

St Joseph's Newsletter

Sunday 9th August 2020

19th Sunday OT: Year A



Office Re-opening

St Joseph's Parish office is open for telephone and email contact **only**. There will be no face-to-face contact initially. This will be reviewed in September.

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.

Fr Peter is away for a few weeks with his parents who are both quite poorly. Welcome to Fr Richard who has kindly offered to cover while Fr Peter is away.

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>

Reflection for Today

Gospel of St. Matthew 14:22-33

The books of the Kings (in today's First Reading) were written during the period of the Israelites' exile in Babylon under Nebuchadnezzar. They sought to reconcile the apparent contradiction between God's promises of fidelity and protection made in the Covenant on Mount Sinai and the slavery and captivity that had befallen them. The story of Elijah's encounter with God on Mount Horeb encourages the people to believe and hope in God even though all seems lost. The mighty wind, the earthquake and the fire all threaten disaster.

But these fearsome things do not stay, they are transitory. Only the sound of a gentle breeze remains, and when Elijah hears this he finds God. A similar message is given in today's Gospel. The disciples in the boat symbolise the new Israel, the Church. Elijah climbed the mountain to speak with God; Jesus climbs into the hills to pray. He leaves the disciples to cross the sea without him. Evening comes, the wind picks up and the boat battles to stay afloat. The fury of the elements portends disaster for the disciples.

But then something wonderful happens. Jesus approaches them, walking on the water, calling out to them, telling them to have courage and not to be afraid. Peter's attempt to do as Jesus does is thwarted by his lack of faith. This emphasises the necessity of faith if Peter is to fulfil his special responsibility in the Church. Jesus clings on to Peter and saves him. The wind abates and all is calm again.

This passage of scripture can enkindle our faith that God will come to us when least expected and in ways which, though beyond our understanding, will bring us to safety and peace.

To find meaning in what has happened when our lives are turned upside down can sometimes be beyond our grasp. Tragedy can overwhelm us to such a degree that life seems to have nothing to offer. We must refuse to be overwhelmed. Instead, we should fall back on what we know best and thereby, through our God-given talents, transform our bereavement into music that can raise the human spirit to sublime heights.

News

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

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

Another food drop has been arranged. Please bring donations of long-life food items to St Josephs car park. The drop-in centre is the requesting 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.

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

From the Diocesan Vocations Newsletter:

A time of great celebration!

On Sunday 5th July Bishop Philip ordained the newest Priest for our Diocese, Fr Matthew King.

At the same Mass, Bishop Philip also ordained Anthony Fyk to the Diaconate. Edward Hauschild was instituted as an Acolyte & Ambrose Chou as a Lector. After the Mass during Vespers, Paul Nwune & James Lewis were admitted to Candidacy and the new students Tom Hiney, Francis Ezeani & Yipeng John Ni were given a special blessing as they begin their seminary formation. It was truly a 'one off' occasion where we saw the full journey of formation that these men follow in one amazing afternoon!

All of our Diocesan Seminarians will return to studies in September.

Please do pray for these men and for all those discerning a vocation at this time.

May the Lord of the Harvest send labourers into His harvest.

“Lord Jesus Christ, we pray for these men whom You have called to discern priesthood. We beg Your continued blessings on our Dioceses and families. Call forth even more men of generous spirit and fervent love whom You desire for this holy work. Amen”

Saint of the Week / Events

Saint of the Week: Saint Maximilian Kolbe 14th August

Friday is the feast of St Maximilian Kolbe, a Polish Catholic priest of the Franciscan Order. Maximilian was his religious name; his baptismal name was Raymund and he was born in 1894.

When he was twelve years old he had a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary. He said "that night I asked the Mother of God what was to become of me. Then she came holding two crowns, one white, the other red. She asked me if I was willing to accept either of the two crowns. The white meant I should persevere in purity and the red that I should become a martyr. I said I would accept them both".

Maximilian Kolbe was a prisoner in the death camp of Auschwitz during World War 2. Three prisoners escaped from the prison. To deter any future escapes ten prisoners at random were chosen to die by starvation. One of them was a man named Franciszek Gajowniczek. When his name was read out he cried out aloud, thinking about his wife and children.

When Fr Kolbe, a complete stranger, heard his cry he offered to take his place saying that, as a Catholic priest, he had no wife or children to grieve after him. The switch was permitted and Fr Kolbe was the last to die. He was given a lethal injection of carbolic acid. He died on 14th August 1941.

Gajowniczek was present in Rome as a guest of Pope Paul VI when Fr Kolbe was beatified on 17th October 1972 and again as a guest of Pope John Paul II at the canonization ceremony on 10th October 1982.

St Maximilian Kolbe- pray for us. *Mike*

Live events for parishioners

Sundays: 12pm Coffee and Chat

Grab a coffee and have a catch-up with friends from St Josephs.

<https://pepsico.zoom.us/j/65563666322?pwd=ZlpNYlBxbTZSUIJZR3lwSHJRSnhCUT09>

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

Saturday 10am Rosary

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

Please ring Geoff on 0118 9412458 if you need any help joining these calls

If none of the planned events are suitable for you, please let us know.

All suggestions will be considered.

Public Mass

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/UCruCvuFlvKVpmI2vvGWdDKQ>

**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

Thanks to all our volunteers. If you would like to be a cleaner or steward, regularly or occasionally, please send an email to stjo@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk

Attendance at Mass is by **INVITATION ONLY** and anyone wanting a place at mass **MUST REGISTER** first. Please be flexible and avoid asking for specific days unless you have a special date, such as a Mass intention or anniversary. In which case we'll do our best to meet your request.

Invites for Wednesday 11am are sent on Mondays; please reply by midday Tuesday. Invites for Saturday 5pm and Sunday 10am masses are sent on Thursdays; please respond by midday on Friday.

Please check your email regularly, including your JUNK folder. If we have cancellations we might invite you to more than one mass in the week. If we don't hear from you, we will reallocate your place.

It takes a lot of admin to allocate places as fairly as possible. Please help by responding to emails quickly AND let us know if you can't attend so we can give your seat(s) to someone else. Please also let us know if you going away and we won't send an invitation for that time.

If you haven't yet registered, send us an email: stjo@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk

Vulnerable? The rules changed for the vulnerable on 1st August to advise that it's ok now to go out. However, the guidance still recommends to keep your distance. Please be safe. If you do want to come, consider putting Wednesday mass as your preference when fewer families are attending.

Remember!! there is still NO obligation to attend mass

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)

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, 9 th August	5 pm (Vigil)	Domingo Rodrigues RIP
NINETEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	10 am	Patricia MacMahon RIP
Monday, 10 th August		
ST LAURENCE , Deacon, Martyr		
Tuesday, 11 th August		Living members of the MacMahon family
St Clare , Foundress		
Wednesday, 12 th August	11 am	Patricia MacMahon RIP
Thursday, 13 th August		Living members of the O'Sullivan family
Friday, 14 th August		Living members of the Burgess family
St Maximilian Maria Kolbe , Religious, Priest, Martyr		
Saturday, 15 th August		Living members of the Jones family
Sunday, 16 th August	5 pm (Vigil)	Harry McSoley RIP
THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY , Solemnity	10 am	Chris Quinn RIP