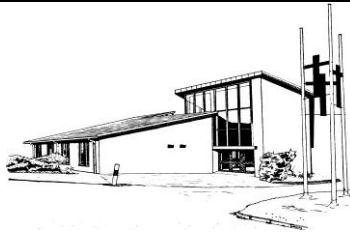


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S, TILEHURST



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

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9 am – 12.30 pm

Safeguarding Representative:

Miriam da Cruz Fernandes

☎ 0118 943 3524

✉ miriam@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) – 20TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Gospel - Matthew 20: 1-16

At election time, political parties make promises, and we know what we expect them to say: Taxation will be reduced; more money will be available for schools, for health care and welfare. A new and ambitious house-building programme is on the cards. Public transport will be a top priority and more will be spent on infrastructure, including road repairs and building new ones. But suppose a political party presented this: "We are going to introduce a revolutionary new wage policy. Instead of an hourly rate of pay, we shall pioneer a daily rate for the worker. By this, we mean that whether you spend just one hour a day at work or a full eight hours, you will be paid the same wage. Just to make this crystal clear: we are proposing an enhanced daily minimum wage, which workers will receive whether they work for one hour or eight. It is a progressive new deal. Employers will be compelled to comply".

Such a suggestion would be met with outrage. It would not be fair; it would not be right or just. Unsurprisingly, those who worked for a whole day in the field or factory would be furious and envious of those who had worked for only an hour. Jesus, however, was not advocating some strange new social teaching when he told the story of an employer who did this. The key to his parable is in the words, "Why be envious because I am generous?" It is a parable about the extraordinary generosity and love of God. It is not about human rights; it is, Jesus said, about what the kingdom of God is like.

So, in the parable there are people waiting around the marketplace, idle, lost and unemployed, maybe misbehaving. Although they do not know it, they are waiting for the Gospel. Along comes the landowner who, of course, is Jesus, and a group of them take up his invitation to work in his vineyard. A meaning comes to their life at once and they are gainfully employed in the kingdom. They are working for God, in the sense of fulfilling their purpose in life, living life in the way that is pleasing to God. And the wages they will receive will be eternal life. Some hear the call later in life and their reward is the same. Even at the eleventh hour, some people respond to his call, and among them we may think about the penitent thief on the cross: "Today you will be with me in paradise." Here is a wonderful picture of Jesus walking into his Father's presence, leading this man by the hand: "Here, Father, is the man I have saved." How completely appropriate that the saviour brings with him the sheep that was lost; that the first to enter the kingdom of God with him was a thief.

The fundamental point seems to be that the Church, the messenger of Jesus, is sent to preach the Gospel to people in every kind of situation, both young and old, with the invitation to enter the kingdom of God. So, Isaiah preached: "Seek the Lord while he is still to be found, call to him while he is still near. Let the wicked man abandon his way Let him turn back to the Lord who will take pity on him." But we can only do this, and offer a welcome to those who come to the Church from all kinds of backgrounds, if we share the mind of Christ and his love for sinners. If we think, "Why should people just be able to walk into the kingdom of God, when we have disciplined ourselves and kept the commandments all our life?", we do not have the mind of Jesus. Nor have we really understood that Jesus came into the world to seek and to save those who are lost. As Pope Francis said, "It is a phrase that we could write on the doors of our churches: 'Here Jesus welcomes sinners and invites them to his table'."

Every soul is of infinite value to God. When we love as Christ loves, without a hint of judgement, we want to see everyone saved and in the kingdom of God; those addicted and tied into a sinful life, those who have not yet come to believe, those who are hostile to the Church or consumed with selfishness or pride, those whose lives have fallen apart. The Lord opens his arms to us all.

MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER - SUNDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Sunday, 20 th September TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>(Collection for Home Missions)</i>	5 pm (Vigil)	Rosemary Emms RIP
	10 am	Veronica & Raymond Brown RIP
Monday, 21 st September ST MATTHEW , Apostle, Evangelist		
Tuesday, 22 nd September		Martha Munnely RIP
Wednesday, 23 rd September St Pio of Pietrelcina, Religious	11 am	Arvi Barbosa RIP
Thursday, 24 th September Our Lady of Walsingham		Carmen's intentions <i>(Foundation Mass)</i>
Friday, 25 th September		Gill Harrison RIP
Saturday, 26 th September		Nobby Rodrigues RIP
Sunday, 27 th September TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	5 pm (Vigil)	Patricia MacMahon RIP
	10 am	Mary & David Ralph's intentions

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND:

Nora Colley, Pat Togher, Bernadette Smeesters, Gerard Tomas, Lya Turner, Charles Livingston, Barbara Turner, Jean Trott, Stefen Griffiths, Nina Aramo, Jo Boase, Julie Thompson, Michael & Joy O'Connell, Carmela Garzia, Kathleen Urban, Helen, Natasha, Marek, Bridget, Maggie Tranter, Jadwiga Wlasak, Anne Rees, Ged & Maureen Murphy, Jackie Hopper, Hilary Cameron, Maureen Hanson, Dick O'Brien, Sisters of St Ann (in Bamenda), Fr Peter's parents, Tess Heenan and Breda Williams.

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 PARISH OFFICE - OPENING HOURS

The Parish Office is open for telephone and email contact only (details on the front of the newsletter). There will be no face-to-face contact, until further notice. Office hours are Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 9 am - 12.30 pm. Please post Mass offerings/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.

HOME VISITS

If you would like *Fr Peter* to visit you at home for Holy Communion, Confession or just a chat, please give your details to *Sheila* in the *Parish Office*.

PUBLIC MASS

Attendance at Mass is by INVITATION ONLY. You MUST register first. Registration is limited to parishioners and those living in our immediate locality. Email communication is preferred, if possible: stjo@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk, or telephone *Anne Dennehy* on 0776 514 6234 (ONLY to register for Mass).

MESSAGE FOR UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

From Sunday, 20th September, there will be Mass on Sunday at 5 pm for students at Our Lady of Peace and Blessed Dominic Baberi. Mass can be booked via our website www.olop.org.uk or by calling 0744 407 9157.

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=ZlpNYlBxbTZSUlJZR3lwSHJRSnhCUT09>, or join by phone: 0330 088 5830 Meeting ID: 655 6366 6322 Password: 085487

SUNDAY OBLIGATION

A reminder that there is still no Sunday obligation. If you or your family are extremely vulnerable, then please do watch Mass from home. Archbishop Vincent Nichols made this request: "Given there is no Sunday obligation, we ask you to consider the possibility of attending Mass on a weekday. This will ease the pressure of numbers for Sunday celebrations and allow a gradual return to the Eucharist for more people".

Many thanks to those who register for Wednesdays to leave the weekend Masses clear for those who have work or commitments during the week.

GDPR STATEMENT

Thank you for registering to join the email group at St Joseph's Parish, Tilehurst. Your privacy is important to us, and we want to communicate with you in a way which has your consent and is in line with data protection law. Your name and contact details are stored in a private document and are only visible to the *Admin Team*. We will use your details only for the purpose of communicating information about *St Joseph's Parish, Tilehurst*. You may withdraw this consent at any time by emailing stjo@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk or any member of the *Admin Team*. The *Admin Team* consists of *St Joseph's Parish Office, Sue & Geoff Collier, Ann Epps and Anne Dennehy*. Please contact the *Admin Team* if you have any questions.

ADDITIONAL MASSES

We are looking into buying a cleaning machine which will make it much easier to clean between Masses and will enable us to schedule more Masses throughout the week.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION/SACRAMENTS

We are discussing First Holy Communion plans for the year ahead. *Please check this newsletter for further updates.*

Our three First Holy Communion Masses for our children from last year will be celebrated on Saturdays 3rd, 10th & 17th October at 11 am; with First Confessions being held on Saturday, 26th September.



St Paul's Catholic Primary School Governing Board FOUNDATION GOVERNOR VACANCY

St Paul's School is actively looking for Two Foundation Governors to join our Governing Board. The Diocese of Portsmouth has produced a Foundation Governor Role Description to assist in your decision to make that step to a Foundation Governor. 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, Rachel Gonzalez* rgonzalez@stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk.

FACE MASKS

It is a legal requirement to wear masks in church by all, school age and above. They must cover nose as well as mouth. This protects others from YOUR germs, even if you don't feel ill.

GOOD COUNSEL NETWORK

On Monday, 28th September, please pray and fast for the end of abortion and euthanasia in this Country. Your prayer and fasting are urgently needed, as last year this country saw the highest number of abortions ever. For details of our live-saving work see www.GoodCounselNetwork.com

SAINT OF THE WEEK - ST MATTHEW - 21ST SEPTEMBER

Little is known about St Matthew. He was known originally as Levi and was the son of Alpheus and was a Tax Collector, a profession despised at the time. Matthew was sitting by the Customs House in Capernaum when Jesus called him to follow him to be one of his Apostles.

Matthew is one of the four Evangelists and wrote his account of the Gospel in Aramaic (the language spoken by Jesus), in the hope that his fellow people would be convinced that Jesus was the Messiah. He died a Martyr's death, but the location is not known, possibly Persia or Ethiopia. He is the Patron Saint of Bankers and Tax Workers.

When I think of St Matthew, I recall to mind a bedtime prayer that was taught to me as a very young child. It dates from the 17th Century. There are many slight variations, but this, I think, is the most popular version:

There are four corners to my bed.
There are four angels around my head.
One to watch and one to pray,
And two to take my soul away.
Matthew, Mark, Luke and John
Bless the bed that I lay on.

St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist, pray for us.
- *Mike*.

VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to volunteer your help in any way, please contact the Parish Office. Without volunteer help, we would not be able to continue to run public Masses.

CONFESSION

Confession is available after every Mass. Please tell the steward when you arrive for Mass that you would like to go to confession afterwards. Confession will take place on the bench in the prayer garden, for now.

COLLECTION FOR 13TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£284.00
Planned Giving (envelopes)	£5.00
Loose Plate	£648.00
Gift Aid (via bank)	£1,338.00
Planned Giving (via bank)	£92.00
Donation	£225.00
Mass Stole Fees	£80.00
Home Mission Sunday	£10.00
TOTAL	£2,682.00
<u>RUNNING TOTALS</u>	
TF3 (CAFOD)	£116.25
TF9 ("On Fire!")	£3,874.77
Clergy Assistance Fund	£169.75
Easter Offering	£463.05
Family Fast Day (CAFOD)	£808.83
Clergy Training Fund	£222.25
Day for Life	£179.94

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS AND DONATIONS

To make any donation to St Joseph's, please see 'Donations' on the home page of our website, or follow this link directly: <http://st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk/upload/newsletter/DonationStJosephsTilehurst.pdf>

SECOND COLLECTIONS

This year, many charities and groups have suspended their appeals because of the coronavirus pandemic. However, a special page is being developed on the Diocesan website to facilitate donations for those who wish. Jo Lewry from CAFOD is keen to remind us that this year CAFOD Harvest Family Fast Day has moved to Friday, 9th October with the weekend for the collection being the 10th & 11th October. She says "During these times when our people and parishes could be struggling, it can be easy to forget our brothers and sisters in the wider and poorest parts of the world." Please do support this appeal and pray for those in need.

There are also three appeals from the Holy Father. The first is for the Holy Places of Palestine. This would normally have been taken on Good Friday, but the Pope postponed it this year to the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, 14th September, and so it is due this week. Then on 4th October weekend, there is the Peter's Pence appeal to support the Holy See, and on 18th October, World Mission Sunday when a collection is to be taken for Missio, the Pontifical Mission Society.

To make things easier we will be developing some online giving pages focused on each of the second collections. The first of which will be available on the website this weekend. *In advance, thank you for your generosity.*

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAYS

The Catholic Fund for Overseas Development is the main catholic charity to fund projects that require immediate support (natural disasters, famine, strife), or to improve lives in impoverished communities, such as water aid projects. Twice a year, we are asked to spend less on our food and give what we save to CAFOD (October and March).

HOLY PLACES

The global Holy Land Collection is taken up in most dioceses around the world on Good Friday. The collection ensures not only that the buildings remain accessible, and maintained, but that local Christians are able to stay in their homeland. Funds gathered support young families, parishes, seminaries, hospitals and clinics, refugees and small businesses.

PETER'S PENCE

This collection goes directly to the Vatican, to fund the work and upkeep – a tangible token of our support for the Pope as successor to St Peter. The practice began under the Saxons in England and spread through Europe.

WORLD MISSIONS

One Sunday each year, the entire global Church supports world mission. All donations from worldwide Masses go entirely to support churches, hospitals, schools and vocations in countries where the Church is new, young or poor.

LIVE STREAMING

Live streamed Masses are scheduled at these times: Saturday at 5 pm (Vigil)/Sunday at 10 am/Wednesday at 11 am. The YouTube link for live Mass from St Joseph's Tilehurst is: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCruCvuFlvKVpml2vvGWdDKQ>

Happy Birthday, Carmen!

We wish Carmen a very Happy 80th Birthday next Thursday, 24th September.
Congratulations & Happy Birthday to you, Carmen! God bless you.