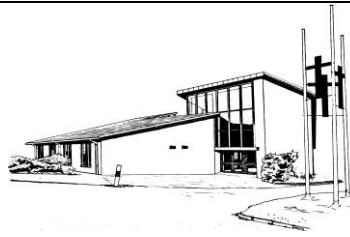


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S, TILEHURST



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

☎ 0118 942 8632 ✉ sjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

🌐 www.st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk 📌 St Joseph's Church, Tilehurst, Reading

Registered Charity No. 246871

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Glas

Parish Secretary: Sheila Jones

Parish Office: 0118 942 8632

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9 am – 12.30 pm

Safeguarding Representative:

Miriam da Cruz Fernandes

☎ 0118 943 3524

✉ miriam@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk

THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – SUNDAY, 5TH JANUARY 2020

Wise Men, Magi, Three Kings, Astrologers or Astronomers – who knows exactly what these men were who arrived 'from the east' to pay homage to the new-born child. There are plenty of theories about who they were and where they came from, but to get hung up on these details is to miss the point as far as the Gospel story is concerned. Right at the very beginning of Christ's life on earth, people are drawn to his presence to worship Him, just as the prophecy in Isaiah foretells.

First come representatives of the Jewish people – the shepherds on whom the brightness of heaven had shone to direct their way. Then, some time later, come representatives of nations far away and with different cultures and religions. They too are given a sign, and a guide: the star. This was a sign which was significant in their own culture, for God always starts leading us from where we are at the moment; he will use all kinds of incidents and experiences we are naturally involved with in order to draw us to Himself.

At the beginning of another year, we can look forward with hope because of our faith in Jesus Christ. What we cannot know are the challenges and maybe tough situations we will need to face during the twelve months ahead. There will be lots of good – new relationships, the birth of babies, young people branching out and embracing new opportunities, new jobs and promotions. All of which provide ways for us to grow and 'live life to the full'. And, yes, mixed in with those there will be times of sadness, of loss, of coming to terms with things we would rather not face. But in all of it, we are never ever alone because 'God-is-with-us'. This is why he came and why he beckons us to draw closer. Don't gaze from a distance at the child in the manger – come closer and allow Him to take and hold your hand as you walk through this year.

May I take this opportunity of wishing you all a Happy and Holy New Year and may you all receive many blessings from the Good Lord in the year ahead.

Fr Peter.

MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 5TH JANUARY – SUNDAY, 12TH JANUARY 2020

Sunday, 5 th January	8.30 am	Una Hegarty RIP
THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, Solemnity	10.30 am	Ricky Edwards RIP
Monday, 6 th January	NO MASS	
Tuesday, 7 th January	12 noon	Fr Nicholas Broadbridge RIP
Wednesday, 8 th January	12 noon	Eileen Marshall RIP
Thursday, 9 th January	9.30 am	Paul Spackman's Intentions
Friday, 10 th January	7 pm	Tessie Joyce RIP
Saturday, 11 th January	10 am	Fr Colm Kelleher RIP – <i>Foundation Mass</i>
Sunday, 12 th January	8.30 am	Domingo Rodrigues RIP
THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, feast	10.30 am	Lucas Dias RIP
<i>Exposition following both Masses</i>		
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT Saturday: 9.20 am followed by 10 am Mass.		
ROSARY & CONFESSIONS Saturday: Following 10 am Mass.		
Responsorial Psalm: "All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord".		

COLLECTION FOR 22ND DECEMBER 2019

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£324.32
Planned Giving (envelopes)	£31.10
Loose Plate	£360.87
Christmas Offerings	£150.00
Candle Money	£46.66
Hall Hire	£1,512.00
Filipino Community donation	£310.37
Repository	£15.00
CAFOD Christmas Card donation	£100.00
Junior Youth Club donation	£20.00
Mass Stole Fees	£50.00
TF3 (CAFOD)	£5.00
TOTAL	£2,925.32

COLLECTION FOR 29TH DECEMBER 2019

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£338.43
Gift Aid (via bank)	£745.00
Planned Giving (envelopes)	£26.50
Planned Giving (via bank)	£35.00
Loose Plate	£322.18
Christmas Offerings	£2,414.84
Candle Money	£83.85
TOTAL	£3,965.80
<u>RUNNING TOTALS</u>	
TF3 (CAFOD)	£106.25
TF9 ("On Fire!")	£2,986.31
Divine Mercy Centre	£288.69
Harvest Fast Day (CAFOD)	£916.52
Christmas Offerings	£2,893.85

REMINDER FOR NEXT SUNDAY, 12TH JANUARY

- **Counters:**
M O'Brien & R Hawkins.
- **Mass readers**:**
8.30 am.
1st Reading – M Fernandes.
2nd Reading – P Jellason.
10.30 am
1st Reading – M Keep.
2nd Reading – A Archer.
Eucharistic Ministers:**
8.30 am
E Wooller, J Scarpa & Carmen.
10.30 am
M Forestiero, M Nevin & J Macbeth.
Eucharistic Minister - Oakwood Ward:
E Wooller.

****Eucharistic Ministers & Readers: Will you kindly note that due to constant swapping around of dates, the accuracy of the above names cannot be guaranteed. Thank you**.**



Please note that there is a designated wheelchair area in our church, situated beside the choir.

PRAYER REQUESTS

There is a Prayer Request box in the church porch into which you are invited to place any intentions that you may have. Each week during one of the Masses, Fr Peter will pray especially for those intentions. *PLEASE DO NOT PUT ANY MONEY IN THE BOX.*

GOING INTO HOSPITAL?

On admission, all Catholics should inform the hospital staff that they are Roman Catholic and if they wish to have Holy Communion or see a priest. All arrangements in RBH are 'patient led'. Royal Berkshire Hospital: 0118 322 7105. Sunday Mass is celebrated at 4 pm. *Patients, staff & visitors welcome.*

"Opening their treasure chests, they offered Him gifts." Are you beginning to see your life as a gift to be given to the Lord as a priest, deacon, religious sister or brother? To explore further, contact *Fr John Cooke vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk* or call 0132 931 8869.

ELLEN KNOX RIP

The parish offers condolences to the family of Ellen Knox who died recently. Ellen's Funeral Mass will take place on Tuesday, 14th January at 10 am here at St Joseph's followed by burial at St Michael's Churchyard. *All are welcome.*

THANK YOU to all who helped prepare for our Christmas celebrations; singers, musicians, readers, AV screen operators, ministers of Holy Communion, altar servers, welcomers, cleaners, flower arrangers and those who put up the crib, Christmas tree & church decorations and all who helped to make our Christmas liturgies so special - *it is much appreciated.*

THANK YOU to each and every one who volunteered their time and effort during the past year of 2019 in organising and helping out in different ways in the life of the parish. Our parish survives on our volunteers and we are blessed to have such a generous spirit in our church community. We couldn't manage without your support, so thank you all - *Fr Peter.*

KNITWITS

Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 7th January at 2 pm at the home of Maureen English. We would like to wish you all a Happy New Year, and thank you for your help supplying us with wool over the past year.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Next programme starts in Lent 2020. Open to all young people in year 7 or above. *Registration forms available from Parish Office.*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Nora Colley, Dick O'Brien, Sheila Robinson, Pat Togher, Bernadette Smeesters, Gerard Tomas, Lya Turner, Charles Livingston, Barbara Turner, Mary Hoban, Rita Boyce, Mary O'Shea, Jean Trott, Stefen Griffiths, Nina Aramo, Jo Boase, Julie Thompson, Michael & Joy O'Connell, Carmela Garzia, Aldona Glowa, Kathleen Urban, Helen, Natasha, Marek & Bridget.

If you would like to add a name to this list, or if you have any queries, please contact *Sheila* in the *Parish Office*.

Our next "On Fire!" Prayer & Healing Service will be held on Saturday, 25th January 2020 from 5 - 7 pm. *All are welcome.*

WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP

The next prayer group will take place on Wednesday, 8th January at 9.30 am at St Joseph's. *All are welcome.*

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

Many people like to book their holidays well in advance; if you would like to consider travelling to Medjugorje as a parish, please add your name and telephone number to Fr Peter's list. Details are set out below:

16th - 25th September 2020 - 9 nights. Accommodation is based on bed, breakfast and evening meal. All rooms are en-suite and air conditioned. Tariff: Single occupancy: 35 Euros per night = 315 Euros per person. Shared occupancy: 25 Euros per night = 225 Euros per person. (Note: any possible increase on these rates in due course will be very minimal). Also, there will be an additional total return payment of 40 Euros per person for coach transfers between the airport and Medjugorje.

Flight details:

Outbound: BA0842 LHR - SPLIT (Terminal 5) departing at 13.35 - 16th September 2020.

Return: BA0843 SPLIT - LHR (Terminal 5) departing at 14.20 - 25th September 2020.

ANNUAL NOVENA PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE

Led by Fr Michael Dennehy from Friday, 15th August to Tuesday, 18th August 2020. £699 per person. Single rooms may be available at a supplement. Price includes Full Board, at the Knock House Hotel. All entertainment, all excursions and guided tours included. Please see poster on the noticeboard and/or ask for a copy of the itinerary from *English Martyrs Parish Office (0118 957 2149)*.

ANNUAL UNIVERSITY CHAPLAINCY LECTURE

Monday, 20th January, 7.30 pm - Neil MacGregor, "A Church for Shepherds or for Kings?" Van Emden Lecture Theatre, Edith Morley Building, Whiteknights Campus. Former Director of the British Museum, writer and BBC broadcaster, Neil MacGregor explores through art the story of the shepherds and the wise men to pose the question of power and poverty in the life of the Christian Church: Is this a church for the shepherds, or for the kings? Admission is free. To book your place visit www.reading.ac.uk/events.

BAPTISM COURSE

The next Baptism course at St Joseph's will be on Wednesdays, 15th & 22nd January from 8 - 9.30 pm in the large Church hall. We will be using a programme called: Baptism - Helping your child get the most out of life. Godparents are also welcome to join us for discussion and to watch a DVD. The courses only run every few months, so if you are new or expectant parents, it might be better to attend this course if you wish your child to be baptised fairly soon.

If you are considering Baptism for your child, whatever their age, please register for the course by contacting *Mary Philip* on 961 5905.

INVITATION TO CULTURAL MASS FOR NIGERIANS

Bishop Philip and the Nigerian Catholic Priests, Religious and Laity in Portsmouth Diocese invite everyone to a Thanksgiving Eucharistic Liturgy. This will take place on Sunday, 23rd February at 3 pm at St John's Cathedral. Refreshments will follow immediately after the Mass in the Cathedral Discovery Centre. Members of the Nigerian Community and their friends are all invited and encouraged to attend. This celebration will encourage the sharing of the community's identity, unity, diversity, rich cultural values and heritage. It will also serve as an inaugural meeting for Nigerian Catholics all through the Diocese to participate in. The Catholic TV of Nigeria will be covering the Mass. Traditional/cultural dress is highly encouraged for the occasion. If you are attending, or you wish to make further enquiries, please contact the main event organiser, Fr Daniel Agber who can be contacted at nigeriansinportsmouthdiocese@gmail.com or call him on his mobile no: 0742 442 6845.

