# **NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S, TILEHURST**



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

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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

<sup>™</sup> miriam@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk

### SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER - 16TH MAY 2021

#### **SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR OUR CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES**

As we approach the great feast of Pentecost next Sunday, please pray for our 22 candidates who are going to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is always a wonderful moment in the life of a young person and also a wonderful moment in the life of the Diocese. Last year, we had to postpone the usual arrangements for Confirmation and this year, things will be a bit different. Instead of inviting candidates to the cathedral, Bishop Philip has decided to delegate all parish priests across the Diocese to confer the Sacrament in a Mass or non-Eucharistic liturgy at 3 pm on Pentecost Sunday. This will be simultaneously with the Bishop at the Cathedral conferring the sacrament on candidates from the Cathedral parish and Portsmouth Pastoral Area. We hope and pray we can return to a more normal situation next year, but for now, please say a special prayer for all those preparing, and the catechists and clergy supporting them:

Jake Archer Sophia Armstrong Emma Bisoffi Josephina Chandler Evie Grayling Sofia Hopkins Skyla Naughton-Roberts Luke Archer Maria Armstrong Ella Cathrew Monica Drake Marc Guernion Jessna Jery Isabella O'Sullivan Grace Sweeney Gabriel Armstrong Elena Bisoffi Lara Cathrew Bevyn Fernandez Olivia Holeckova Noah Keevil Tiana Ross

#### COLLECTION FOR CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK THIS WEEKEND - 16TH MAY

It is important that the voice of the Catholic church be heard in the UK, in the press, radio, TV, and on social media. This collection funds the small team who work to ensure this happens through press releases and the availability of spokespersons on Catholic issues. *Please be as generous as you can*. <u>https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/second-collection-for-world-communications-day</u>

*	Sunday, 16 <sup>th</sup> May	Fr Peter's 31 <sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood	
*	Sunday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	Solemnity of Pentecost, with parish Confirmations at 3 pm	
*	Thursday, 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal High Priest - feast	
*	Sunday, 30 <sup>th</sup> May	The Most Holy Trinity, solemnity	
*	Monday, 31 <sup>st</sup> May	The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary – feast	
*	Sunday, 6 <sup>th</sup> June	Transferred Solemnity of the Body & Blood of Our Lord Jesus – Corpus Christi	
*	Friday, 11 <sup>th</sup> June	The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, solemnity	
*	Saturday, 26 <sup>th</sup> June	First Holy Communion Masses at 10.30 am & 1 pm	
*	Tuesday, 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Solemnity of Ss Peter & Paul	
*	Sunday, 11 <sup>th</sup> July	Annual Sea Sunday Mass – Apostleship of the Sea	

#### **IMPORTANT DATES**



**ANNUAL APPEAL** 

earlier in the year to the weekend of 29/30th May 2021. In March 2020, the government introduced 'home abortion' under cover of emergency coronavirus

regulations. This allows women to take abortion pills at home without medical supervision, and is leading to more innocent babies being killed. There are serious dangers for the mothers too in that the drugs can lead to serious medical complications. Moving abortion from a clinic into the home also makes women much more vulnerable to coercion from abusive partners and family members. Moreover, the home becomes a place of loss. Despite the obstacles put in our way by Covid-19 regulations, we are continuing to spread the truth about abortion, and about the wonder of human life. You can help us in our current campaign by signing a postcard which asks the Prime Minister not to make home abortion permanent. The postcards will be available on the exit table in church from this weekend to take away and fill in. You can return them to the collection basket, duly signed, when you next come to church, or stamp and post them. The annual collection for SPUC will take place after Masses on 29/30th May. Donations can also be made online at <u>www.spuc.org.uk/donate</u>.

I will not be making the appeal in person this year, and we'll have to make do without the white flower stickers. But please pray for SPUC's work and that of all pro-life groups, and for all expectant mothers and their babies. Christine Wall.

#### PRO-LIFE CHAIN: SATURDAY, 29TH MAY FROM 10 AM - 12 NOON ON KINGS ROAD, READING

SPUC invites you to mark the 53rd anniversary of the Abortion Act coming into force in 1968, by joining our Pro-Life Chain for an hour or two. This is a peaceful, silent roadside vigil in solidarity with unborn children, their mothers and anyone suffering from the effects of abortion. We will be following Government guidance on Covid-secure requirements. The meeting point will be at Cemetery Junction from 9.50 am, before lining up down the road at 10 am. For more information, contact Martin at <u>spucreading@gmail.com</u>

#### **RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS**

You may remember us announcing the launch of our new digital news platform, Right To Life News, in December last year. Right To Life News was launched so that we can reach a far wider audience of people with the latest pro-life news that will keep people informed and help change even more hearts and minds on life issues. Our website is already the most viewed pro-life website in Europe and the fourth most viewed pro-life website in the world - and this digital news platform has been built to enable us to reach even more people: <u>www.righttolife.org.uk/news</u> Daniel Turner - Right To Life UK - 0173 246 0911 - daniel@righttolife.org.uk.

#### ACT NOW AND STOP DISABILITY ABORTION **UP TO BIRTH IN NORTHERN IRELAND**

Earlier this year, the Northern Ireland Assembly voted on the Severe Fetal Impairment Abortion (Amendment) Bill, and it passed Second Stage by 48 votes to 12. The Northern Ireland Health Committee is now undertaking a consultation on the Bill and is seeking submissions from the public. It is important that as many people as possible submit to the consultation in support of the Bill to clearly show that there is widespread support for this important change. Right to Life UK has set up an easy-to-use tool on their website that makes it simple to complete your submission. You can do so by following the link below. It only takes 30 seconds! www.righttolife.org.uk/nidisabilityconsultation

On Friday, 21st May, the Vigil of St Rita, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. On this month's Day of Prayer and Fasting for Life, we are especially asking you to fast and pray for the end of DIY abortions at home. Please join in and invite others to join as well. https://www.facebook.com/events/886441852198421/

#### **POPE'S CALL FOR THE ROSARY IN MAY**

The Holy Father has called the Church to pray for an end to the pandemic. Pope Francis has specifically called for the praying of the Rosary during the month of May. Here at St Joseph's, the Rosary is recited with Fr Peter online at 10 am on Saturdays. Further details are available on our web site.

#### **YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST**

Bishop Philip invites us all to participate in celebrating the Year of the Eucharist starting on the Feast of Corpus Christi, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2021, to help us realise our diocesan ambition of Bringing People Closer to Jesus Christ through His Church. This will follow on from the Year of the Word, a unique opportunity for the Diocese as a whole, for parishes and schools, clergy and faithful, families and individuals to rekindle our love for Jesus Christ really and truly present and active in the Holy Eucharist. There is also a booklet, which you can download https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/issue320

MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 16 <sup>TH</sup> MAY – SUNDAY, 23 <sup>RD</sup> MAY 2021				
Sunday, 16 <sup>th</sup> May	5 pm (Vigil)	Vidot François,		
SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER	+ Live-streamed	Marie Thérèse & Joseph Louis Capron RIP		
	8.30 am	Jack & Theresa Kerrigan RIP		
	+ Live-streamed			
	11 am	Gerald MacMahon's intentions		
	+ Live-streamed			
Monday, 17 <sup>th</sup> May	NO MASS			
Tuesday, 18 <sup>th</sup> May	12 noon	Liam & Alison Flynn RIP		
	+ Live-streamed			
Wednesday, 19 <sup>th</sup> May	12 noon	Sean Quinn RIP		
DEDICATION OF THE	+ Live-streamed			
CATHEDRAL OF ST JOHN,				
PORTSMOUTH, feast				
Thursday, 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Private	Richard Davis RIP		
Friday, 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Private	Noel Murphy RIP		
Saturday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Private			
Sunday, 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	5 pm (Vigil)	Henry & Mary Hoban RIP		
PENTECOST SUNDAY	+ Live-streamed			
	8.30 am	Ralph Lamden RIP		
	+ Live-streamed			
	11 am	Patricia MacMahon RIP		
	+ Live-streamed			
	3 pm	Mass of Election for Confirmation candidates		
	+ Live-streamed			

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

#### COLLECTION FOR 8<sup>TH</sup>/9<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£171.00
Loose Plate	£137.40
Clergy Training Fund	£21.00
Funeral fees	£302.00
TOTAL	£631.40
<b>RUNNING TOTALS</b>	
TF9 ("On Fire!")	£3,874.77
CAFOD (Overall Total)	£1,554.78
Clergy Assistance Fund	£328.12
Clergy Training Fund	£262.06
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/DonationStJoseph sTilehurst.pdf

#### **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 by emailing <u>stjo@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk</u>. If you do not have email, please call the Parish Office, leave a message, and *Sheila* will pass on your request.

#### 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.



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 21<sup>st</sup> May until 16<sup>th</sup> July, we will meet in the large hall on **Friday** mornings. We're open between 8.45 am - 11.30 am, during term time.

> COFFEE & CHAT After both Sunday Masses. Please follow the link on the website.

#### **CAFOD CORONAVIRUS EMERGENCY APPEAL**

As coronavirus brings devastation across India, CAFOD is working with experienced local Church agency, Caritas India, to provide vital support to poor and marginalised communities. Donations to CAFOD's Coronavirus Appeal will help Caritas India distribute PPE kits to frontline health workers, promote COVID and vaccine awareness campaigns, and set up safely run isolation and quarantine centres. You can donate online here: <u>cafod.org.uk/give</u> Please keep praying for the people of India and all those affected by the pandemic. For more information visit our Facebook page (1) CAFOD in Portsmouth | Facebook. CAFOD Portsmouth Blog | Updates from CAFOD in the Portsmouth Diocese (wordpress.com) and twitter @CAFODPortsmouth. Thank you - Jo Lewry, Community Participation Coordinator, CAFOD Portsmouth - 0771 009 4447.

#### **SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY**

SVP spends £2,600, annually, supplying CIRDIC with fruit, vegetables, dairy and meat products. To support this initiative, you can put your donation in the collection box in church, or using an envelope post it to the Parish Office, or give it to an SVP member. 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*.

#### **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*.

#### 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*.

#### ST JOSEPH'S PARISH OFFICE

Telephone and email contact only - There is no faceto-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.



**VACANCY – FOUNDATION GOVERNOR** 

At Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School. Closing Date for applications: 7<sup>th</sup> June 2021. A vacancy for Foundation Governor on the governing body has arisen and expressions of interests are

being sought from practising committed Catholics for the ministry. The term of office is for four years from the date of appointment. Foundation Governors are personally appointed by Bishop Philip, Bishop of Portsmouth to diocesan schools to represent his interests and those of the Catholic community as a whole. The governors of a Catholic school work as a team, in close co-operation with the headteacher and all the staff. Foundation governors share the responsibilities of all governors:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction;
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

In addition to this, foundation governors are appointed specifically to ensure:

- that the religious character of the school is preserved
- that the school is conducted in accordance with its trust deed
- that the religious education curriculum is in accordance with the Bishop's policy for this Diocese.

The school would benefit from people with skills or experience in one or more of the following: accountancy, legal, contracts, project/facilities management, quantity surveying. Anyone interested in the mission of foundation governor should not be put off by a lack of experience. Appropriate training is available during the period of service. Nomination

Forms are available from the school: <u>http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/schools/governance.p</u> <u>hp</u>. Please e-mail <u>s.cook@hughfaringdon.org</u>.

The School website:

https://www.hughfaringdon.org/information/governingbody, or

Catholic and Academies Schools Office, Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, St. Swithun Wells House, 22 Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth, PO1 1DH. Or email: governors@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

#### PAX CHRISTI

During the week  $15^{\text{th}} - 21^{\text{st}}$  May, Pax Christi, the Catholic Peace organisation, will be trying to raise funds to make up for lost income due to Covid-19. Fausta is having a dance-a-thon, Bruce is delivering a peace message to foreign embassies in London, Matt is cycling 50 miles visiting peace sites, Pat is going on a walk from Victoria to the Peace Pagoda in Battersea Park, Rachel will be cycling for 75 miles, to celebrate Pax Christi's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. More fundraisers are joining the fun. Please go to their website www.paxchristi.org.uk/register-you-interest/ for details on how you can sponsor them.

#### SAINT OF THE WEEK: ST RITA OF CASCIA - 22ND MAY

St Rita was born Margherita Lotti in 1381, in a suburb of Cascia (about 85 miles northeast of Rome). The day after her baptism, Rita was surrounded by a swarm of bees which went in and out of her mouth, without stinging her. Rather than be alarmed, her parents believed that it was a sign that she was chosen by God as someone who would devote her life to Him. She was only about 12 years old when she married. Her marriage was difficult; Rita suffered many insults, physical abuse and many infidelities from her husband. He was murdered after a long-standing family feud; this was after twenty years of marriage. Rita publicly forgave his murderers.

Rita applied to join an Augustinian community of religious sisters. They were reluctant to accept her at first because of her family history. Once accepted, Rita showed great devotion to the Crucified Christ and was often seen praying alone before a crucifix. She prayed that she would suffer like Christ. When she was about 60 years old, Rita was praying before a crucifix when a wound appeared on her forehead, as if a thorn from Christ's crown had pierced her. It left a deep wound which did not heal and caused great pain.

Towards the end of her life, Rita suffered from tuberculosis and was bedridden. She asked a cousin who was visiting her to bring her a rose from the garden of her former home. It was January, and her cousin didn't expect to find any. However, when she got there, one rose in bloom was found, which was taken back to the convent. Although only one flower, the scent of it filled the whole room. Rita died four months later on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 1457, and her incorrupt body lies in the Basilica in Cascia. She was beatified in 1627 by Pope Urban VII, and canonized in 1900 by Pope Leo XIII. At her Canonization Mass, she was given the title: Patroness of Impossible Causes. She is also the patron saint of those experiencing difficult marriages.

In Honiton in Devon, there is the Spirituality Centre dedicated to St Rita. On her feast day, roses are blessed and distributed to the congregation and to those who request them. In the grounds of the centre, there is a yellow rose bush, commissioned and named in honour of St Rita. *St Rita of Cascia - pray for us.* Mike Tomas.

#### 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.

#### **ALTON DAY OF RENEWAL**

ADoRE Online spiritual mini-retreat morning. May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 10 am - 1 pm, with Mass, Adoration, Reflection, Praise, Talk, Prayer and Discussion. Theme: "Praying for Baptism in the Holy Spirit" - Baptism in the Spirit re-ignites the graces already given to Christians through the Sacraments. And it's also a new, fresh experience of the Holy Spirit which brings our faith alive, inspiring and empowering us to live our Christian life to the full. Speaker: Fr Anthony Meredith. Please register in advance at bit.ly/ADOREMAY2021

ADoRE also offers confidential prayer for healing by telephone - ring *07579 824523* Monday to Friday 10 am to 4 pm. Experienced prayer ministers will pray with you confidentially for healing of physical, emotional and spiritual problems.

#### THE LONDON JESUIT CENTRE OFFERS:

An opportunity for prayer, Saturday Retreats: 2 - 4.30 pm. The next one is 19<sup>th</sup> June. Retreats in Daily Life in June and July. Brian Purfield's Introduction to the Bible begins on 21<sup>st</sup> June. He is offering morning or evening classes. Booking open. We are also delighted to announce that following the easing of lockdown restrictions, the Heythrop Library, one of the largest specialist theology and philosophy libraries in Europe, is now open Mondays - Thursdays. For those engaged in spiritual direction, retreat leading, and pastoral ministry, we offer: Continuing Professional Development for Spiritual Directors – a course for spiritual directors with Dr Kate Stogdon RC, and Ruth Holgate. Booking open. Our new Manresa Days:

- Healthy Spiritual Direction and Understanding Spiritual Abuse with Dr Lisa Oakley on 21<sup>st</sup> May.
- Psychological Issues in Spiritual Direction with Dr Roger Dawson SJ on 8<sup>th</sup> June.
- Consolation and desolation with Fr Paul Nicholson SJ on 19<sup>th</sup> June.
- Scripture passages for use in spiritual direction and retreats with Brian Purfield on 8<sup>th</sup> July.

You can book online for each event via our website: <u>www.londonjesuitcentre.org</u>. Fr Adrian Porter SJ – Director.





Join the Divine Renovation Team on Wednesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 11 am Central, 12 pm Eastern, 5 pm British Summer Time: <u>https://www.tfaforms.com/4900815</u>

There is a lot of uncertainty swirling around what to expect of the post-pandemic Church. There is one certainty to give us hope and confidence and that is the role of the Holy Spirit in the renewal of the Church. From the moment Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit upon the apostles to this exact moment in time, the Spirit desires renewal, and that renewal starts in our own hearts first.

Join Matt Regitz and the DR team as they host Father Mike Schmitz, host of The Bible In A Year, one of the most popular podcasts in the world, for this timely conversation. We'll take some time to pray for the Spirit to move in us so we can be inspired to go out again on mission to renewal.



**CAFÉ THEOLOGIQUE - A HISTORY OF THE BIBLE** Interview with Emeritus Prof John Barton on Monday, 17<sup>th</sup> May from 7.30 pm – 9 pm on Zoom. Shortcut: <u>http://u.nu/cafetheo</u> (full details: <u>https://zoom.us/i/99410788443?pwd=U09sMUVWb0tzYzRpR</u> <u>GxScUk3aVR1QT09</u> 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, 14<sup>th</sup> June from 7.30 – 9 pm on Zoom. Shortcut: <u>http://u.nu/cafetheo</u> (full details: <u>https://zoom.us/i/99410788443?pwd=U09sMUVWb0tzYzRpR</u> <u>GxScUk3aVR1QT09</u> 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.

#### **CHRISTIAN AID WEEK 2021**

Christian Aid Week does not officially end until Sunday, 16<sup>th</sup> May. With house-to-house collections ruled out by continuing lockdown restrictions, fundraising has become much more streamlined. Richard Canning, our local Christian Aid organiser has published our online giving page at:

https://giving.tapsimple.org/online/christian-aid/caw21-stjoseph-s-church-tilehurst. To view

St Catherine's Christian Aid service - the recording will be uploaded to Facebook, and will be watchable *from 10 am on Sunday* at <u>www.facebook.com/St.Catherines.Tilehurst</u> It will also be available on YouTube after the "live" broadcast on Sunday.

#### LITANY TO ST JOSEPH

On the feast of St Joseph, the Worker, 1<sup>st</sup> May, Pope Francis approved 7 new invocations to the Litany of St Joseph: Guardian of the Redeemer, Servant of Christ, Minister of salvation, Support in difficulties, Patron of exiles, Patron of the afflicted and Patron of the poor. With these additions, the invocations in the Litany now rise to 31. This year has been promulgated by Pope Francis as the Year of St Joseph. For information about the Year of St Joseph, including prayers and indulgences, please go to: www.yearofstjoseph.org.

#### **DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES**

The pandemic has brought in a number of uncertainties about our 2021 diocesan Pilgrimage Here, Fr PJ Smith, our Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Director, has some news: It is with sadness I must announce that today we have had to cancel this year's diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes. The decision has been difficult to reach, but it has been taken in light of the announcement by the government last Friday regarding the status of France in the forthcoming travel corridors. The pilgrimage team will be contacting all our pilgrims over the next few days about this cancellation. However, we are also in the process now of exploring the feasibility of holding an alternative pilgrimage in the UK, and I hope to share details about this with you in the next e-News. In the meantime, I call upon all pilgrims past and present to join in the Rosary Marathon that Pope Francis has declared for the month of May, and especially join the broadcast that will be made on 18th May from the grotto at Lourdes. More details including the prayers to be offered can be found here.

