

St Joseph's Newsletter

Sunday 16th August 2020

Assumption of Our Lady: Year A



Office Open

St Joseph's Parish office is open for telephone and email contact **only** at present. Office hours are Tuesdays & Fridays from 9am - 12.30pm.

Please ring: 0118 942 8632 or email: sjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk, or drop Mass offerings/correspondence through the presbytery letterbox.

CIRDIC Food Donations: Sat 22 Aug: 10-11am

Please bring donations of long-life food items to St Joseph's car park on Sat 22nd August between 10am and 11am. The Drop-In Centre is requesting the following items: Tins of vegetables, meat and tuna. Mashed potato (longlife). Individual juice cartons. Individually wrapped biscuits. Sugar and Coffee. They do NOT need baked beans/rice/pasta at the moment.

GDPR statement

Thank you for registering to join the email group at St Joseph's Parish Tilehurst. Your privacy is important to us, and we want to communicate with you in a way which has your consent and is in line with data protection law.

Your name and contact details are stored in a private document and are only visible to the admin team. We will use your details only for the purpose of communicating with information about St Joseph's Parish Tilehurst. You may withdraw this consent at any time by emailing stjo@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk or any member of the admin team. The admin team consists of St Joseph's parish office, Sue and Geoff Collier, Ann Epps and Anne Dennehy. Please contact the admin team if you have any questions.

Please ring or email if you have anything to include in the newsletter.

Parish office: 0118 9428632 sjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish website: <http://www.st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/stjosephstilehurst>

ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

16TH AUGUST 2020

"Of all women you are the most blessed, and blessed is the fruit of your womb."

Imagine a poor home in the Philippines. It is one of those three-generation homes; the grandparents still have an honoured place. It is a bit cramped, because there are four young children, so that makes eight people in a two-room shack. The children's father, still a young man, has never managed to get a decent job; he stands on street corners in the early morning like the vineyard workers in the Gospel, hoping that someone will hire him; and generally, they do, but only for a pittance. So, the kids are poorly dressed, and underfed, and cannot go to a decent school.

One day, the young mother makes up her mind. She sees in the paper an advertisement for domestic work in the Gulf States. The money is good enough to live on, and still be able to send some home. She decides: Granny can look after the children for the meantime, and she will take the job. When they hear her decision, the family are devastated, but they realise it is their only hope of climbing out of the poverty trap. So, she leaves, flying thousands of miles to the west, broken-hearted at leaving her husband, sons and daughters and her parents, but resolved to put them on their feet at last.

At first, the children cry a lot, but then they get used to the Saturday night phone call, when they gather round the family mobile to hear her voice. Granny turns out not to have lost her touch at running a household. The much-needed money, starts arriving – enough for new shoes this week; enough for school books next week; enough for meat on the table the week after. Seven people fighting their way clear of destitution: when eventually that young mother comes back home from cleaning the apartments of Arab grandees, she finds her family in good shape.

Sacrifice! The sacrifices people make sometimes astound us. They do it out of love. Today, we see how Mary, already expecting her baby, sets out as quickly as she can to a town in the hill country of Judah. She walks across the mountains to come to the aid of Elizabeth. She forgets herself in the service of her cousin. She reminds us of the words of Jesus, in Luke's Gospel: "For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will save it."

Every priest could tell you of cases of astonishing unselfishness in his parish: there are truly good people around. Mary is the best of the good people. And Mary brings the unborn Jesus with her, and even at this stage his power is clear. Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit; John the Baptist leaps for joy in his mother's womb.

Mary is generous, God-bearing, God-giving. The Church, dwelling on the humble and loving service she renders her cousin, applies to her the title from one of the most spectacular psalms, since now she has her reward: "On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold."

We live in a world which is cynical and sad, which finds it hard to believe in true goodness – indeed, to believe in anything. So, the Church gives us, in high summer, this feast day. Mary is like the Filipino mother who has gone away in order to be of greater service to us, her children. Because she is no longer on earth, it doesn't mean she loves us any the less. If anything, she loves us more.

The gift she sends us is not in the form of money, it is Jesus. She bestows him on us. She has the intuitive understanding of a mother for us as we struggle with the challenges of this hard-edged existence in the twenty-first century. One of the greatest challenges is simply the strain of belief. It is hard to have faith, isn't it, when your neighbours are cheerful atheists, and the supermarket has replaced the church as the central point of society? Mary doesn't condemn – she comprehends, she consoles, she's in this with us. Both Catholic and Orthodox Churches have known this instinctively from time immemorial; much of the finest and tenderest art in the world concentrates gratefully on this extraordinary and lovable woman.

"After this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary."

News and Events

Catholic looking for a room to rent:

My name is Hannah and I am 22. I am starting work as an Assistant Psychologist for children and adolescents in Reading in mid-September and I am looking to rent a room with a Catholic family. I am friendly and quiet. I was living at the Oxford Catholic student chaplaincy last year and can provide references. My email address is h4nn4h11@gmail.com

Mass Booking Diary

Next year's diary is now open. Please contact the parish office if you would like to book a mass: 0118 9428632 or sjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Medjugorje pilgrimage

Unless the current Government regulations regarding travel to and from Bosnia change within the next 2-3 weeks we will be unable to go on the pilgrimage. We would transfer tickets to September next year so as not to lose money.

If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Tom for further information via email: tom.tranter379@btinternet.com

Live Streaming

We are live streaming masses from St Josephs at these times:

Sat 5pm (Sunday Vigil) / Sun 10am / Wed 11am

Here is the YouTube link for live mass from St Joseph's Tilehurst

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCruCvuFlvKVpml2vvGWdDKQ>

MASKS: must be worn in church by all, school age and above.

They must cover nose as well as mouth. This is now a legal requirement.

Public Mass

Attendance at Mass is by **INVITATION ONLY**. You **MUST** register first.

Email communication is preferred if possible: stjo@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk

OR ring this number: Anne Dennehy: 07765 146234 (ONLY to register for mass)

Coffee and Chat

Sundays: 12pm Grab a coffee and have a catch-up with friends from St Josephs.

<https://pepsico.zoom.us/j/65563666322?pwd=ZlpNYlBxbTZSUlJR3lwSHJRSnhCUT09>

Or join by phone: 0330 088 5830 Meeting ID: 655 6366 6322 Password: 085487

Rosary

Saturday 10am Join online: <https://meet.jit.si/StjoTilehurstOnlineMeetingPlace>

Or join by **phone**: 0121 468 3154 Access code 2225 6148 96#

Don't forget the 'hash' or 'pound' character (#) at the end

Check your phone contract does include 01 numbers for free

Saint of the Week

St Pius X- 21st August

Friday is the feast of St Pius X. He was born in 1835 in Riese, a town near Venice and was pope from 1903 to 1914. The town has been renamed Riese Pio X in honour of its most famous son.

He was the second of ten children named Guiseppe (Joseph) Sarto and was the son of the village postman. His family were poor but his parents valued education and sent Guiseppe to a school that was almost four miles from home. Guiseppe walked there and back everyday

He is one of the very few popes to have spent a long time working in parishes. His pontificate was noted for its conservative theology and he said that his papacy would undertake "Instaurare omnia in Christo" - to restore all things in Christ. This phrase later became his motto.

He had a great devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and said that "Holy Communion is the shortest and safest way to heaven" and encouraged frequent reception of the Eucharist. In 1910 he reduced the age at which Holy Communion could be received from twelve to seven.

He promoted dignified celebrations of the liturgy and was a devotee of Gregorian chant. Pius sought to modify papal ceremonies which included eliminating occasions for applause.

Up until 1978, it was the tradition for popes to be carried high above the crowds on a chair known as a sedia gestatoria (literally a chair for carrying). At his first public consistory for the creation of cardinals he refused the chair and arrived on foot.

It was customary for Popes to dine alone. This practice was abandoned by Pius not long after he came into office.

He defended Catholic doctrine against modernism (basically reconciling Catholicism with modern culture). He was so concerned about this practice that he wrote an encyclical against it calling it the "synthesis of all heresies".

We at St Joseph's are very fortunate to have a relic of St Pius in our altar. It was placed there when the church was dedicated in 2003

St Pius X pray for us

Mike

Prayers Please

Mass Intentions

Please send an email to the office if you would like Fr Peter to say a mass:

sjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Suggested donation £10 – pay online or with envelope through the door

Your Prayers please:

For Chris Quinn RIP, Sheila Robinson RIP, Mary Murray RIP, Catherine MacMahon RIP.

For Tess Heenan who is in hospital

For Jackie Hopper, Hilary Cameron, and for Maureen Hanson

For Dick O'Brien who is ill and receiving treatment

For the Divine Mercy sisters in Bamenda

For Fr Peter's parents who are both undergoing treatment at the moment.

For the sick and housebound: Nora Colley, Pat Togher, Bernadette Smeesters, Gerard Tomas, Lya Turner, Charles Livingston, Barbara Turner, Mary Hoban, Jean Trott, Stefen Griffiths, Nina Aramo, Jo Boase, Julie Thompson, Michael & Joy O'Connell, Carmela Garzia, Kathleen Urban, Helen, Natasha, Marek, Bridget, Iga, Maggie Tranter, Jadwiga Wlasak, Anne Rees, Ged & Maureen Murphy.

Sunday, 16th August	5 pm (Vigil)	Harry <u>McSoley</u> RIP
THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Solemnity	10 am	Chris Quinn RIP
Monday, 17th August		
Tuesday, 18th August		Patricia <u>MacMahon</u> RIP
Wednesday, 19th August	11 am	Living members of the O'Sullivan family
Thursday, 20th August		Living members of the Burgess family
St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor of the Church		
Friday, 21st August		Dominic Clark's intentions – <i>Foundation Mass</i>
St Pius X, Pope		
Saturday, 22nd August		Patricia <u>MacMahon</u> RIP
The <u>Queenship</u> of Mary		
Sunday, 23rd August	5 pm (Vigil)	Jack & Theresa Kerrigan RIP
TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY	10 am	Mary Murray RIP