

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 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT (B) – 28TH FEBRUARY 2021



Last Friday, our parish marked CAFOD's Family Fast Day; a day on which we were 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](https://cafod.org.uk/Fundraise/Walk-for-Water). 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, 28TH FEBRUARY – SUNDAY, 7TH MARCH 2021

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
Monday, 1 st March ST DAVID, Religious, Bishop	NO MASS	
Tuesday, 2 nd March	12 noon + Live-streamed	Maureen Hanson RIP
Wednesday, 3 rd March	11 am + Live-streamed	Maureen Hanson RIP
Thursday, 4 th March	Private	Sheila Clyde's intentions
Friday, 5 th March	Private	Mrs Granville & family's intentions
Saturday, 6 th March	Private	Madalena Brito's intentions
Sunday, 7 th March THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	5 pm (Vigil) + Live-streamed	Maureen Hanson RIP
	8.30 am + Live-streamed	Fr José Maria de la Porte's intentions
	11 am + Live-streamed	Joanna Laska & family's intentions

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

**COLLECTION FOR
20TH/21ST FEBRUARY 2021**

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£165.00
Gift Aid (via bank)	£1,613.00
Planned Giving (via bank)	£177.82
Loose Plate	£643.13
TOTAL	£2,598.95
<u>RUNNING TOTALS</u>	
TF9 ("On Fire!")	£3,874.77
TF3 CAFOD	£116.25
(TF10) CAFOD COVID-19 Appeal	£126.55
CAFOD Harvest Fast Day	£886.33
Lenten Alms	£786.95
Divine Mercy Centre	£288.69

**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>

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.

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.

ROSARY

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

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 you would like anything included in the newsletter.

COFFEE & CHAT

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

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.*

SAINT OF THE WEEK: ST DAVID – 1ST MARCH

Of the four home nations, it is only Wales that can proudly proclaim that their patron saint is one of their own. St David (in welsh Dewi Sant) was born in Caerfai, south west Wales around the year 500. (Caerfai is about 15 miles from Fishguard).

According to legend, his mother, St Non, gave birth to him on a cliff top during a fierce storm. St David was Bishop of Mynyw (later St David's). He was a renowned preacher and founded monastic settlements and churches in Wales, south west England and Brittany.

David lived an austere life. He ate only bread, vegetables and herbs, and only drank water. For this reason, he is the patron saint of vegetarians. It is said that David performed many miracles. The most famous one was when he was preaching to a large crowd in Llanddewi Brefi. The village was originally known as Brefi, and when the people at the back complained that they could not hear him, the ground rose to form a hill. Llanddewi, welsh for the church of David was added to the village's name thereafter.

St David died on 1st March 589, and was buried on the site of where St David's cathedral is now. His legacy lives on. St David's last words to his followers were: "be joyful, keep the faith and do the little things that you have heard me say and do". The phrase "gwnewch y pethau bychain mewn bywyd" - do the little things in life - is still a well-known maxim in Wales today. Basically, it means that the small actions we take in life can be just as significant for ourselves and others as the big ones.

His cult spread quickly and his shrine was a popular place of pilgrimage in the Middle Ages. Pope Callistus II declared that two pilgrimages to St David's shrine were equivalent to one to Rome. St David has his own flag. It is a yellow cross on a black background.

St David - Patron Saint of Wales, pray for us.
Happy St David's Day to all our Welsh parishioners!
Mike Tomas.

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.

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](#).

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME

Staff at St Paul's School are delighted to be able to resume preparation sessions for First Holy Communion. Lessons will be on Saturday mornings at the school, starting on 13th March, when all children will be back at school. There are 21 children enrolled on the programme. Please keep them, their parents and our Catechists in your prayers, as they prepare to receive the special Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

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.

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.



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

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/tZUkduChrDooE9TwXMdU6bT7Q5nG30lvUHYt>



Ask your MP to support a NEW amendment to help stop forced abortions in Xinjiang, China

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 a new amendment to the Trade Bill, to help put international pressure on the Chinese Communist Party to stop the practice of forced abortions and wider human rights abuses that evidence shows is being perpetuated against the Uyghur community. The amendment passed in the Lords on 23rd February by 367 votes to 214, and is likely to be voted on in the Commons shortly.

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 - 01732 460911

daniel@righttolife.org.uk

www.righttolife.org.uk