

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

Safeguarding Representative:
Miriam da Cruz Fernandes

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THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT (B) - 14TH MARCH 2021

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Fr Peter and Fr Richard will be available for confessions on Saturday, 20th March at 11 am, and Saturday, 27th March at 2 pm, in the large hall - *For parishioners only* - Please do not travel from outside Tilehurst.

EASTER SERVICES

Tuesday, 30 th March	12 noon + Live-streamed	
Wednesday, 31 st March	11 am + Live-streamed	
Maundy Thursday, 1 st April	7 pm + Live-streamed	
Good Friday, 2 nd April	10 am - 12 noon	Stations of the Cross (see below)
	3 pm + Live-streamed	Solemn Liturgy
Holy Saturday, 3 rd April	8 pm + Live-streamed	
Easter Sunday, 4 th April	8.30 am + Live-streamed	
	11 am + Live-streamed	

We will only be able to offer places to people who are already registered to attend Mass, and of course, we will have very limited places. So, parishioners are likely to get an invitation to just ONE of the Triduum services, and must expect to watch the other services online.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS LED BY FR PETER - EVERY FRIDAY AT 7 PM - LIVE-STREAM ONLY

STATIONS OF THE CROSS ON GOOD FRIDAY



You are welcome to come and follow your own Stations of the Cross on Good Friday between 10 am - 12 noon. There will be a picture and prayer for each Station around the church grounds, and you may pray at the Stations alone or with your household. Stewards will be on site for assistance, and to ensure safe distancing is maintained.



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.

MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 14TH MARCH – SUNDAY, 21ST MARCH 2021

Sunday, 14 th March FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	5 pm (Vigil) + Live-streamed	Maureen Hanson RIP
	8.30 am + Live-streamed	Angela Macbeth RIP
	11 am + Live-streamed	Maureen Hanson RIP
Monday, 15 th March	NO MASS	
Tuesday, 16 th March	12 noon + Live-streamed	Anne Sinnott RIP
Wednesday, 17 th March ST PATRICK, Bishop	11 am + Live-streamed	Maureen Hanson RIP
Thursday, 18 th March	Private	Jim Pickering RIP
Friday, 19 th March ST JOSEPH	10 am + Live-streamed	Patricia MacMahon RIP
Saturday, 20 th March	Private	
Sunday, 21 st March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	5 pm (Vigil) + Live-streamed	Pauline Oster's intentions
	8.30 am + Live-streamed	Fr Peter's intentions
	11 am + Live-streamed	Malgosia, Krystyna & Tadeusz's intentions

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

**COLLECTION FOR
6TH/7TH FEBRUARY 2021**

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£297.00
Planned Giving (envelopes)	£40.00
CAFOD Family Fast Day	£265.00
Clergy Assistance Fund	£2.00
Loose Plate	£162.90
First Holy Communion	£50.00
Mass Stole Fees	£60.00
TOTAL	£876.90
<u>RUNNING TOTALS</u>	
TF9 ("On Fire!")	£3,874.77
CAFOD (Overall Total)	£1,482.58
Clergy Assistance Fund	£2.50
First Holy Communion fees	£875.00

**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>



RICHARD DAVIS RIP

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Richard Davis, former parishioner of St Joseph's, who died of a heart attack at the age of 80, on 25th February 2021, after 6 weeks in hospital.

Richard and his family came to Tilehurst in 1972. He was a prominent contributor to the parish, before his move in 1990 to English Martyrs. During his time with us, Richard achieved two significant results. He produced the first set of annual accounts for St Joseph's for Fr Kelleher, for submission to the diocese. He was the first person to take on the Chairman of Governors' role at St Paul's School, following Fr Kelleher's extended period as Chairman of Governors. In both capacities, Richard enjoyed the full trust and confidence of Fr Kelleher as he began preparing for his eventual retirement from the parish, as well as having the knowledge and expertise, as a NatWest Bank Manager, to handle both roles. In practical terms, Richard was a one-man Finance Committee; for some time, the predecessor of the current Finance Committee, set up by Fr Peter Codd in 2000. The Parish has much to be grateful for.

The thoughts and prayers of St Joseph's parishioners are extended to Sheila, Richard's wife, to Mark and to Teresa, their children and families.
May Richard rest in peace.

The funeral at English Martyrs is yet to be announced.

THE FEAST OF ST JOSEPH – 19TH MARCH

We will celebrate the Feast of St Joseph at 10 am Mass next Friday, 19th March. There is no need to book to attend this Mass, but you MUST already be registered to attend Mass with us. The stewards will check names as people arrive. No invitations will be sent for this Mass so registered people can just turn up to see if there are still any spare places. Our normal seating restrictions will apply - one household or 2 singles per bench. This Mass will be livestreamed especially for parishioners and St Paul's School, so that everyone can witness the blessing of their school ties.

Although statues depict St Joseph as an old man, he was probably quite young when God chose him to be the husband of the Virgin Mary and foster father of Jesus.

The Gospels do not tell us much about him; indeed, not a single word of his is recorded in Sacred Scripture. Nevertheless, we are told enough to enable us to see with what faithfulness, selflessness and love, Joseph responded to his extraordinary vocation, and carried out his difficult tasks.

In his Apostolic Letter "Patris Corde" (with a Father's Heart) Pope Francis recalls the 150th anniversary of the Declaration of St Joseph as patron of the Universal Church. To mark the occasion, the Holy Father proclaimed a "Year of Joseph", which began on 8th December - the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception.

Pope Francis describes St Joseph as "a beloved Father; a tender and loving Father; an obedient Father; an accepting Father; a Father who is creatively courageous; a working Father; a Father in the shadows".

When did St Joseph die? The bible does not record his death, but based on Gospel narrative, it was probably when Jesus was somewhere between 12 - 30 years old. When Jesus was twelve the Holy Family went to Jerusalem together. However, at the start of Jesus's public ministry, Joseph is notably absent. We read that before he died, Jesus said to St John: "This is your mother", and from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home. Jesus wouldn't have said what he did if Joseph was still alive.

St Joseph, patron of the Universal Church; patron of our parish - pray for us. Mike Tomas

ROSARY

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

SPECIAL COLLECTION THIS WEEKEND - CLERGY ASSISTANCE FUND

The Clergy Assistance Fund supports the invaluable work of the Clergy Support Team. The Team is responsible for looking after our clergy, from supporting newly ordained priests to settle into their ministry, to providing ongoing support and formation for those in active ministry, to caring for our clergy through illness or in a time of need. This is an important collection for our Diocese and Clergy. As you may know, as a charity, we are responsible for generating all our funding needs. In addition to the usual methods of giving, an online page has been set up to support the collection and can be accessed here: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/clergy-assistance-fund>. Please be as generous as you can.

COFFEE & CHAT

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

WOOL

The Knitwits group makes blankets and baby items for local charities and the hospital. They are looking for donations of wool, and also for buttons suitable for use on baby jackets. If you have any spare wool or buttons, please drop them to the Parish Office on Thursday or Friday. Or email us at: stjo@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk. Many thanks!

LENT - A TIME OF HOPE AND HEALING

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.

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.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

SVP spends £2,600, annually, supplying CIRDIC with fruit, vegetables, dairy and meat products. To support this initiative, you can put your donation in the collection box in church, or using an envelope post it to the Parish Office, or give it to an SVP member. 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. *Jack Ewins. Mobile: 0773 449 9190. Email: jackewins9@gmail.com.*

Dear friends,

Recently I have been sent the Prayer - Stations of the Cross from St Mary's and St Petroc's Church Bodmin, Cornwall, which I feel would be useful for prayer and meditation especially for those who are housebound or missing your usual experience of Lent. See below for the Youtube link which you need put into your browser. God bless. *Roy Singh*
<https://youtube/9nU4isVzgQM>

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.

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.

Wishing all mothers a very Happy and Blessed Mother's Day!

SAINT OF THE WEEK: ST PATRICK - 17TH MARCH

St Patrick's Day is the most celebrated Saints' Day in the world. By the word "celebrated", I don't mean in the religious sense, I mean in the commercial sense.

Sadly, if you went into any pub on St Patrick's Day and asked any man with a pint of Guinness in his hand to name five things about St Patrick, he would struggle to answer you.

It's hard to believe now, but up until the 1970's, Irish Law prohibited pubs opening on 17th March, as a mark of respect for this religious day. St Patrick's Day always falls in Lent, and it was feared that the pubs being open would be too tempting for those off the beer for Lent, leading to an increase in drunkenness on what is a Holy Day of Obligation there. Before the drinking ban was repealed, there was only one place where you could buy a drink on 17th March, and that was at the Royal Dublin Dog Show. Judging by the number of people who turned up every year, it is not just the British who are a nation of dog lovers.

St Patrick was born in 385. He wasn't Irish, but his place of birth is uncertain. At the age of sixteen, he was captured by raiders and taken to Ireland as a slave. After six years, he escaped and returned home.

If we look at his writings, we find that he believed that his enslavement was a result of his lack of faith during his younger years. His faith deepened whilst in Ireland, which led him to study for the priesthood on his return.

Around the year 432, he felt a compulsion to spread the Word of God to the people of Ireland, and returned as a missionary bishop. His symbol is the shamrock, because it is said that he used the three leaves of this plant to explain the Trinity.

He died on 17th March 461, and his stature grew as the person who brought Christianity to the people of Ireland. *St Patrick - pray for us.*

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH OFFICE

The Parish Office is open on Tuesdays, 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 you would like anything included in the newsletter.



FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCY

St Paul's Catholic Primary School is actively looking for two Foundation Governors to join our Governing Board. You must be a practising Catholic and willing to commit to a term of office of four years from the date of appointment. Foundation Governors are personally appointed by Bishop Philip, Bishop of Portsmouth to diocesan schools to represent his interests and those of the Catholic community as a whole. The governors of a school work as a team, in close co-operation with the headteacher and all the staff. As a Foundation Governor you will share the responsibilities of all governors:

- Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.
- Holding the headteacher to account for the educational performance of the school and its pupils, and the performance management of staff; and
- Overseeing the financial performance of the school and making sure its money is well spent.

In addition to this, Foundation Governors are appointed specifically to ensure:

- that the religious character of the school is preserved
- that the school is conducted in accordance with its trust deed
- that the religious education curriculum is in accordance with the Bishop's policy for this Diocese

To deliver the best for our pupils, staff, parents/carers and whole community, we need a full complement of governors. To operate effectively, a governing board must have governors with a variety of skills who are willing to share ideas and workload, and provide support and challenge in equal measure. We are looking for practising committed Catholics with the time and enthusiasm to be a school governor and to work with a strong established team to support our school and enrich our children's educational experience.

The Diocese of Portsmouth website has lots of information on the role of a foundation governor and we would suggest that you take a look at this prior to taking the next step to applying for the position – [Home | Portsmouth Diocese | England](#). If you would like to find out more about the role or chat to one of our existing governors before making a commitment, then please contact the clerk to governors rgonzalez@stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk or Catholic Academies and School Office governors@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

ALTON DAY OF RENEWAL – 27TH MARCH

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. People from all over the country are joining our sessions and thoroughly enjoying them. Here is what one participant said recently: "It was so encouraging sharing with others so positive about their faith in Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit - in praise and worship, hearing prophecy, testimony, sharing in breakout group."

The next session is on March 27th from 10 am - 1 pm: "New Life" Jesus came so that you could be given the source of new life, the Holy Spirit. Speaker: Jenny Baker, Co-ordinator of Celebrate conferences and a well-known presenter on CaFé formation videos. Please register in advance at bit.ly/ADOREMAR2021

ADoRE is offering confidential prayer for healing by telephone, Monday to Friday 10 am - 4 pm. Experienced prayer ministers will pray with you confidentially for your needs. Alastair Emblem - On behalf of Alton Day of Renewal

RIGHT TO LIFE UK

Ask your MP to attend a parliamentary event on the dangers of DIY abortion: Governments are currently deciding on whether to make permanent the temporary measure allowing 'DIY' home abortions in England, Wales and Scotland. To ensure that politicians are aware of the negative impact of 'DIY' home abortions, the All-Party Parliamentary Pro-Life Group will be hosting a parliamentary event on Tuesday, 23rd March, where experts will cover the latest evidence on how 'DIY' home abortions are placing women at risk. Right To Life UK has set up an easy-to-use tool that will enable members of the public to easily contact their MPs asking them to attend this event. You can do so by following the link below. It only takes 30 seconds!

www.righttolife.org.uk/DIYabortionMeeting.

Daniel Turner – Right To Life UK – 0173 246 0911 – email: daniel@righttolife.org.uk. Web site:

www.righttolife.org.uk.

THANK YOU!

Dear Fr Peter, Sheila and fellow parishioners: A short note to thank all concerned for their good wishes on the celebration of our 60th Wedding Anniversary. A special thanks to Fr Peter for his blessings at Mass. You will be remembered in our prayers.

God bless you all! *Margaret & Willie.*