

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 📘 St Joseph's Church, Tilehurst, Reading

Registered Charity No. 246871

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Glas

Parish Secretary: Sheila Jones

Parish Office: 0118 942 8632

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9 am – 12.30 pm

Safeguarding Representative:

Miriam da Cruz Fernandes

☎ 0118 943 3524.

✉ miriam@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk

Royal Berkshire Hospital Chaplain:

Fr John Paul Lyttle ☎ 0118 322 7105 (RBH) ☎ 0118 957 2149 (Parish) ☎ 0739 189 6559 (Mobile)

4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (C) – 23RD DECEMBER 2018

CHRISTMAS MASSES:

Monday, 24th December at 5.45 pm - Carols before Family Mass at 6 pm.

Monday, 24th December at 11.30 pm - Carols before Midnight Mass.

Tuesday, 25th December - Christmas Day Mass at **9.30 am**.

Wednesday, 26th December - Feast of St Stephen - Mass at 12 noon



A HOLY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS!

MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 23RD DECEMBER – SUNDAY, 30TH DECEMBER

Sunday, 23rd December	8.30 am	Reg Bourdon RIP
	10.30 am	Michael Heneghan, Martin & Kathleen Gaynard & John Nevin RIP
Monday, 24th December THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD	2 – 4.30 pm	Syro Malabar
	6 pm	People of the parish
	Midnight	People of the parish
Tuesday, 25th December CHRISTMAS DAY	9.30 am	People of the parish
Wednesday, 26th December ST STEPHEN, the First Martyr	12 noon	Michael Heneghan RIP
Thursday, 27th December ST JOHN, Apostle, Evangelist	9.30 am	Deceased members of the Quinn & Campbell families RIP
Friday, 28th December THE HOLY INNOCENTS	7 pm	Michael O'Connell's Intentions
Saturday, 29th December ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY	10 am	Kathleen O'Shea RIP – <i>Foundation Mass</i>
Sunday, 30th December THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH Exposition following both Masses	8.30 am	Ellen McCormack RIP
	10.30 am	Dan McCarthy's Intentions

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT Saturday: 9.20 am followed by 10 am Mass.

ROSARY & CONFESSIONS Saturday: Following 10am Mass.

Responsorial Psalm:

"God of hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved".

COLLECTIONS FOR 16TH DECEMBER 2018

Gift Aid (Envelopes)	£244.50
Planned Giving (Envelopes)	£30.00
Loose Plate	£351.50
Gift Aid (via Bank)	£781.00
Planned Giving (via Bank)	£42.00
TF3 (CAFOD)	£110.00
Candles	£43.47
Hall Hire	£149.50
Syro Malabar	£60.00
Mass Stole Fees	£60.00
TOTAL	£1,871.97
<u>RUNNING TOTALS</u>	
TF3 (CAFOD)	£366.50
TF4 (Parish Events)	£151.69
TF9 ("On Fire!")	£2,243.96
First Holy Communion Subs	£825.00

REMINDER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 30TH DECEMBER

- The counters will be Maurice O'Brien and Ryan Hawkins.
- The Eucharistic Minister for Oakwood Ward will be Carmen. If you do swap with another Eucharistic Minister, please remember to notify the Parish Office, so that we can publicise the correct information in the newsletter. *Thank you.*

GOING INTO HOSPITAL?

On admission, all Catholics should inform the hospital staff that they are Roman Catholic and if they wish to have Holy Communion or see a priest. All arrangements in RBH are 'Patient Led'. Royal Berkshire Hospital Chaplain: Fr JP Little. Mobile: 0739 189 6559. RBH: 0118 322 7105. Sunday Mass 4 pm. Patients, staff & visitors welcome.

PRAYER REQUESTS

There is a Prayer Request box in the church porch into which you are invited to place any intentions that you may have. Each week during one of the Masses, Fr Peter will pray especially for those intentions. Please **DO NOT PUT ANY MONEY IN THE BOX.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND:

Nora Colley, Richard O'Brien, Sheila Robinson, Ellen Knox, Pat Togher, Richard Owens, Bernadette Smeesters, Gerard Tomas, Lya Turner, Charles Livingston, Barbara Turner, Mary Hoban, Rita Boyce, Alayna Fernandes, Wendy Kelly, Mary O'Shea, Eileen Marshall, Jean Trott, Stefen Griffiths, Tessie Joyce, Nina Aramo, Jo Boase, Julie Thompson and Michael O'Connell. If you would like to add a name to this list or if you have any queries, please contact *Sheila* in the *Parish Office*.

CHRISTMAS EVE CHURCH CLEAN

A special Christmas church clean will be held on Monday, 24th December at 10 am. *Many hands make light work! Please do come and join us.*

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

Wednesday, 15th - 22nd May 2019. Cost: £1360pp. Flights from Heathrow. Deposit £250pp. Led by Canons John O'Shea & Michael Dennehy. Apply to St James', Reading on 0118 957 4171 or email stjames@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. ONLY 4 PLACES LEFT - DON'T DELAY!



MARY ELLEN MURPHY RIP

The parish offers sympathy and condolences to the family of Mary Ellen Murphy who died recently. Mary Ellen's Funeral Mass will be held on Wednesday, 2nd January at 11 am followed by burial in St Michael's Churchyard. *All are welcome.*

WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP

Wednesday Prayer Group will **not** meet on 26th December, but will meet again on 2nd January at 9.30 am at St Catherine's. *All are welcome.*

TEA & COFFEE

Please join us for tea & coffee which is served in the large hall after 10.30 am Mass on Sundays. *All are most welcome.*

PORTSMOUTH E-NEWS

Bishop Philip invites you to sign up for his FREE weekly e-Newsletter to keep in touch with the latest news and forthcoming events around the diocese. Visit www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews to sign up. You can also follow the Diocese on Facebook and Twitter. ***A printed copy of Portsmouth E-News is also available in the church porch.***

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH PROPOSED PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE - 2019

Depart: Friday, 20th September - London Heathrow to Split (Croatia). Return: Friday, 27th September - Split to London Heathrow. Estimated overall cost at current exchange rate £425 shared, £495 single. This cost includes the return flights (£180 approx). *If you would like to know more, please speak to Fr Peter after any Mass and collect a registration form.*

REPOSITORY

Christmas cards, candles and gifts now on sale. Little red robins and snow make pretty pictures; however, Christmas is about the birth of the Saviour of the world; please consider the nature of the card which you send this year.

Mulled wine and mince pies will be served after Midnight Mass in the church porch. Please join us for a drink and a chat for 5 - 10 minutes.

CRIB OFFERINGS

This year, we will be donating crib offerings to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

2019 CALENDAR - THE HANDS OF TIME

Hands tell the story of life – of laughter, of longing and of love. Cost £5 each – all proceeds to the Hibernian Society – on sale from the Repository.

HIBS SUPPER CLUB & CABARET

At Reading Irish Centre on Friday, 18th January 2019. Music by Simon Mayor & Hilary James, plus a 3-course meal. £10 per head. Tickets only available from Ann Morris - 0788 899 7293.

On Saturday, 5th January 2019, Fr Leon Pereira, Chaplain to the English-speaking pilgrims in Medjugorje is visiting Our Lady of Peace parish to give a talk entitled "Experience Medjugorje and Our Lady's Messages". We will start with adoration at 11 am, Holy Mass at midday, followed by lunch (please bring packed lunch), talk and Benediction. Further details on poster in church porch. *Everyone is welcome.*

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. *Please be as generous as you can.*

PARKING AT THE 6 PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

Would you kindly consider walking to Mass or parking your car considerably further away from Berkshire Drive in order to avoid traffic congestion. Park Lane Orthodontics practice at 65 Park Lane has kindly offered their six car parking spaces as an overflow for our use.

BAPTISM COURSE

The next Baptism course at St Joseph's will be on Wednesdays, 16th & 23rd January from 8 - 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 Philip* on 961 5905 email: mphilip@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

APF

It is time to empty the mission boxes once again. Could I have your contributions by 30th December at the latest please? Any money received after this date will not be included in the 2018 accounts. There are still a few APF calendars at the back of the church. Please take one even if you are not a box holder. *Mike Tomas - APF Secretary - 0770 803 2743.*

SVP REMINDER

The next Senior Citizens' Afternoon Tea will be on Thursday, 31st January 2019. This will be held in the small hall from 2 - 4 pm. *All are welcome.* Please contact an SVP member or Jack Ewins if you would like to attend or if you require transport. Many thanks. *Jack Ewins President, SVP St Joseph's Conference - 0773 449 9190.*

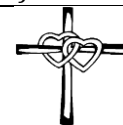
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - 23RD DECEMBER 2018

God chose to become man to lead us in a path of righteousness. Is God calling you to grow in holiness? He may be inviting you to the priesthood, diaconate or consecrated life. To explore further, contact *Fr John Cooke* vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869.

PILGRIMAGE TO POLAND 2019

Our Lady of Peace & Bl Dominic Barberi are planning a pilgrimage to Poland in 2019 (June 5th - 11th); the group, under the leadership of Father Stan, will be visiting Warsaw, Krakow, Czestochowa (the Shrine of the Black Madonna), the Salt mines, Auschwitz, Wadowice (the home town of St John Paul II), and other places of interest. For more information, please contact *Nancy Johnson* (0118 9262315/ 07745 434888/e-mail nancy.johnson7@btinternet.com)

Margaret & Tony Chaplin would like to wish their many friends and fellow parishioners at St Joseph's a happy and peaceful Christmas. *Donations will be sent to CAFOD in lieu of cards.*



CONGRATULATIONS!

The parish offers congratulations to Chanelle and Christopher who were married here at St Joseph's yesterday. *Congratulations Mr & Mrs Fenton!*

THANK YOU!

A huge "THANK YOU" to each and every one who generously gave their time and effort during the year. We are always in need of volunteers to be able to become a viable and successful parish. Without your continued help and support many will feel disenchanted with the lack of vibrancy in the House of God. Please make this your New Year resolution to become more involved in Parish life. Wishing you and your families a very peaceful and joy filled Christmas. *Fr Peter.*

ST STEPHEN'S DAY

All servers are encouraged to attend Mass on St Stephen's Day. At this Mass, all servers renew their Guild Promise; medals are presented to new members and two servers will be recognised for ten years' service. *Please try and come and support all our servers.*