

NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S, TILEHURST



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

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🌐 www.st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk 📘 <https://www.facebook.com/stjosephstilehurst>

Registered Charity No. 246871

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Glas

**Parish Secretary:
Sheila Jones**

*Parish Office hours: Tuesday, Thursday & Friday
9 am – 12.30 pm*

**Safeguarding Representative:
Miriam da Cruz Fernandes**

☎ 0118 943 3524

✉ miriam@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C) – 12TH DECEMBER 2021

ADVENT CONFESSIONS

Fr Peter, Fr Michael, Fr Richard and Fr Anthony will hear confessions on Friday, 17th December at 7.30 pm (after 7 pm Mass). Social distancing and screens will be in place. Please wear face masks and continue to sanitise hands and practise social distancing. We follow the guidance about good ventilation, so windows will be open - please dress appropriately! Please spare some time for prayer and reflection this Advent. Start planning now to keep a sense of true perspective during this holy season. *All are welcome.*

CHRISTMAS MASSES

Friday, 24 th	4.45 pm Carols - Family Mass at 5 pm	Christmas Eve THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
	6.45 pm Carols - Family Mass at 7 pm	
	11.30 pm Carols before Midnight Mass	
Saturday, 25 th	9.30 am	Christmas Day THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD
<i>All Christmas Masses will be live-streamed</i>		

Sunday, 26 th	8.30 am & 10.30 am Mass	THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH
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MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 12TH DECEMBER – SUNDAY, 19TH DECEMBER 2021

Sunday, 12 th December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 'Gaudete' (YEAR C)	5 pm (Vigil)	Jackie Cattigan RIP
	8.30 am	Jadwiga Wlasak RIP
	10.30 am*	Kasia & Paul's intentions
Monday, 13 th December St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr	NO MASS	
Tuesday, 14 th December St John of the Cross, Religious, Doctor of the Church	12 noon	Brian & Maeve O'Brien's intentions
Wednesday, 15 th December	12 noon	Sister Assumpta & sisters' intentions
Thursday, 16 th December	9.30 am	Jimmy Walsh & family's intentions
Friday, 17 th December	7 pm	Bryan & Annie Byrne's intentions
Saturday, 18 th December	10 am	Anne Walsh's intentions
Sunday, 19 th December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR C)	5 pm (Vigil)	Eileen Drake RIP
	8.30 am	Sabino Rato RIP
	10.30 am*	John Walsh's intentions
	5.30 pm	Syro Malabar

* 10.30 am Sunday Mass will be live-streamed: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCruCvuFlvKVpmI2vvGWdDKQ>

There will be confessions before Mass on Saturdays from 9.30 am, followed by 10 am Mass and the Rosary.

St Joseph's Tilehurst



Volunteers Needed!

We rely on so many volunteers in many different ways to help run OUR church. Can you help?

Below is a list of areas where we are looking for new helpers. FULL support/training will be available. If you would like to know more, please contact a member of the Co-ordinating Team (see noticeboard), or send a message to the Parish Office.

God bless you!



If you would like to help in some other way, then please let us know.

Some activities haven't resumed yet, so there will be more ways to help in the future!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND:

Nora Colley, Gerard Tomas, Charles Livingston, Barbara Turner, Stefen Griffiths, Nina Aramo, Jo Boase, Julie Thompson, Carmela Garzia, Kathleen Urban, Marek, Bridget, Maggie Tranter, Leszek Wlasak, Jackie Hopper, Donald, Tess Heenan, Sisters of St Ann (in Bamenda), Caroline Hurst, Kevin Keep, Brigid, Adrian Robson, John Cronin, Alan Allen, Veronica Williams & Pat Knowles. *If you would like to add a name to this list, or if you have any queries, please contact Sheila in the Parish Office.*

COLLECTION FOR 27TH/28TH NOVEMBER 2021

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£177.77
Planned Giving (envelopes)	£25.00
Loose Plate	£214.40
Candles	£54.13
First Holy Communion fees	£575.00
Mass Stole Fees	£20.00
TOTAL	£1,066.30
<u>Running Totals</u>	
TF9 ("On Fire!")	£3,091.07
CAFOD Family Fast Day	£285.10
Home Mission Sunday	£212.75
World Mission Sunday	£333.70
Bamenda Sunday	£426.75
First Holy Communion fees	£575.00

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/DonationStJosephsTilehurst.pdf>

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Traditionally, your offerings at Christmas are for the personal use of the priest serving the parish, and form the major part of his annual income.

Parishioners should use their marked box of envelopes, or if you do not have one, please put an offering into any envelope and mark it for Fr Peter.

The Christmas donate button on the web site is also available, if you would like to give a gift to support Father Peter in his vocation and mission this Christmas:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/readin-g-st-joseph-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2022>

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Our next Confirmation programme will commence after Christmas with the Confirmation ceremony taking place the following year: Easter 2023. If you are currently in Year 7 or above, and interested in joining the programme, please send your name and contact details to the *Parish Office*.

BABY AND TODDLER GROUP

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: Thursdays from 8.45 am – 11.30 am in the large hall, term-time only. *All welcome.*

ST JOSEPH'S NURSERY

St Joseph's Nursery has a few spaces available. 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. For more information, please contact: *Mrs Petersen - 0118 941 3602.*

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The next, usual monthly CIRDIC and family collection will be on Saturday, 8th January from 2 - 3 pm, in the church car park. ***These collections will continue on the first Saturday of each month.*** We will be collecting Food, Donations and Clothes, (particularly T-Shirts, Jeans, Hoodies & Trainers). 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 contacts: *SVP President: Rita Boyce - Mobile: 0798 464 3250 Email: ritaur@yahoo.co.uk. SVP Treasurer: Jack Ewins - Mobile: 0773 449 9190. Email: jackewins9@gmail.com.*

ASK YOUR MP TO END 'DIY' ABORTION

The abortion lobby are now running a large campaign in the media to put pressure on the Government to make temporary 'DIY' abortion schemes permanent before the end of the year. It is therefore vital that as many MPs as possible write to the Health Secretary, Sajid Javid, asking the Government to end these dangerous 'DIY' abortion schemes. Right To Life UK has launched an easy-to-use tool on its website which makes it easy for you to send an email to your MP asking them to write to Sajid Javid. Please visit www.righttolife.org.uk/endDIY to contact your MP now. It only takes 30 seconds.



Gifts that make a difference

As we rejoice in once again celebrating Christmas with our loved ones; let us spread our joy around the world by having a CAFOD World Gift under the tree. From energy saving stoves to weatherproof crops to emergency shelters, CAFOD's virtual charity gifts help transform the lives of families living in poverty. Buy online at <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/collections>, or pick up a catalogue from the back of church.

Like many women around the world, Garmah in Liberia had no legal rights to her home when her husband died. CAFOD worked with local experts to help her, and now Garmah and her children live rightfully and happily together in their family home. "I feel safe, my children have a place to rest their head and I can make a garden to feed them and myself. God sent redeemers to fight for my land rights. I am overfilled with joy." *Thank you for your support which enables hundreds of women like Garmah remain in their homes during times of struggle.*

APF NEWS

APF collection money is now due. If you are able to empty your own box, please write a cheque for the appropriate amount, place it in an envelope marked APF, and hand it in to the *Parish Office*. Cheques should be made payable to Missio APF. If you are unable to do this, please contact me on 0770 803 2743. The autumn magazines and the 2022 calendars are available at the back of the church. *Mike Tomas - APF Secretary.*

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN WEST BERKSHIRE, TILEHURST & SOUTHCOTE

In December:

- Carols in the Square, Coronation Square, Southcote on Saturday, 11th December at 5 pm.
- Carols at Tilehurst Triangle with the Rotary Club, Thursday, 23rd December at 12 noon & 4 pm.

In January:

- Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, at St Matthew's Church, Southcote, Sunday, 23rd January at 6 pm. The service will draw on material from Christians in the Lebanon, and the preacher will be the Rev Dr. Andreas Andreopoulos, Reader in Orthodox Christianity at the University of Winchester and Visiting Professor of Theology at the Agora University Alexandria.

Rev Robert Barthram - Churches Together in West Berkshire, Tilehurst & Southcote.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN READING

We will again be joining the Salvation Army Band in Broad Street to sing carols. This will be outside Marks and Spencer on Saturday, 11th December. The band plays from 11 am – 3 pm, with a break on the hour when the New Hope Gospel Choir will sing carols. As for the community carols, we shall sing with the band for 15 minutes each hour, from about 11.30 - 11.45 am, 12.30 - 12.45 pm, 1.30 - 1.45 pm, 2.30 - 2.45 pm. Please join us for one of these singing sessions. There will also be a nativity scene where people can bring their children and have their photo taken with Mary, Joseph and the Baby Jesus. For further information please phone 0149 167 1357. Let's make this a great Christmas. Every blessing in Christ Jesus our Saviour. *Michael Penny, Chair, Churches Together in Reading and Berkshire.*

SAINT OF THE WEEK:

ST JOHN OF THE CROSS - 14TH DECEMBER

"Never give up prayer, and should you find dryness and difficulty, persevere in it, for this very reason. God often desires to see what love your soul has, and love is not tried by ease and satisfaction."

The above is a famous quotation by St John of the Cross, a Spanish priest who lived in the 16th century. He was born Juan de Yepes Alvarez, in Fontiveros, near Avila in 1542. He was ordained in 1567, and thought about joining the very strict Carthusian Order because the practice of solitary and silent contemplation appealed to him. When in a town called Medina del Campo, John met the influential Carmelite nun, St Teresa of Avila. She talked to him about her plans for reforming the Carmelite Order, and asked John to delay his entry to the Carthusians and follow her. After a spell learning more about Teresa's plans for the future of the Carmelite Order, John knew where his future lay and, along with another priest, founded a new monastery for Carmelite Friars.

John was a renowned poet and writer and wrote much about the Mystery of the Cross and, as a result, was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1726, by Pope Benedict XIII. He suffered many trials during his life, including imprisonment by his own brethren for his reforms. He died on 14th December 1591, and is the patron saint of contemplatives, mystics and Spanish poets. *St John of the Cross - pray for us.*

VOCATIONS

"All were questioning in their hearts". Are you considering a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? Contact *Cn. John Cooke* vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869.

CARITAS - NEW WEBSITE

CARITAS Portsmouth has developed a new website and this has now gone live. There is a lot of information about CARITAS projects, news and events and information about how people can get involved; <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk/>