

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 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT (B) – 21ST FEBRUARY 2021



CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – FRIDAY, 26TH FEBRUARY



This week, our parish is marking CAFOD's Family Fast Day, a day on which we are invited to pray, fast and give to help people like Abdella. Abdella lives in an extremely remote and mountainous part of Ethiopia. It takes him ten hours a day to collect water. He says: "I am wasting my life. I am a young man; I should be doing something else". Your gifts today will help vulnerable communities around the world have access to clean water and provide other vital support. CAFOD Family Fast Day envelopes are available for you to take from the table, as

you leave Mass. If you are a Gift Aider, please write your Gift Aid No. on the outside of the envelope, and returning it next time you are here at Mass. You can also donate online at <https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Fast-Day>, by telephone on 0303 303 3030 or text; text LENT 5 to 70460 to donate £5 or Text LENT 10 to 70460 to donate £10* or LENT 20 to 70460 to donate £20. Many thanks for your support.

*Texts cost £10 plus one standard rate message; you'll be opting in to hear more about CAFOD's work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10, but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text LENTNOINFO to 70460.

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.

MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 21ST FEBRUARY - SUNDAY, 28TH FEBRUARY 2021

Sunday, 21 st February FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	5 pm (Vigil) + Live-streamed	Maureen Hanson RIP
	8.30 am* + Live-streamed	Helen Gallagher RIP
	11 am*	Jean Trott RIP
Monday, 22 nd February THE CHAIR OF ST PETER	Private	
Tuesday, 23 rd February	12 noon + Live-streamed	Norman Bricker's intentions
Wednesday, 24 th February	11 am + Live-streamed	Maureen Hanson RIP
Thursday, 25 th February	Private	Jean Trott RIP
Friday, 26 th February	Private	Jim & Margaret Clarke's intentions
Saturday, 27 th February	Private	Mass of Enrolment (Confirmation candidates)
Sunday, 28 th February SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	5 pm (Vigil) + Live-streamed	Ciara Wooller RIP
	8.30 am* + Live-streamed	Helen Gallagher RIP
	11 am* + Live-streamed	Paddy McDonnell RIP

Masses marked + will be live-streamed: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCruCvuFlvKVpml2vvGWdDKQ>

Note reinstatement of two Sunday Masses from 21st February - 8.30 am & 11 am

**COLLECTION FOR
13TH/14TH FEBRUARY 2021**

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£184.00
Planned Giving (envelopes)	£20.00
Loose Plate	£95.00
Cathedral Fund	£10.00
Mass Stole Fees	£80.00
TOTAL	£389.00
<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	£186.50
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>

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, Leszek & 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.

**ST JOSEPH'S ROSARY:
ZOOM MEETING**

Saturdays at 10 am with Fr Peter online. Please follow the link on the website.

**ST JOSEPH'S COFFEE 'N' CHAT:
ZOOM MEETING**

After Sunday Masses.
Please follow the link on the website.

!!WIPE YOUR FEET PLEASE!!

Please remove any mud from your feet before coming in to Mass. Last Saturday, there was so much mud in the pew that we had to vacuum one side of the church before we were able to begin to sanitize the area.

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.

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*.

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.

CAFÉ THÉOLOGIQUE

Tuesday, 23rd February from 7 - 8.15 pm - Annual Chaplaincy Lecture: An Interview with Tom Holland. Book [here](#) for a free on-line ticket.



BILL MCMAHON RIP

Bill died on Wednesday, 13th January 2021. His Funeral Mass took place on Friday, 5th February in the village parish church of St Patrick's, Cloonfad, County Mayo, Ireland, followed by burial in the family grave at Tulrahan Cemetery in Claremorris, County Mayo, Ireland. Please pray for the repose of Bill's soul, and may he eternally rest in peace.

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.

There is extensive evidence that many women in the Uyghur Muslim community in Xinjiang, China are being subjected to forced abortions.

Lord Alton is currently championing an amendment to the Trade Bill which would give British courts a role in determining whether a country is committing genocide. This would help with putting international pressure on the Chinese Communist Party to stop the practice of forcing abortions on the Uyghur Muslim community along with the wider human rights abuses that evidence shows is being perpetuated against this community. If you would like to email your MP asking them to support the amendment, you can do this easily using a tool which has been set up on the Genocide Response campaign website which can be accessed by visiting the link below:

<https://genocideresponse.org/>

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.

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.

SAINT OF THE WEEK: ST POLYCARP - FEBRUARY 23RD

St Polycarp, who died in 155, was converted to Christianity by St John the Evangelist, so he was fortunate enough to be instructed by someone who had first-hand knowledge of Jesus. He later became the Bishop of Smyrna, which is now Izmir in Turkey.

When he was an old man, he was urged by the Roman proconsul to renounce Christ, in order to save his life. Polycarp's response was: "For eighty-six years, I have served him, and he has never wronged me. How can I renounce the King who has saved me?"

Polycarp was stabbed to death, and his body burnt. His final words were: "I bless you Father for judging me worthy of this hour, so that in the company of the martyrs, I may share the cup of Christ". His followers collected his relics and wrote an account of his life and martyrdom. The guarded relics can be found in the church of Sant' Ambrogio della Massima in Rome.

St Polycarp is the patron saint of people with earaches, because he often preached that he would rather be deaf than hear heretical doctrines.

Interestingly, the Catholic school in Farnham, Surrey, is dedicated to St Polycarp. Writing this in half term, I am unable to ask the school why he was chosen as their patron. I shall try and find out when they are back. *St Polycarp - 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.

NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH: 10TH - 18TH MARCH

The National Novena to St Joseph will take place from 10th - 18th March at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead. In this Year dedicated to St. Joseph, the Mill Hill Missionaries are preparing for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their Society's missionary outreach, and for the intentions of all those who support their work.

If you are able, and if it is possible to attend, Masses are on Wednesday - Friday (10th - 12th March), at 7.30 pm, Saturday, 13th March at 10 am, Sunday, 14th March at 11 am, Monday - Thursday (15th - 18th March) at 7.30 pm. If you are unable to attend, but would like to join in from home, for the first time this year, Masses from St Joseph's Church will be available to follow on Zoom and YouTube, via the parish website www.stjosephsparish.co.uk and the Mill Hill website www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena, where you will also find the Novena prayer leaflet. You can also join in by praying the daily Novena prayer, which will be in your Novena prayer leaflet. You are welcome to send in your petitions and/or to request a printed Novena prayer leaflet. Please write to the Novena Director, 41 Victoria Road, Liverpool, L37 1LW, or email novenamhm@gmail.com.

MARRIAGE PREPARATION

We encourage any engaged couples that now is a great time to prepare for their married life together! Our live, facilitated, marriage preparation courses continue to be popular with couples who can now easily join these interactive workshops via Zoom. We provide group courses called "[Preparing Together](#)" which have received an Imprimatur from Cardinal Vincent Nichols, and [FOCCUS](#) - a tailored questionnaire-based marriage preparation service for couples who wish to explore their own unique relationship in more depth. Both courses are approved for marriage preparation in the Catholic Church. You can find out more and book a course [here](#).

RELATIONSHIP COUNSELLING

Please seek support if you are experiencing relationship distress. Our professional relationship counselling service is provided on a donation-only basis, and seeking help at whatever stage can make a real difference. You can find out more and book counselling sessions [here](#).

INVITATION TO ADORE - 27TH FEBRUARY

We are continuing our 2021 Programme: "ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT" which is in response to the invitation from Pope Francis "I ask all of you that you organise seminars to share Baptism in the Spirit." Our programme this year explores how the Holy Spirit inspires and empowers us to be missionary disciples. More details on the ADORE website www.altonrenewal.com. The next session is on February 27th, 10 am - 1 pm: "Salvation" - God sent his Son Jesus to give you new life through his death and resurrection. Jesus is your Lord and Saviour. Speaker: Fr Paul Leonard, Parish Priest at Sacred Heart, Hook, and Mass celebrant at Celebrate Southampton Conference. Please register in advance at www.bit.ly/ADOREFEB2021.

ADORE is also offering confidential prayer for healing by telephone Monday - Friday from 10 am until 4 pm - Telephone No. 07579 824523. Experienced prayer ministers will pray with you confidentially for your needs. Thank you and may God bless you abundantly. *Alastair Emblem - On behalf of Alton Day of Renewal.*

LENT RETREAT: FINDING HOPE IN SCRIPTURE

To mark the Year of the Word, Sr Hyacinthe is inviting you to join the Formation for Mission Team Lenten Retreat: 'Finding Hope in Scripture', starting on 22nd February.

Every Monday evening during Lent at 7.30 pm and for 6 weeks, we will discover aspects of the virtue of hope from six different Bible passages, so that we may grow in hope in these difficult times, and find ways to share our hope with others while preparing for to celebrate Easter as a fulfilment of hope. 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.

LENT - A TIME OF HOPE AND HEALING

The light and promise of Eastertide shine ever more brightly in the darkness. To help support you on your Lenten journey this year, Our Lady & St Edmund of Abingdon parish invites you to join them for their Lenten 'Hope and Healing' Prayer and Reflections by Zoom.

Beginning on Thursday, 18th March, the course will continue every Thursday throughout lent, and will include a variety of reflections, scripture, Sycamore films, and the opportunity for prayer. Everyone is welcome to join all, or any, of the sessions, and people can choose whether to participate in various discussions and sharing or can simply listen and reflect, if they prefer. 'Hope and Healing' will be hosted by the parish RCIA team and anyone interested should contact *Pauline* on pehanley@hotmail.com or call 07506 753085 to register for the Zoom link.