

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
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THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (B) – 7TH FEBRUARY 2021

Along with the extended Year of the Word, we are also keeping a special Year of St Joseph. In his letter *Patris Corde*, Pope Francis says that “every day, for over forty years, following Lauds, I have recited a prayer to Saint Joseph taken from a nineteenth-century French prayer book of the Congregation of the Sisters of Jesus and Mary. It expresses devotion and trust, and even poses a certain challenge to Saint Joseph.” It is a splendid prayer for us all to say, especially during these challenging days:

Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty. Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome. My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen

MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 7TH FEBRUARY – SUNDAY, 14TH FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday, 7 th February FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	5 pm (Vigil) + Live-streamed	Paddy Urban RIP
	10 am + Live-streamed	Mick Joyce RIP
Monday, 8 th February	Private	Rita Williams RIP
Tuesday, 9 th February	12 noon + Live-streamed	Michael O'Carroll's intentions
Wednesday, 10 th February St Scholastica, Virgin	11 am + Live-streamed	May & Kathleen Phealan & family's intentions
Thursday, 11 th February	Private	Mary & all the Fennelly family's intentions
Friday, 12 th February	Private	Poppy Dixon's intentions
Saturday, 13 th February Our Lady on Saturday	Private	Eileen Kerrigan & family's intentions
Sunday, 14 th February SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	5 pm (Vigil) + Live-streamed	Maureen Hanson RIP
	10 am + Live-streamed	Terry Melia RIP
Monday, 15 th February	Private	Rita Williams RIP

Masses marked + will be live-streamed: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCruCvuFlvKVpmI2vvGWdDKQ>

**COLLECTION FOR
30TH/31ST JANUARY 2021**

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£210.00
Gift Aid (via bank)	£1,628.00
Planned Giving (envelopes)	£5.00
Planned Giving (via bank)	£142.00
Loose Plate	£125.60
Bamenda	£10.00
Cathedral Fund	£85.00
Christmas Offerings	£85.00
TF0 Racial Justice	£10.00
Repository	£9.20
Mass Stole Fees	£40.00
TOTAL	£2,349.80
<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	£886.33
Lenten Alms	£463.05
Bamenda Sunday	£714.48
Christmas Offerings	£1,352.50
First Holy Communion fees	£825.00
Cathedral Fund	£167.50
Racial Justice	£13.50

**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>



**60TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY
CONGRATULATIONS!**

The parish offers congratulations to Margaret & Willie Wilson who will celebrate their 60th Wedding Anniversary on 11th February 2021. May God bless both of you as you celebrate 60 years of marriage, milestones and memories!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND:

Nora Colley, Pat Togher, Bernadette Smeesters, Gerard Tomas, 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, Donald, Hilary Cameron, Sisters of St Ann (in Bamenda), Fr Peter's parents, Tess Heenan, Caroline Hurst, Kevin Keep, Brigid, Adrian Robson.

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

ROSARY (ON-LINE ONLY**)**

Rosary on Saturdays at **10 am**, with Fr Peter:

https://pepsico.zoom.us/j/69178591420?pwd=_UGhtOTlaZXZsOVEvTIU0SFpqcmJ5dz09

Or use the link on our website. To join by telephone, dial 0203 901 7895.

Meeting Code: 69178591420# Password: 957032.



BILL MCMAHON RIP

The parish offers condolences to the family and friends of Bill McMahon who died recently. Bill's Funeral took place on 5th February in the village of Cloonfad, County Roscommon, Ireland, followed by burial in the family grave plot. *Please pray for the repose of Bill's soul.*

LENTEN RETREAT

'Finding Hope in Scripture' for everyone. Every Monday evening during Lent, for 6 weeks, we will discover aspects of the virtue of hope from 6 different Bible passages, so that we may grow in hope in these difficult times, and find ways to share our hope with others. Our reflection will be followed by a time of live-streamed adoration and Compline with the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph. Register here to participate:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZETc-2grjkiGtU8vPFJea2ktvR5U0MZ1mrl>.

Sr Hyacinthe Defos du Rau, OP - Formation for Mission Team Leader - Department for Evangelisation. Tel: 0159 068 1874.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CATECHISTS

An opportunity for catechists to discuss and share ideas about preparation of children for First Holy Communion within parishes during the current COVID-19 restrictions and uncertainties. Many catechists have expressed concerns about how they should work with the children in their parishes. Maybe we can support one another. If you wish to join the discussion, please register below - 3rd March from 7.30 - 8.30 pm <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYkduChrDooE9TwXMdU6bT7Q5nG3OlvUHYt>

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office is 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 offer a Mass, or if you would like anything to be included in the newsletter.

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.

COFFEE & CHAT: SUNDAYS @ 11 AM

Grab a coffee and have a catch-up with friends from St Joseph's. Use this updated link:

<https://pepsico.zoom.us/j/68506386409?pwd=WVQ3VHpvVTDRCK0pmLzIQdDVDTUxtdz09>

RIGHT TO LIFE UK

Ask your MP to sign a parliamentary motion calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. A new parliamentary motion (EDM 1340) is calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. The evidence that babies can feel pain in the womb, and during many abortions, highlights the humanity of the unborn child, and provides another important reason to introduce legislation to protect the unborn child from abortion.

Right To Life UK has set up an easy-to-use tool which makes it simple to contact your MP, and ask them to sign this motion, calling on the Government to introduce new guidance on fetal pain. It only takes 30 seconds using this easy-to-use tool. This tool can be accessed via www.righttolife.org.uk/FetalPainMotion. *Daniel Turner, Right To Life UK - 0173 246 0911. daniel@righttolife.org.uk*

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Dear Parishioners,

Many thanks for your continued generous donations of tinned food and clothing. They are much appreciated by the 72 homeless adults whom CIRDIC supports. We will continue to organize collections, on the first Saturday of every month, in the church car park, from 2 - 3 pm. The next collection will be on 6th March.

In addition to the tinned food and clothing which you donate, SVP also spends around £2,600, annually, regularly supplying CIRDIC with fruit, vegetables, dairy and meat products. Beyond supporting CIRDIC, we also spend around £1,000 annually supporting Launch Pad, another Reading charity, supporting SVP India and SVP Sudan, our twin charities, and supporting the needs of our elderly parishioners.

We realize that these are financially difficult times for many people, and we appreciate any donations you can provide to support what we do. You can donate cash/cheques via the collection box in the church, in envelopes, posted through the Parish Office letterbox, or given to us. Alternatively, you can make one-off, or ongoing donations, directly to our bank account; details are as follows:

Account Name: Saint Vincent de Paul
Sort Code: 60-60-04
Account Number: 46075070.

Gift Aid: If you are a tax payer, there is a benefit in having your donations gift aided. SVP gets 25% additional money, versus what you donate, to spend on good causes. Provided you are a tax payer, if you wish to Gift Aid your donation, let me know your full name and address, or include it in your envelope with your donation.

All your contributions are helping the needy at an extremely crucial time. Your generosity is much appreciated. May God bless you. *Jack Ewins, Saint Vincent de Paul. Mobile: 0773 449 9190. Email: jackewins9@gmail.com.*

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.*

**RESPOND TO DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
CONSULTATION TO STOP
HOME ABORTIONS!**

The Department of Health is holding a public consultation on whether to continue the practice of allowing abortion providers to send abortion pills to women so that they can perform their own abortion at home. We need as many pro-life people as possible to complete the Department of Health's questionnaire in order to help stop dangerous DIY abortions becoming permanent. SPUC has prepared a briefing which gives a step-by-step guide to completing the consultation questionnaire. Please go to <https://www.spuc.org.uk/Get-Involved/Campaigns/England-DIY-Abortion-Consultation>. The consultation ends on 26th February 2021.



This Lent, CAFOD invites you and the whole Catholic community of England & Wales to [Join the Big Walk for Water! | CAFOD](#) virtual event on Saturday, 20th February. We are asking everyone to walk in solidarity with those who have to walk to collect water each day, like Abdella from Ethiopia. You can walk 5 miles, or just around your garden, but please walk, so that we can make this an event to create awareness of water poverty, and to raise funds for those living in poverty around the world.

If you are a keen walker, could you Walk for Water as a personal Lenten challenge by walking 10,000 steps a day, every day, for 40 days to raise funds for CAFOD's Lent appeal. Find out more at <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Walk-for-Water> Please contact Jo for more information portsmouth@cafod.org.uk Community Participation Coordinator, CAFOD Portsmouth - 0771 009 4447.

PRAYER FOR THE PARISH

Father, pour your Spirit on
the people of our parish.
Grant us a new vision of your glory,
A new experience of your power,
A new faithfulness to your word,
And a new consecration to your service,
So that your love may grow among us
And your kingdom come.
Amen.
(Attributed to Pope St John XXIII)

**TO ALL CATHOLIC UNIVERSE
& CATHOLIC TIMES READERS**

Did you know that you can get your Catholic newspaper delivered direct to your home every week, post-free? Please go to www.thecatholicuniverse.com, or call them on 0161 820 5722, and they will make the necessary arrangements for you. SPECIAL OFFER: 3 months - £25. 12 months - £99, or digital copy 12 Months - £55.

**SAINT OF THE WEEK:
SAINT SCHOLASTICA – 10TH FEBRUARY**

St Scholastica is often referred to as the sister of St Benedict, however we rarely hear St Benedict being referred to as the brother of St Scholastica. It has been suggested that they were twins, though there is no hard evidence to confirm this; what is known is that they were very close to each other. Scholastica was born around 480 in Norcia Italy (Norcia is about 100 miles north-east of Rome), but little is known about her earlier life.

After Benedict had gone to Monte Cassino, where he established his famous monastery; Scholastica, impressed by her brother's total dedication to the Lord, established the first convent of Benedictine nuns in Plombariola, about five miles from her brother's abbey. (Monte Cassino is about 90 miles south-east of Rome). Scholastica would visit her brother once a year at a house near his abbey, as women were not allowed at the monastery. They would spend the day in worship and discussion. One day, after supper, Benedict indicated that it was time for him to leave. May be Scholastica knew that her death was imminent and that this would be the last time she would see her brother; this could be the reason that she asked him to stay with her. Not wishing to break his own Rule, Benedict refused insisting that he had to return to his own cell.

At this point Scholastica closed her eyes and began to pray. Almost immediately there was a violent thunderstorm. Benedict asked what she had done and she replied: "I asked you and you would not listen so I asked my God and he did listen". The storm was so bad that Benedict could not travel, so he spent the night in prayer and discussion with his sister. Three days later, Scholastica died, and from his cell, Benedict saw her soul leaving the earth and ascending to heaven, in the form of a shining white dove. This was the 10th February 543. Benedict ordered her body to be brought to the monastery, and she was buried in a tomb that had been prepared for himself. Four years later, Benedict died and he was buried with his sister. In our diocese, we have one abbey of Benedictine nuns - St Cecilia's Abbey in Ryde on the Isle of Wight. *St Scholastica - pray for us.* Mike Tomas.

**TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY MASS -
SPACES AVAILABLE ON THE DAY**

We can offer these spaces to anyone, without advance booking, provided they are registered with us. If you would like to attend either of these two Masses regularly, please let us know. Note: this is only for mid-week Masses. Weekend Masses are *strictly by invitation only*. Please reply as soon as possible to Mass invitations. Registration for Mass attendance at St Joseph's is restricted to parishioners, and those living in Tilehurst. Please do not travel from further away, during these difficult times. Contact us to register for Mass by emailing stjo@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk 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.