

NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S, TILEHURST



St Joseph's Presbytery, Berkshire Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, RG31 5JJ

☎ 0118 942 8632 ✉ sjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

🌐 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

Thursday & Friday: 9 am – 12.30 pm

Safeguarding Representative:

Miriam da Cruz Fernandes

☎ 0118 943 3524

✉ miriam@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (YEAR B) – 12TH/13TH DECEMBER 2020 **GAUDETE SUNDAY - REJOICE!**

TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY MASSES: SPACES AVAILABLE ON THE DAY

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 not arrive more than 10 minutes before the Mass starts, because you will be asked to wait outside until we know if we can seat you.

Just before Mass starts, we will assign any spare places to anyone who is waiting, provided their name appears on our register.

Please do understand that the stewards may not be able to offer you a place. We will continue to adhere to social distancing rules which restricts how many places we have available. This is only for mid-week Masses. *Weekend Masses are strictly by invitation only:* Saturday 10 am & 5 pm (Vigil), Sunday 8.30 am & 11 am. Please look out for emails inviting you to a specific Mass, and reply as soon as possible.

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 for one of those weekday Masses, so that a place is reserved for you every week. Note: Stewards may now give your place to someone waiting if you have not arrived 5 minutes before Mass starts.

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. Contact us to register or for questions about Mass attendance: stjo@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk.

LIVE-STREAMED MASSES

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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCruCvuFlvKVpml2vvGWdDKQ>

Wednesday - 11 am, followed by the Rosary. Saturday - 10 am, followed by the Rosary and Benediction. Saturday - 5 pm Vigil. Sunday – 8.30 am & 11 am.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

Fr Peter will be celebrating 5 public Masses for Christmas; Christmas Eve: 5 pm, 7 pm & 9 pm, and Christmas Day: 8 am & 10 am. **If you are registered with us, and have requested a place at a Christmas Mass already, then you should have received an email or call this week to confirm which Mass you have a place at. Please contact us if you haven't.**

These Masses are all FULL, but they will all be live-streamed, and we encourage you to watch and pray the Mass with us online.

All Masses will be live-streamed, please see [YouTube link on our website](#).

If you live in Tilehurst and do not have a place at Mass on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day, we will give you priority for a place at Mass on Saturday, 26th (5 pm Vigil) or Sunday, 27th (8.30 am or 11 am). You can also ask to go on the waiting list for the Masses on 24th & 25th, in case any places do become available nearer the time. A complete list of Mass times is set out below.

Please send an email to us at: stjo@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk, to request a place at Mass. (Email is the best way to reach us, but if you do not have email, please call the Parish Office on Thursdays or Fridays, and Sheila will pass on your request).

Confession:

- For parishioners only – please do not travel from outside Tilehurst.
- After any Mass that you attend, EXCEPT Sunday 8.30 am, because of cleaning.
- Saturday, 19th December from 2 pm in the hall. Fr Peter and Fr Richard will be available. Face coverings to be worn while waiting. Dress warmly in case there is a queue.

Mass Times:

Tuesday, 22 nd December	12 noon Mass	
Wed 23 rd December	11 am Mass + Rosary	
Christmas Eve	5 pm	Waiting list only – watch online
Thursday, 24 th December	7 pm	Waiting list only – watch online
	9 pm	Waiting list only – watch online
Christmas Day	8 am	Waiting list only – watch online
Friday, 25 th December	10am	Waiting list only – watch online
	No morning Mass	
St Stephen's Day	5 pm (Sunday Vigil)	
Saturday, 26 th December	8.30 am	
	11 am	
Holy Family		
Sunday, 27 th December		
Tuesday, 29 th December	12 noon Mass	
Wednesday, 30 th December	11am Mass + Rosary	
Friday, 1 st January	12 noon Mass	Live-Stream only
Saturday, 2 nd January	10am	
	5pm (Sunday Vigil)	
Sunday, 3 rd January	8.30 am	
	11 am	

Information to send to: stjo@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk

Your name, address and phone number:

Number in your group (max 6):

Masses you can attend in order of preference:

Whether you are just registering for Christmas, or would like to remain on our register.

MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 13TH DECEMBER – SUNDAY, 20TH DECEMBER 2020		
Sunday, 13 th December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B) ['Gaudete']	5 pm (Vigil) + Live-streamed	Breda Williams RIP
	8.30 am + Live-streamed	Eileen Drake RIP
	11 am + Live-streamed	Jackie Cattigan RIP
Monday, 14 th December St John of the Cross, Religious, Doctor of the Church	NO MASS	
Tuesday, 15 th December	12 noon	Mairin Hayes RIP (<i>Foundation Mass</i>)
Wednesday, 16 th December	11 am + Live-streamed	Breda Williams RIP
Thursday, 17 th December	Private Mass	Caroline Heaney RIP
Friday, 18 th December	Private Mass	Jimmy Walsh & family's intentions
Saturday, 19 th December	10 am followed by Rosary & Benediction + Live-streamed	Charles & Julia Newman RIP
Sunday, 20 th December FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (B)	5 pm (Vigil) + Live-streamed	Sabino Rato RIP
	8.30 am + Live-streamed	Breda Williams RIP
	11 am + Live-streamed	Tomas Ibarrondo RIP

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*.

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*.

TEMPORARY OPENING HOURS

St Joseph's Parish Office is open for telephone and email contact only. There is no face-to-face contact, *until further notice*. Temporary office hours are Thursdays & Fridays from 9 am -12.30 pm. 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.

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

The next collection will be on Saturday, 2nd January 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 into 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.*

**COLLECTION FOR
12TH/13TH DECEMBER 2020**

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£1,284.00
Planned Giving (envelopes)	£20.00
Loose Plate	£203.60
Mass Stole Fees	£190.00
Bamenda Sunday	£5.00
Christmas Offerings	£50.00
Funeral Donation	£50.00
TOTAL	£1,802.60
<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	£50.00

**CHRISTMAS 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/DonationsStJosephsTilehurst.pdf>

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=ZlpNYlBxbTZR3lwSHJRSnhCUT09>

, or join by phone: 0330 088 5830 Meeting ID: 655 6366 6322 Password: 085487

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.

**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.

**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.



This Christmas, why not buy gifts that will change lives and bring happiness! CAFOD's World Gifts are a range of virtual gifts that transform the lives of those living in poverty overseas. New gifts this year include Keep Clean £6 (soap and washing powder for family), and Emergency Food £50, so please look online <https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>. Please take a World Gifts brochure from the table, as you leave church. Many thanks for your support. *Jo Lewry - Community Participation Coordinator, CAFOD Portsmouth - 0771 009 4447.*

**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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION - 2021

Registration is now open for St Joseph's parish children and St Paul's School children who are in Year 3 and above. Please download a form and *revised* session dates, attached to the electronic copy of this newsletter, or from our web site, and post the completed form, copy baptism certificate and your payment of £25.00 through the letterbox of the Parish Office. *Please note due to the pandemic, there will be no face-to-face contact with the Parish Office.* The closing date is **20th December 2020.**



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

GREGORIAN CHANT

An exciting opportunity to study and sing Gregorian Chant begins Saturday, 19th December, and continues on every third Saturday of the month until 17th July 2021 in Portsmouth City Centre. Suitable for adults, students and children - all levels of experience are welcome, from complete beginners to those already skilled at singing. Join in person (for maximum benefit) or on Zoom. Details at: www.ChantCourse.com. Email: PortsmouthChantCourse@gmail.com Phone: 0787 959 1432. Follow on Twitter @ChantPortsmouth.

MARY'S MEALS

From 2nd November until 31st January 2021, donations made to our "Double the Love Campaign" will be matched by the UK government, up to £2 million. Please consider setting a place at our Big Family Christmas dinner table, or buying a Christmas gift card on our website. More information on how to support us can be found at www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove. Thank you.

SAINT OF THE WEEK:

ST JOHN OF THE CROSS - 14TH DECEMBER

"Never give up prayer, and should you find dryness and difficulty, persevere in it, for this very reason. God often desires to see what love your soul has, and love is not tried by ease and satisfaction."

The above is a famous quotation by St John of the Cross, a Spanish priest who lived in the 16th century. He was born Juan de Yepes Alvarez, in Fontiveros, near Avila in 1542.

He was ordained in 1567, and thought about joining the very strict Carthusian Order because the practice of solitary and silent contemplation appealed to him.

When in a town called Medina del Campo, John met the influential Carmelite nun, St Teresa of Avila. She talked to him about her plans for reforming the Carmelite Order, and asked John to delay his entry to the Carthusians and follow her.

After a spell learning more about Teresa's plans for the future of the Carmelite Order, John knew where his future lay and, along with another priest, founded a new monastery for Carmelite Friars.

John was a renowned poet and writer and wrote much about the Mystery of the Cross and, as a result, was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1726, by Pope Benedict X111.

He suffered many trials during his life, including imprisonment by his own brethren for his reforms. He died on 14th December 1591, and is the patron saint of contemplatives, mystics and Spanish poets. St John of the Cross - pray for us.
Mike Tomas.