

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: 0118 942 8632

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – SUNDAY, 10TH JANUARY 2021

Today, we celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, bringing the season of Christmas to an end. Jesus was baptised by John the Baptist in the River Jordan. At His baptism, the Holy Spirit descended on Him and the voice of the Father was heard from heaven: "You are my Son, the Beloved; my favour rests on you." From this point onwards, Jesus began his work of teaching, healing, forgiving and proclaiming the Good News of the kingdom of God.



This is an opportunity for us all to reflect on our own baptism and what it means. Baptism is the beginning of our journey as Christians; as followers of Jesus. It marks the beginning of our belonging to the church, which is completed with the Sacrament of Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. Our membership of the church involves both privileges and responsibilities which we can demonstrate in a tangible way within our parish community.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for all your prayers and kindness during these last difficult weeks. I wish you all a Happy, Healthy and Holy New Year and may you all receive many blessings from the Good Lord, in the year ahead.

Fr Peter.

MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 10TH JANUARY – SUNDAY, 17TH JANUARY 2021

Sunday, 10 th January THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (B)	5 pm (Vigil) + Live-streamed	Ciara Wooller RIP
	9 am + Live-streamed	Betty Dennehy's intentions
Monday, 11 th January BEGINNING OF ORDINARY TIME	Private	Rita Williams RIP
Tuesday, 12 th January	12 noon	Fr Colm Kelleher RIP (<i>Foundation Mass</i>)
Wednesday, 13 th January	11 am + Live-streamed	Rita Williams RIP
Thursday, 14 th January	Private	Breda Williams RIP
Friday, 15 th January	Private	Patricia MacMahon RIP
Saturday, 16 th January Our Lady on Saturday	Private	Joan & Norman Bricker RIP
Sunday, 17 th January SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	5 pm (Vigil) + Live-streamed	Joan Keane RIP
	9 am + Live-streamed	Gerald MacMahon & Julie Glancy's intentions
Monday, 18 th January Beginning of the Octave of Prayer For Christian Unity	Private	Rita Williams RIP

Masses marked + will be live-streamed, please see YouTube link on our website.

**COLLECTIONS FOR
20TH & 27TH DECEMBER 2020 & 3RD JANUARY 2021**

**TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY MASSES
SPACES AVAILABLE ON THE DAY**

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£779.00
Gift Aid (via bank)	£2,143.00
Planned Giving (envelopes)	£45.00
Planned Giving (via bank)	£167.41
Loose Plate	£323.70
Mass Stole Fees	£40.00
Repository	£30.00
Christmas Offerings	£740.00
First Holy Communion fees	£825.00
TOTAL	£5,093.11
<u>RUNNING TOTALS</u>	
TF9 ("On Fire!")	£3,874.77
(TF10) CAFOD COVID-19 Appeal	£126.55
Home Mission Sunday	£157.25
World Mission Sunday	£186.00
CAFOD Harvest Fast Day	£873.83
Lenten Alms	£463.05
Bamenda Sunday	£700.73
Christmas Offerings	£971.25
First Holy Communion fees	£825.00

Our Tuesday 12 noon and Wednesday 11 am Masses often have a few spaces free, and we can now offer these to anyone who just turns up on the day, provided they are registered with us. Please do understand that the stewards may not be able to offer you a place once the church is full.

If you would like to attend Mass on Tuesday or Wednesday regularly, then please let us know, and we will add your name to the list. You will then receive an invitation, when a place is available, and can be reserved for you. Note: this is only for mid-week Masses.

Weekend Masses are strictly by invitation only: Saturday 5 pm (Vigil), Sunday 9 am. Please look out for emails inviting you to a specific Mass, and reply as soon as possible. Registration for Mass attendance at St Joseph's is restricted to parishioners, and to those living in Tilehurst. Please do not travel from further away, during these difficult times.

**OFFERINGS, DONATIONS
& SUNDAY COLLECTIONS**

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. Please be as generous as you can. *Thank you.*

Various **DONATE** buttons are also available on our web site, as well as information about the easiest way to make your contributions online, for Sunday collections, Christmas collections, donations and Mass offerings. Alternatively, 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://st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk/upload/newsletter/DonationStJosephsTilehurst.pdf>

Contact us to register, or for questions about Mass attendance on stjo@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk. Email is the best way to reach us, but if you do not have email, please call the Parish Office, leave a message on the answer phone, and Sheila will pass on your request.

LIVE-STREAMED MASSES

The following Masses will also be live-streamed on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCruCvuFlvKVpmI2vvGWdDKQ>

Tuesday - 12 noon. Wednesday - 11 am. Saturday - 5 pm (Vigil). Sunday 9 am.

NEWSLETTER DELIVERY

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we are delivering the newsletter to parishioners who cannot access it online. If you are aware of a parishioner who would be interested in receiving a paper copy of the newsletter, please contact the Parish Office and let *Sheila* know their name and address, and whether they would prefer a regular or a large print size. *Alan Goncalves.*

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office will be open on Thursdays & Fridays from 9 am - 12.30 pm, for telephone and email contact only. There is no face-to-face contact possible, due to the pandemic. Please post Mass offerings or correspondence through the Presbytery letterbox, and email/telephone *Sheila* in the *Parish Office*, if you would like *Fr Peter* to say a Mass, or if you would like anything to be included in the newsletter.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND:

Nora Colley, Pat Togher, Bernadette Smeesters, Gerard Tomas, Lya Turner, Charles Livingston, Barbara Turner, Stefen Griffiths, Nina Aramo, Jo Boase, Julie Thompson, Michael & Joy O'Connell, Carmela Garzia, Kathleen Urban, Marek, Bridget, Maggie Tranter, Jadwiga Wlasak, Ged & Maureen Murphy, Jackie Hopper, Hilary Cameron, Sisters of St Ann (in Bamenda), Fr Peter's parents, Tess Heenan, Caroline Hurst, Kevin Keep, Betty Dennehy & Brigid. If you would like to add a name to this list, or if you have any queries, please contact *Sheila* in the *Parish Office*.

FACE COVERINGS

It is a legal requirement to wear face coverings in church. They must fit securely to cover nose as well as mouth, and not leave any gaps. This protects others from YOUR germs, even if you do not feel ill. If you become unwell with any COVID-19 symptoms within 3 days of visiting St Joseph's, please contact us immediately, so that we can follow the necessary procedures.



ST PAUL'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS – SEPTEMBER 2021

If your child is due to start school in September 2021, please complete a Council Application form and a new 2021 Supplementary Information Form. These forms need to be returned to the council and school by 15th January 2021. We are unable to offer any school tours, at this time. A short video tour of our reception classes can be found on our web site, and the School Office is happy to answer any other questions: www.stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk

CATHOLIC UNIVERSE & CATHOLIC TIMES READERS IN THE PARISH

You can get your Catholic newspaper delivered direct to your home every week, POST-FREE by going to www.thecatholicuniverse.com, or calling them on 0161 820 5722, and they will arrange this for you. SPECIAL OFFER: 3 months - £22, or 12 months - £80.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The next collection will be on Saturday, 6th February from 2 - 3 pm in St Joseph's Church car park. Very many thanks to all those who continue to donate by envelope to CIRDIC/SVP, and post through the Parish Office letter box.

Your donations of food and funds have been very well received. Your financial support is also enabling us to provide fresh provisions and meat for CIRDIC. We also support needy and vulnerable families in the area. I have detailed below the items most needed:

- Food:
Tinned Goods - Ham, corned beef, chicken, soups & Big Meal soups, tuna, hot dogs, baked beans, spaghetti, ravioli, fruit salads and other tinned fruit, custard, rice pudding, packet and vacuumed items, pasta sauces, dried pasta, cereals, sugar, long life milk.

This list is a guide, but those of you who have families are much more aware of what's needed.

Donations to the SVP would also be very much appreciated. We plan to continue the collections on the 1st Saturday of each month throughout 2021. There will also be a collection basket for money donations available on the table as you exit the church. Thank you all for your very kind support. Keep safe & well. God Bless. *Jack Ewins, President SVP St Joseph's, Tilehurst – Mobile No. 0773 449 9190.*

COFFEE AND CHAT

On Sundays at 12 noon - Grab a coffee and have a catch-up with friends from St Joseph's. <https://pepsico.zoom.us/j/65563666322?pwd=ZlpNYlBxbTZSUlJZR3lwSHJRSnhCUT09>, or join by phone: 0330 088 5830 Meeting ID: 655 6366 6322 Password: 085487

SURVEY OF PARISHIONERS & PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE

Bishop Philip invites you to complete this survey. The link is on the homepage of the diocesan website www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. There have been nearly 500 responses so far. Chris Smith can provide paper copies for those unable to access the digital version on 0239 421 6496.

ALTON DAY OF RENEWAL 2021 PROGRAMME

"ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT" - Pope Francis has said "I ask all of you that you organise seminars . . . to share Baptism in the Spirit." In response, the ADoRE programme will follow the stages of a classic "Life in the Spirit" seminar series, exploring how the Holy Spirit inspires and empowers us to be missionary disciples. Programme and booking details are available their website www.altonrenewal.com.

RIGHT TO LIFE UK

Act now and ask your MP to oppose introducing assisted suicide. Right to Life UK has set up an easy-to-use tool, which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give in to demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting the link below:

<https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>
Daniel Turner, Right to Life UK – 0173 246 0911 - daniel@righttolife.org.uk - www.righttolife.org.uk.

HELPING HAND - MAKING EVERY CONTACT COUNT - FOR BEFRIENDERS AND VOLUNTEERS

Starts 27th January from 12 noon – 1 pm via Zoom - 4 Week Course. Delegates will receive a MECC trained Certificate, on completion. Bookings: Mauricha.White@reading.gov.uk. The course is aimed at those who support older or vulnerable adults, in person or by telephone, who may be experiencing health related issues since COVID-19. The course is a 4-week, interactive, 1-hour session. We will work through effective conversation skills, to help the volunteers overcome barriers, and support the individual to identify their own health and wellbeing goals, ahead of the reopening of society.

FORMATION FOR READERS

During the 2020 lockdown we have been able to form about 100 readers over two sets of online workshops in October and November, offering a reading practice to each one with a Diocesan Listener. We will continue offering these workshops in 2021, Year of the Word in Portsmouth Diocese. The 2021 workshops will take place in February (6th & 13th), and in April (17th & 24th). Participants need to have attended both workshop 1 & workshop 2, and completed a reading practice to receive a Diocesan Recognition. Sign up for the workshops here:
<https://www.godwhospeaks.org/readers>

FORMATION ON THE MASS

During January, I invite you to join us for a Back-to-Basics Course on the Mass, in 6 sessions, to refresh our understanding and deepen our love for the Mass. After lockdown, some of our friends and family, and even ourselves, may find it difficult to return to the sacramental practice of our faith. Taking time to discover or re-discover what we believe in our faith, how this is celebrated in the Mass, and how we are called to live it may be just what we need at the beginning of the year, to re-ignite our love for the Mass, and find the words to encourage others to practice. Each session will end with a time of prayer. They will be led by Sr Hyacinthe and Angela Wood. This course will be especially helpful to catechists, readers and parents of First Holy Communion children, but it is open to everyone. It will be taking place on Monday evenings from 7 - 9 pm, from 11th January to the 15th February. Sign up for the course here:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwof-mrpjltEtDVpuf54s7y-BFuAraTlVe6>

BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

YEAR 7 ADMISSIONS SEPTEMBER 2021

Remember to submit your Supplementary Information Form (SIF) to Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School so that your application can be ranked correctly. If you have any queries, please contact Mrs Farrelly, Admissions Administrator via
admissions@hughfaringdon.org or
0118 957 4730.

APF-MISSIO

The amount collected from the Red Boxes for 2020 was £291.27. Many thanks to all box holders and promoters, and thank you also for emptying your own boxes this year. The 2021 calendars are now available at the back of the church. *Mike Tomas - APF Parish Secretary.*

SAINT OF THE WEEK:

ST HILARY OF POITIERS- 13TH JANUARY

Hilary Term is the name given by some universities to the second academic term of the year. It is also the name of the second term of the legal year in this country. These terms are named after St Hilary of Poitiers, whose feast we celebrate on Wednesday. Hilary was born in Poitiers in 315 [Poitiers is in west central France, about 212 miles southwest of Paris]. His parents were very wealthy and ensured that Hilary had a good education. He was raised as a pagan, but from an early age, could not understand why people worshipped many gods, when surely, they should be only worshipping one, so converted to Christianity in his youth. As Bishop of Poitiers, he was a leading defender of the Church against the Arian heresy [Arius was a priest who denied that Jesus was True God and True Man].

Hilary was exiled to Phrygia for four years by the Roman emperor, Constantius, for not condemning St Athanasius, the leading opponent of Arianism. He died in 368 and was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1851 by Pope Pius IX.

Hilary comes from the Latin, hilarius, meaning "more cheerful". Let us hope and pray that we are all Hilarys in the months ahead. St Hilary of Poitiers - pray for us. *Mike Tomas.*



COVID-19 - a very challenging time for many marriages. So much uncertainty around, health, income, employment, vulnerable family members, children, housing. Different ways of seeing things, coping with change, managing fears can be a source of conflict and stress. It can be difficult to talk, to listen to support and comfort when there is so much uncertainty. Being together all the time, brings even more challenges. You just can't cope, would be better apart, you wonder.

Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage, and you don't need to leave home, it comes to you!

For confidential information about Retrouvaille', or to register for the next programme, a virtual weekend commencing on 25th - 28th February, call or text 0788 729 6983 or 0797 338 0443. Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk