

# St Joseph's Newsletter

Sunday 30th August 2020

22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time: Year A



## **St Joseph's Parish Office - opening hours**

The Parish Office is open for telephone and email contact only. There will be no face-to-face contact until further notice. Office hours are Tuesdays & Fridays from 9 am - 12.30 pm. Telephone: 0118 942 8632, email: [sjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:sjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk), or drop Mass offerings/correspondence through the Presbytery letterbox.

## **Volunteers**

If you would like to volunteer your help in any way, please contact the parish office. Without volunteer help, we would not be able to continue.

## **Sunday Collections and Donations**

To make any donation to St Joseph's, please see 'Donations' on the home page of our website, or follow this link directly: <http://st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk/upload/newsletter/DonationStJosephsTilehurst.pdf>

## **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](mailto: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](mailto:sjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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

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

## Gospel Reflection: Matthew 16

Jesus makes it clear that there is a price to be paid for following him.

"No wonder you have so few friends, Lord: you treat them all so badly." It was St Teresa of Avila who made that remark. It's a remark that's widely known, because it rings a bell for so many of us. Often those who strive generously to serve God seem to get more than their fair share of suffering and hardship.

Take Jeremiah. He never wanted to be a prophet, but found there was no way of evading the divine call. To use his own bold, even shocking, language: God seduced him, overpowered him, deceived him. He finds himself addressing people who won't listen to him, who ridicule him, even punish him in the stocks. No wonder he's tempted to say: "I'll just not think about God any more." But he can't do it, because, as he explains, "There seemed to be a fire burning in my heart"; it was the fire of his love for God and it made the prophet carry on his apparently hopeless task.

It isn't only God's friends who have to suffer, but even God's own Son. In the Gospel we see Jesus revealing to the disciples the anguish he feels as he sets out for Jerusalem, knowing that opposition, rejection, an appalling death await him there. Peter is shocked and cries out: "Heaven preserve you, Lord... This must not happen to you." Jesus' response may seem harsh: "Get behind me, Satan... the way you think is not God's way but man's." Jesus had given his apostle Simon the new name of Peter, which means "rock"; but now he calls him "Satan".

The sharpness of the reply reveals how deeply Jesus dreads what lies ahead. "Can't you see," he seems to say, "my task is hard enough without you playing the devil's game too?" Like Jeremiah before him, Jesus shrinks from the suffering his mission will entail. So why does he go through with it? It is because of the fire of love for his Father and for us that burns in his heart; that's what leads him to march steadfastly on to Jerusalem and to the cross.

The cross slips into our lives, too, in all kinds of ways. Sometimes in small or predictable ones: like bad weather when we expected sunshine; the inevitable aches and pains of getting old; the sacrifice and unselfishness involved in bringing up a family. At other times, the cross can come in devastating form – a frightening outcome to an X-ray, the death of a dear one. A young woman of faith who lost her husband in a traffic accident cried out in her grief, "You sometimes wonder if God knows what he's doing." Most of us have experienced that feeling. We'd all like a Christianity without the cross, but a Christianity without the cross wouldn't be Christianity at all. Jesus tells us: "If anyone wants to be a follower of mine, let him... take up his cross and follow me." Not only is he indicating that, in one way or another, the shadow of the cross will fall across our lives, he is also reminding us that he has gone before us in the way of suffering.

An early Christian writer compared Jesus to a mother who takes a spoonful of her child's medicine in order to encourage her little one to do the same; it's her way of saying, "See, there is nothing to fear from the nasty-tasting concoction, in fact it's going to do you good." Jesus wants us to know that just as the cross is the supreme proof of his love, so our gracious acceptance of the cross in our lives can be the finest proof of our love for him. There may be times when, like Jeremiah, we rebel. But, please God, even then, like Jeremiah, we'll experience that fire of love in our hearts which will lead us once again to fall in behind Jesus, our friend and leader.

At every Mass, we celebrate the Jesus who not only died but also rose again (resurrection is the other side of the cross), and who we believe will one day, in St Paul's words, "repay each one as [their] works deserve". On that day his friends will discover what, deep down in their hearts, they have always known: that if at times God seems to treat them badly, yet God loves them dearly and holds in store for them a reward infinitely exceeding all that they have suffered in the Lord's name.

# News and Events

## Live Streaming

Mass from St Josephs at these times: Sat 5pm (Sunday Vigil) / Sun 10am / Wed 11am

YouTube link: <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](mailto:stjo@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk)

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

**NOTE:** If you have asked to register BUT have not yet received an invite to mass then please contact us again in case we have not received your request. Parishioners should expect to receive an invite at least once every two weeks.

## 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=ZlpNYlBxbTZSUlJZR3lwSHJRSnhCUT09>

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

## Rosary

Not running currently

## 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 mobile number is 07850 592 411 and my email address is [h4nn4h11@gmail.com](mailto:h4nn4h11@gmail.com)

## Medjugorje pilgrimage

Unfortunately due to the Government regulations our pilgrimage is postponed to next year.

Please contact Deacon Tom for further information: [tom.tranter379@btinternet.com](mailto:tom.tranter379@btinternet.com)

## Job Opportunities in our Diocese

Assistant Co-ordinator for the Catholic Care Home and Director of Catholic Development.

Contact Heather Hauschild, [hauschild@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:hauschild@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

# Saint of the Week / Prayers Please

## Saint Gregory the Great 3rd September

Thursday is the Memorial of St Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church.

A Doctor is a title given to saints recognized as having made a significant contribution to doctrine or theology through their research, study or writing. St Gregory is in select company; of the many thousands of saints only thirty six have been proclaimed "Doctor".

St Gregory was born around the year 540 and was a magistrate before entering the monastic life. He became Pope when he was about fifty years old. Before becoming Pope he acted as Papal Legate in Constantinople (a legate is a cleric sent on a mission by the Pope as his personal representative).

He is known as "the Great" for his profound theological writings, strong church leadership and lasting contributions to the liturgy, such as Gregorian Chant.

He is often referred to as the "Apostle of the English" because he sent St Augustine to convert the Kingdom of Kent. He died in the year 604.

St Gregory the Great - pray for us

Mike

## Mass Intentions

Please contact the office to request a mass: [sjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:sjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## Your Prayers please

John Donohoe RIP

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, Jackie Hopper, Hilary Cameron, Maureen Hanson, Dick O'Brien, Sisters of St Ann, Bamenda, Fr Peter's parents, Tess Heenan

Sunday, 30 <sup>th</sup> August	5 pm (Vigil)	Patricia MacMahon RIP
<b>TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY</b>	10 am	Living members of the O'Sullivan family
Monday, 31 <sup>st</sup> August		
Tuesday, 1 <sup>st</sup> September		Mrs Molly Thompson - <i>Foundation Mass</i>
Wednesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> September	11 am	Fr George Lyons RIP - <i>Foundation Mass</i>
Thursday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> September		Patricia MacMahon RIP
<b>ST GREGORY THE GREAT,</b> Pope, Doctor of the Church		
Friday, 4 <sup>th</sup> September		Chris Quinn RIP
Saturday, 5 <sup>th</sup> September		Malcolm & Sylvia Livingston's intentions (Golden Wedding Anniversary)
<b>Our Lady on Saturday</b>		
Sunday, 6 <sup>th</sup> September	5 pm (Vigil)	Patricia MacMahon RIP
<b>TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY</b>	10 am	Juvenal & <u>Alzira</u> Costa RIP