols - Family Mass at 5 pm	Christmas Eve <b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>
	6.45 pm Carols - Family Mass at 7 pm	
	11.30 pm Carols before Midnight Mass	
Saturday, 25 <sup>th</sup>	9.30 am	Christmas Day <b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>
<i>All Christmas Masses will be live-streamed</i>		

Sunday, 26 <sup>th</sup>	8.30 am & 10.30 am Mass	<b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH</b>
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### MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 19<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER – SUNDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2021

Sunday, 19 <sup>th</sup> December <b>FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)</b>	5 pm (Vigil)	Eileen Drake RIP
	8.30 am	Sabino Rato RIP
	10.30 am*	John Walsh's intentions
	5.30 pm	Syro Malabar
Monday, 20 <sup>th</sup> December	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Tuesday, 21 <sup>st</sup> December	12 noon	Peggy Hodgkinson's intentions
Wednesday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	12 noon	David Collier RIP
Thursday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> December	9.30 am	Gosia and her mother Krystyna's intentions
Friday, 24 <sup>th</sup> December <b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>	1 pm	Syro Malabar ( <i>not confirmed</i> )
	5 pm	People of the parish
	7 pm	People of the parish
	Midnight	People of the parish
Saturday, 25 <sup>th</sup> December <b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>	9.30 am	People of the parish
Sunday, 26 <sup>th</sup> December <b>THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH (YEAR C)</b>	<b>** NO VIGIL MASS**</b>	
	8.30 am	Litty Chacko's special intentions
	10.30 am*	Betty Sogi RIP

\* 10.30 am Sunday Mass will be live-streamed: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCruCvuFlvKVpmI2vvGWdDKQ>

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

# St Joseph's Tilehurst



## Volunteers Needed!

We rely on so many volunteers in many different ways to help run OUR church. Can you help?

Below is a list of areas where we are looking for new helpers. FULL support/training will be available. If you would like to know more, please contact a member of the Co-ordinating Team (see noticeboard), or send a message to the Parish Office.

*God bless you!*



If you would like to help in some other way, then please let us know.

Some activities haven't resumed yet, so there will be more ways to help in the future!

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND:**

Nora Colley, Gerard Tomas, Charles Livingston, Barbara Turner, Stefen Griffiths, Nina Aramo, Jo Boase, Julie Thompson, Aldo 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, Pat Knowles & Norah Phipps. *If you would like to add a name to this list, or if you have any queries, please contact Sheila in the Parish Office.*

**COLLECTION FOR 11<sup>TH</sup>/12<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2021**

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£298.00
Planned Giving (envelopes)	£20.00
Loose Plate	£246.00
Bamenda	£5.00
Peter's Pence	£5.00
Clergy Training Fund	£5.00
Christmas Collection	£20.00
Home Mission Sunday	£5.00
World Communications	£5.00
Mass Stole Fees	£140.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£749.00</b>
<b><u>Running Totals</u></b>	
TF9 ("On Fire!")	£2,979.53
CAFOD Family Fast Day	£285.10
Home Mission Sunday	£231.50
World Mission Sunday	£333.70
Bamenda Sunday	£433.00
First Holy Communion fees	£575.00

**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>

**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. Parishioners should use their marked box of envelopes, or if you do not have one, please put an offering into any envelope and mark it for Fr Peter.

The Christmas donate button on the web site is also available, if you would like to give a gift to support Father Peter in his vocation and mission this Christmas:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/reading-st-joseph-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2022>

**BBC RADIO 4**

BBC Radio 4 is coming to Reading Minister on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> January at 8 pm. You are invited to join the live audience, but tickets are limited and are available now. Register via email: [readingministerevents@gmail.com](mailto:readingministerevents@gmail.com). Every blessing. *Michael Penny - Chair, Churches Together in Reading and Berkshire*

**CRIB OFFERINGS:**

**FRIENDS OF THE HOLY LAND (FROM FHL)**

Crib offerings this Christmas will be donated to the Friends of the Holy Land. Friends of the Holy Land help the most deprived Christian families, especially those living around Bethlehem, in Gaza, Israel and Jordan. With no pilgrims or tourism since March 2020 and no government support to individuals or businesses, many families, have lost all their income and are increasingly calling on Friends of the Holy Land for help with day to day living. Further information on FHL is available on their website [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk).

**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*.

**CAFOD DEC AFGHANISTAN CRISIS APPEAL**

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: [cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal](http://cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal), and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

**APF NEWS**

APF collection money is now due. If you are able to empty your own box, please write a cheque for the appropriate amount, place it in an envelope marked APF, and hand it in to the *Parish Office*. Cheques should be made payable to Missio APF. If you are unable to do this, please contact me on 0770 803 2743. The autumn magazines and the 2022 calendars are available at the back of the church. *Mike Tomas - APF Secretary.*

**ST JOSEPH'S PARISH OFFICE**

The Parish Office will be closed from week commencing Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> December, and will re-open on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> January. Fr Peter will do his best to answer any urgent queries. Any non-urgent matters may be left until the Parish Office is open again. *Thank you.*



St Vincent  
de Paul Society

England and Wales

Turning Concern into Action

The next, usual monthly CIRDIC and family collection will be on **Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> January** 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 contacts: SVP President: Rita Boyce - Mobile: 0798 464 3250 Email: [ritaur@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ritaur@yahoo.co.uk). SVP Treasurer: Jack Ewins - Mobile: 0773 449 9190. Email: [jackewins9@gmail.com](mailto:jackewins9@gmail.com).



As we rejoice in once again celebrating Christmas with our loved ones; let us spread our joy around the world by having a CAFOD World Gift under the tree. From energy saving stoves to weatherproof crops to emergency shelters, CAFOD's virtual charity gifts help transform the lives of families living in poverty. Buy online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/collections>, or pick up a catalogue from the back of church. Like many women around the world, Garmah in Liberia had no legal rights to her home when her husband died. CAFOD worked with local experts to help her, and now Garmah and her children live rightfully and happily together in their family home. "I feel safe, my children have a place to rest their head and I can make a garden to feed them and myself. God sent redeemers to fight for my land rights. I am overfilled with joy." *Thank you for your support which enables hundreds of women like Garmah remain in their homes during times of struggle.*

### PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 2022

Our Diocese of Portsmouth Annual Pilgrimage to Lourdes will take place next year from 18<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Bishop Philip is now very pleased to be able to invite you once again to join him and many others from across the Diocese on this pilgrimage. We will be leaving from Bournemouth airport. Once in Lourdes, we will stay at the Hotel La Solitude, celebrate Mass daily, and take part in all that Lourdes has to offer. If you would like to know more about joining Bishop Philip either as a pilgrim or as a youth pilgrim, serving our pilgrims and helping to make our pilgrimage a success, please email [lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WEST BERKSHIRE, TILEHURST & SOUTHCOTE

In December:

- Carols at Tilehurst Triangle with the Rotary Club, Thursday, 23<sup>rd</sup> December at 12 noon & 4 pm.

In January:

- Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, at St Matthew's Church, Southcote, Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> January at 6 pm. The service will draw on material from Christians in the Lebanon, and the preacher will be the Rev Dr. Andreas Andreopoulos, Reader in Orthodox Christianity at the University of Winchester and Visiting Professor of Theology at the Agora University Alexandria.

*Rev Robert Barthram - Churches Together in West Berkshire, Tilehurst & Southcote.*

### VIVA VOCE

The Christmas/New Year edition of our quarterly Diocesan Newsletter Viva Voce is now available. This bumper edition, besides more on the current Year of the Eucharist, has a special focus on what some of our parishes and our schools are doing this Christmas to serve the needy. There is also an item on the recent clergy gathering The Post-Covid Church: Let us Dream, as well as news from Sacred Heart Bournemouth, our Oratory in Formation. Sr Hyacinthe speaks about a new catechetical initiative and Fr John Chandler discusses the Synodal Pathway. Thanks to all who have volunteered to deliver the newsletters. Thank you to Canon PJ and his team for organising the distribution. And many thanks indeed to Chris Smith, our Communications Director, for editing and putting together the magazine and all its contributors.

If you would be willing to help with the distribution, please email: [events@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:events@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)



Temporary SEN Teaching Assistant required as soon as possible. 10 hours per week term, time only, for 2 terms. Grade/Salary B/C depending on experience. Please feel free to ring us and have a chat about our lovely school and children. Closing Date: Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> January at Midday. Interviews: Tuesday afternoon 18<sup>th</sup> January. For an application pack please contact the school. Application packs are also available on line at <http://www.stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk> St. Paul's Catholic School, City Road, Tilehurst, Reading RG31 4SZ. Tel: 0118 942 2003. e-mail: [office@stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk](mailto:office@stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk) Website: [www.stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk](http://www.stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk)

### VOCATIONS

"All were questioning in their hearts". Are you considering a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Contact *Cn. John Cooke* [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or call 01329 318 869.

### UNIVERSITY OF READING CHAPLAINCY LECTURE

Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> January, 7pm: 'Spirituality and Mental Health' - the 2022 Online interview with Professor John Swinton, Professor in Practical Theology and Pastoral Care and Chair in Divinity and Religious Studies at the University of Aberdeen. Book for free here:

<https://www.reading.ac.uk/15/about/newsandevents/Events/Event862486.aspx>

John will be interviewed about spirituality and mental health, particularly drawing on his 2020 book 'Finding Jesus in the Storm: The Spiritual Lives of Christians with Mental Health Challenges'.

John is founder of the University of Aberdeen's Centre for Spirituality, Health and Disability. He has written on dementia, disability theology and pastoral care. His 2016 book *Dementia* won the Archbishop of Canterbury's Ramsey Prize for excellence in theological writing.

Facebook event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/216605010655128/>

### 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.*

### 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.*



### OPPORTUNITIES FOR FORMATION IN JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2022

For Catechists:

Essential Training for Catechists (5 Mondays, 10<sup>th</sup> January – 7<sup>th</sup> February, 7.30 - 9 pm) followed by our new course, Further Training for Catechists (5 Mondays, 21<sup>st</sup> February – 21<sup>st</sup> March, 7.30 - 9 pm) – in the first course, we will look at the fundamental principles of catechesis to discover what it is, and in the second course, we will look at specific questions: how to speak to adults, young people and children about God, Jesus, salvation, the human person and the Church. To find out more and register, check our website:

<https://www.pffm.org.uk/> or register directly for the Essential Training:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcud-CgpzspGNNmzyxwCIFle2MiqfHahOnK> and for the Further Training:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkcuytpzMrGNTFXcThp9NMAfCmfl8GloOh> Both courses are open to everyone – you don't have to be a catechist to sign up.

For those who care for children with Additional/Special Needs:

We are offering 3 workshops on Thursday's 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> January, 7 - 8.30 pm for the parents, catechists and priests of young Catholics with additional needs: Being Acceptional. Workshop 1. At Mass: Inclusion in the Liturgy; Workshop 2. In Catechesis: Sacramental preparation; Workshop 3. In the Home: The domestic Church for children with additional needs. You can register here for the workshops:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMofuqqD4oGdX6gk02PYnXzHGGPblvzPBI>

For Adults who wish to know their faith better:

We are offering a 6-week course on Tuesdays, 15<sup>th</sup> February – 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 7 - 8.30 pm. This course, Anchoring your Faith: The Mass, will help you (re)discover the Mass, exploring its liturgy in the light of our faith. We will go through the Mass step by step, but also through the essential truths of our faith, using Scripture, artworks, and breakout group activities. You can register here for Anchoring your Faith:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcuceCorDovG9QrjWx\\_cp3PAjFr0s1z1Q9m](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcuceCorDovG9QrjWx_cp3PAjFr0s1z1Q9m)

All our initiatives are listed on our website:

<https://www.pffm.org.uk/>

Wishing you every blessing and grace with Christmas. *Sr Hyacinthe and the Formation for Mission Team*