

# St Joseph's Newsletter

Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> Sep 2020

23<sup>rd</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, Thursdays & Fridays from 9 am - 12.30 pm. Please 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 to run public masses.

## **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 18

In the community of Jesus' followers, its members must take responsibility for each other. The purpose is to rescue a sister or brother from being a wrongdoer.

*"If he listens to you, you have won back your brother."*

On 17<sup>th</sup> March 1912, Captain Lawrence Oates left the tent he shared with others on Captain Robert Falcon Scott's ill-fated expedition to the Antarctic. Oates had developed gangrene in his foot, and on his thirty-second birthday, he announced in the tent that he was "just going out for a bit", adding, "I may be some time." He never came back. He chose to sacrifice himself to give others a better chance of succeeding. History is full of examples of heroic sacrifices people have made for the sake of others, and to ensure their safety. In our own time, in the face of acts of terrorism, people have risked their lives to save others.

In recent years, there have been stories on TV and in the press of atrocities committed by people which have caused terrible suffering for others. At the same time, we often hear of heroic efforts by those who put their own lives at risk – or even sacrifice their own lives – when trying to save others. We may consider their actions the highest expression of what it means to be human. These actions certainly resonate with Jesus' statement that no one can have a greater love than to lay down his or her life for another.

Today, we would consider highly irregular any group or organisation deciding to bypass the legal system and devise their own legal code. That, however, seems to be precisely what is being called for in Jesus' teaching in today's Gospel. To understand this particular development, it is necessary to reflect, not so much on circumstances for disciples during Jesus' life, or immediately after, but rather on the problems faced by the next generations of disciples around the time that Matthew's Gospel was written, which is thought to have been some time after the Romans destroyed Jerusalem and its Temple in AD 70. There is scarcely a more important date for New Testament studies.

When the Temple was destroyed, Judaism changed for ever, because, with no Temple, there was no role for priests. So, who was now in charge? This is when the Pharisees gained prominence. They restyled themselves as "rabbis", and declared that they alone were the authentic teachers of the Law of Moses. But another group of Jews proclaimed Jesus of Nazareth as the true teacher and fulfilment of Moses. This led to persecution, excommunication and banishment from synagogues for anyone following "the Nazarene". Understandably, many Jewish Christians began to wonder if they had made a mistake, especially when their former leaders persecuted them. It's against this background that Matthew wrote his Gospel, showing how Jesus was not just the interpreter, but the actual fulfilment of Moses. A practical consequence of all of this was that people who had been expelled from the synagogue, imprisoned and even physically punished for following Jesus were not likely to go to the courts run by the rabbis for justice – hence Jesus' words here on how the community must resolve conflict if authorities won't help.

So how did Matthew build the confidence of the Christians of Jewish background? He gathered statements that Jesus had made and by carefully choosing the order in which he put them, he could add an emphasis to Jesus' teaching that is not so evident in the other Gospels.

This is what he does in today's Gospel. Matthew understands that if there is a legal matter to be settled, involving a member of the Christian community, there is no point in taking it to the Jewish courts, so disciples are encouraged to try to resolve the matter with the brother or sister in question – putting themselves at the service of others. If that does not work, the disciple should call on another trusted member of the community as a witness to the accusation being made and the action proposed. Ultimately, it may be that a member of the community will not listen, and therefore has to be treated as no longer a member of the community. Presumably, that's what Matthew means by treating that brother or sister like a tax collector or a pagan. Matthew's programme of talking to another to resolve a problem, or involving another community member to be an impartial aid to resolution of a dispute, could be a model for us today.

# News and Events

## Fr Peter

Welcome back Fr Peter!

## Sunday Obligation

A reminder that there is still no Sunday obligation. If you or your family are extremely vulnerable then please do watch mass from home. Archbishop Vincent Nichols made this request: *"Given there is no Sunday obligation, we ask you to consider the possibility of attending Mass on a weekday. This will ease the pressure of numbers for Sunday celebrations and allow a gradual return to the Eucharist for more people."* Many thanks to those who register for Wednesdays to leave the weekend masses clear for those who have work or commitments during the week.

## More masses

We are now looking into a cleaning machine which will make it much easier to clean between masses and will enable us to schedule more masses throughout the week

## Confession

Confession will be available after every mass. Please tell the steward when you arrive for mass that you would like to go to confession afterwards. Confession will take place on the bench in the prayer garden for now.

## First Holy Communion/Sacraments

We are now discussing First Holy Communion for our children from last year and also plans for the year ahead. Please check the newsletter for updates over the next few weeks and look out for emails.

## Live Streaming

Live stream masses 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:** It is a legal requirement to wear masks in church by all, school age and above. They must cover nose as well as mouth.

**This protects others from YOUR germs, even if you don't feel ill.**

## Public Mass

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

Registration is limited to parishioners and those living in our immediate locality.

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)

## 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

# Saint of the Week / Prayers Please

## Tuesday 8th September - The Birthday of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

December 8th is the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. Unfortunately many Catholics think we celebrate the conception of Jesus on that day. We are of course, celebrating the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary and it naturally follows that, nine months later, we celebrate her birthday.

Apart from Christmas, the only other birthday celebrated by the Church is St John the Baptist's, (June 24) because like him, Mary's birth announced to the world the Coming of Jesus.

Nothing is known for sure about Mary's birth and her parents, St Joachim and St Anne, are not mentioned in Sacred Scripture.

The feast dates from the sixth century and there is a legend that a man heard angels singing on the night of 8th September and being told that Mary had been born on that night.

O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee.

*Mike*

## Mass Intentions

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

[sjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:sjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

## Your Prayers please:

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, 6 <sup>th</sup> September	5 pm (Vigil)	Patricia MacMahon RIP
<b>TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	10 am	Juvenal & <u>Alzira</u> Costa RIP
Monday, 7 <sup>th</sup> September		
Tuesday, 8 <sup>th</sup> September		Patricia MacMahon RIP
<b>THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b>		
Wednesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> September	11 am	Valeria Cummins RIP
Thursday, 10 <sup>th</sup> September		Laura <u>Franciscis'</u> intentions
Friday, 11 <sup>th</sup> September		Living members of the Jones family
Saturday, 12 <sup>th</sup> September		Patricia MacMahon RIP
Sunday, 13 <sup>th</sup> September	5 pm (Vigil)	<u>Sabino Rato</u> RIP
<b>TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	10 am	Cyril & Trevor Williams RIP
<i>(Collection for Catholic Education Service)</i>		