

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

FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – 24TH/25TH APRIL 2021 WORD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

On this Good Shepherd Sunday, we celebrate the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. We pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate, and consecrated life, especially for our diocese. If you are considering such a vocation, contact *Fr John Cooke* – vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 0132 931 8869.

Our second collection this weekend is for the Clergy Training Fund: This helps to fund the cost of training much needed priests and deacons in the diocesan seminary. The priesthood of the baptised is so very important. The role for each of us is to be Jesus in the world today. However, those who have been called to the vocation of priesthood have a particular mission to fulfil and they need our support and our prayers.

Please be as generous as you can.

MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 25TH APRIL – SUNDAY, 2ND MAY 2021

Sunday, 25 th April FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY	5 pm (Vigil) + Live-streamed	Brendan Reynolds, James Fahy, Nonie Fahy & Bernie Fahy RIP
	8.30 am + Live-streamed	Gerry Brady RIP
	11 am + Live-streamed	Malgosia, Krystyna & family's intentions
Monday, 26 th April	NO MASS	
Tuesday, 27 th April	12 noon + Live-streamed	Churchlake Care, colleagues & residents
Wednesday, 28 th April	12 noon + Live-streamed	Deceased members of the McKeown & Connell families RIP
Thursday, 29 th April St CATHERINE of SIENA, Religious & Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe	Private	Conrad Peters RIP
	11 am + Live-streamed	Funeral: Ged & Maureen Murphy RIP
Friday, 30 th April	Private	Allan Jebson RIP
Saturday, 1 st May	Private	
Sunday, 2 nd May FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	5 pm (Vigil) + Live-streamed	Mickey Scanlon, Batty Tiernan, Patsy Coyne & Francis Ryan RIP
	8.30 am + Live-streamed	Suzette & Filomena Lobo RIP
	11 am + Live-streamed	Zbigniew Maslewski RIP

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

GED & MAUREEN MURPHY RIP

The parish offers condolences to the family of Ged & Maureen Murphy, who both died recently. A joint Funeral Mass will be celebrated for Ged & Maureen on Thursday, 29th April at 11 am here at St Joseph's Church, by invitation only. Their Funeral Mass will also be livestreamed on YouTube, for all those who cannot attend in person. Please remember Ged, Maureen and their family in your prayers.



**COLLECTION FOR
24TH/25TH APRIL 2021**

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£119.00
Planned Giving (envelopes)	£5.00
Loose Plate	£137.70
Funeral Fees	£224.00
CAFOD (Family Fast)	£20.00
Mass Stole Fees	£60.00
TOTAL	£565.70
<u>RUNNING TOTALS</u>	
TF9 ("On Fire!")	£3,874.77
CAFOD (Overall Total)	£1,554.78
Clergy Assistance Fund	£328.12
Clergy Training Fund	£25.00
Easter offerings	£1,871.00
Holy Places	£188.75

**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>

ROSARY

Saturdays at 10 am with
Fr Peter online.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Many thanks for all the tins of food which you generously donate on first Saturday of every month. They are much appreciated by the 72 homeless adults whom CIRDIC supports. The next collection will be on 1st May from 2 – 3 pm, in the car park. Please note, from the 1st May, and throughout the summer, the following clothes items for CIRDIC would be appreciated: Men's jeans - sizes up to 40" waist. T-shirts - Medium upwards. Men's Trainers - all sizes. Hoodies - Medium upwards. Key contact: *Jack Ewins - Mobile: 0773 449 9190. Email: jackewins9@gmail.com. Many thanks for your generosity.*

COFFEE & CHAT

After both Sunday Masses.
Please follow the link on the website.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH OFFICE

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

**PLEASE PRAY FOR
THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND**

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

FACE COVERINGS

It is a legal requirement to wear face coverings in church. They must fit securely to cover nose as well as mouth, and not leave any gaps. This protects others from your germs, even if you do not feel ill. If you become unwell with any COVID-19 symptoms within 3 days of visiting St Joseph's, please contact us immediately, so that we can follow the necessary procedures.

ST JOSEPH'S NURSERY

St Joseph's Nursery has a few spaces available from April 2021. 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. Names can also be added to the waiting list for September 2021. 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. Beginning on 21st May until 16th July, we will meet in the large hall on **Friday** mornings. We're open between 8.45 am - 11.30 am, during term time.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

During the pandemic, we are delivering the newsletter to parishioners who cannot access it online. If you are aware of a parishioner who would be interested in receiving a paper copy of the newsletter, please contact the Parish Office and let *Sheila* know their name and address, and whether they would prefer a regular or a large print size. *Alan Goncalves.*

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES

With the lifting of lock down on the horizon and the successful roll out of the Covid-19 vaccination programme, Bishop Philip is inviting you to reserve a place on our pilgrimage to Lourdes. The pilgrimage is from 19th – 23rd July 2021. Last year, we had to postpone our plans due to the pandemic and are this year very much looking forward to meeting with our very patient pilgrims at the airport on Monday, 19th July to fly to Tarbes, France, to begin our much-awaited pilgrimage. We do still have some places available and would encourage all of you who have told us you would like to join us, but are waiting to see what happens with regard to COVID-19, to send your booking forms and deposits to us a.s.a.p. to avoid being disappointed. This year we are due to fly from Bournemouth direct to Tarbes, France, a much shorter travelling distance, and stay as in previous years at the Hotel La Solitude, where we can enjoy en-suite rooms and full board, for the duration of our stay. We have exciting plans for our pilgrimage, and if you too would like to join us, further details can be obtained by email: lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or phone: 0778 022 1686.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS

Tuesday, 4th May is to be this year's Day of Prayer for the Victims and Survivors of Abuse. Listening to the voices of victims and survivors, the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales have moved the date on which the Day of Prayer for the Victims and Survivors of Abuse is usually marked, to a new date during the Easter Season. Initially, the Fifth Friday in Lent, it was felt that the inclusion of this day in Lent was penitential. The original motivation for the day was not the Church seeking forgiveness for its failings, but on the hope and renewal that is necessary for the victims, survivors and others affected by abuse (for example families, parish communities). As such, the Conference decided to move this Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse to the Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Easter. In 2021, this will fall on Tuesday, 4th May. Making this change affirms the desire of the Church to put survivors at the heart of the response to abuse. Holding the day in Easter Season also offers the hope that Pope Francis spoke of in his first General Audience: "He healed, comforted, understood - gave hope. He led all to the presence of God." (27th March 2013). The 'Let's be Honest Group', a group set up to support survivor-centred initiatives such as this, has been asked to provide resources and prayers for the day. These will be published in due course. The group has already released a resource this Lent called 'Listening with Love' – inviting people to reflect on the impact of abuse on individuals and the Church. For more information, please click [here](#).

PRAYERS FOR FR JOSEPH AWOH

We have had news from Fr Joseph saying that things are not good in Cameroon; schools and churches have restricted opening, but shops, etc., are carrying on as normal. People are also carrying on as normal and COVID-19 rates are rising. Fr Joseph is recovering from malaria, and he is very grateful that we are keeping him in our prayers, and wishes to say hello to everyone. We hope and pray that they will receive the vaccine there soon.



COVID-19 - A very challenging time for many marriages. So much uncertainty around, health, income, employment, vulnerable family members, children, housing. Different ways of seeing things, coping with change, managing fears can be a source of conflict and stress. It can be difficult to talk, to listen to support and comfort when there is so much uncertainty. Being together all the time, brings different challenges. You wonder would we be better apart? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples; it brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage, and you don't need to leave home; it comes to you! For confidential information about Retrouvaille, or to register for the next programme; a virtual weekend commencing on 1st – 4th July - call or text 0788 729 6983 or 0797 338 0443. Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com – or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

CAFÉ THEOLOGIQUE: A HISTORY OF THE BIBLE

Interview with Emeritus Prof John Barton on Monday, 17th May from 7.30 pm – 9 pm on Zoom. Shortcut: <http://u.nu/cafetheo> (full details: <https://zoom.us/j/99410788443?pwd=U09sMUVWb0tzYzRpRGxScUk3aVR1QT09> Meeting ID: 994 1078 8443. Passcode: 511541). Prof Barton is the Oriel & Laing Emeritus Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture at the University of Oxford. A History of the Bible was featured on Radio 4's Book of the Week, read by Hugh Bonneville. "Scholarship and cerebral entertainment of the highest class" (Dominic Sandbrook, Sunday Times, Books of the Year).

MARS, THEOLOGY AND ASTROBIOLOGY

Interview with the Revd Dr Andrew Davison on Monday, 14th June from 7.30 – 9 pm on Zoom. Shortcut: <http://u.nu/cafetheo> (full details: <https://zoom.us/j/99410788443?pwd=U09sMUVWb0tzYzRpRGxScUk3aVR1QT09> Meeting ID: 994 1078 8443. Passcode: 511541). Dr Davison is the Starbridge Senior Lecturer in Theology and Natural Sciences at the University of Cambridge, and Canon Philosopher of St Albans Cathedral. He has doctorates in both Natural Science and Theology. His forthcoming monograph will explore the significance of exobiology on Christian faith.

MARTYRS OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT – 26TH APRIL

The Memorial of Bl. Robert Anderton and Bl. William Marsden, priests, who were martyred on the Isle of Wight. Robert Anderton (b. 1560) came from the Isle of Man and William Marsden from Lancashire. Both graduated in 1578 from Oxford University where they had met and become good friends. Anderton was at Brazenose College and Marsden at St. Mary Hall. Both converted to Catholicism and escaped to Douai in France; they eventually entered the English College in Reims where they were ordained to the priesthood in 1585. Anderton was known to be an excellent preacher and a gifted teacher. Upon finishing their studies, they set out for England in February 1586. Caught in a storm while crossing the English Channel, they prayed to die on land rather than at sea. Their ship was driven ashore onto the Isle of Wight near Cowes, where they were quickly seized by the local authorities. In court, they pleaded that they had not violated the law by landing in England, as their landing was involuntary, being forced ashore by the storm. This led to their being summoned to London, where they were given the opportunity to take the Oath of Supremacy, acknowledging Queen Elizabeth to be the Supreme Governor of the Church of England. They acknowledged Elizabeth to be their lawful queen in secular affairs, but they could not swear the Oath. This was considered treason, and so Anderton and Marsden were found guilty. The sentence was then confirmed, and a proclamation published, explaining their guilt. They were taken back to the Isle of Wight, near the spot where they had landed, and executed by hanging, drawing and quartering on 25th April 1586.

CHRISTIAN AID

- MAKE EVERY STEP COUNT THIS MAY

Let's move one step closer to a world free from poverty. Make every step count this May; climate crisis hurts us all, but people living in poverty battle the worst of it. Every day they walk further and dig deeper to survive. This May, we invite you to take on our 300,000 Steps Challenge. Clocking in at just under 10,000 steps a day, you can do the challenge alone or with a team. Each step you take could help people like Rose in Kenya - who struggles daily to provide enough food for her family.

Find out more through our Facebook group - we will be able to support you every step of the way. No matter how you decide to take part, the money you raise could help a community like Rose's to build a dam, so that many more people can have the water they need to live:

https://www.christianaid.org.uk/appeals/key-appeals/christian-aid-week/challenge-yourself?utm_source=christianaid&utm_medium=email&utm_content=btn-body-Resources&utm_campaign=20210329-CA-CAW-Org-4&cldee=cmNhhbm5pbmdAbWVhZG93c3dlZXQuZXU%3d&recipientid=contact-24be3595ee4a46b5ac20301a67915fdb-1cbaede758264597a495672a5a65cbe7&esid=1684b8d9-478e-eb11-b1ac-0022481a6fba#steps

MASSES

Weekend Masses are *strictly by invitation only*. Please reply as soon as possible to Mass invitations. Registration for Mass attendance at St Joseph's is restricted to parishioners, and those living in Tilehurst. Contact us to register for Mass by emailing stjo@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk. If you do not have email, please call the Parish Office, leave a message on the answer phone, and *Sheila* will pass on your request.

SAINT OF THE WEEK:

ST CATHERINE OF SIENA – 29TH APRIL

Thursday marks the feast of St Catherine of Siena, a Doctor of the Church and declared a patroness of Europe in 1999 [Siena is in Italy, about 140 miles North west of Rome]. She was born in 1347, and was one of 25 children, though almost half of her brothers and sisters did not survive childhood. A married elder sister died at a very young age. Catherine's parents wanted her to marry her brother-in-law, but she refused because, at a very young age, Catherine decided to devote herself to God. Despite her religious convictions, Catherine decided not to enter a convent, but to join the Third Order of St Dominic, which allowed her to associate with a religious community whilst living at home. Aged 21, she described an experience she referred to as a "mystical marriage to Christ". Such experiences change people, and Catherine was no exception. In her vision, she was told to help the sick and the poor, which she continued to do for the rest of her short life. Catherine was only 33 when she died. Her writings (she wrote over 400 spiritual letters), and her stigmata [bodily wounds of those of Christ], reveal her intimate union with God. These works are so influential that she was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970.

Nearby we have the Church of England parish of St Catherine of Siena. It's such an unusual name for a church that I decided to contact their Parish Administrator to see if he could shed any light as to why the name was chosen. Unfortunately, there are no parochial records. However, he did tell me that, to his knowledge, there are only two other C of E churches in the country dedicated to St Catherine of Siena. Their church opened on Palm Sunday 1963, and on St Catherine's Day 2016, a new prayer room and kitchen were opened. Please pray for their community as they celebrate the parish's feast day. Did you know that there is a Catholic Church dedicated to St Catherine in Reading? No, not here, but in Pennsylvania. *St Catherine of Siena - pray for us.* Mike Tomas.

FIRST SATURDAY

- LIMITED EDITION PRINTS & CARDS

My name is Therese Withers: First Saturday was inspired by the promises of Fatima and so the First Saturday of each month, I will host a special sale in honour of Our Lady's promises. We have a faith founded in her Fiat, and it does not fail us - even now. So, watch out, and get involved! <https://firstsaturday.co.uk/shop>