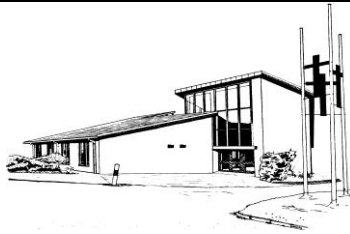


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S, TILEHURST



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

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9 am – 12.30 pm

Safeguarding Representative:

Miriam da Cruz Fernandes

☎ 0118 943 3524

✉ miriam@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk

[TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME \(A\) – 13TH SEPTEMBER 2020](#)

Gospel Mathew 18:21-35

In today's Gospel, when St Peter suggests that we should forgive people if they sin against us "seven times", he is not suggesting just a small number. Seven is the number of totality, so Peter thinks he is saying something profound about always forgiving. We forgive while we live. Christ replies by saying, "Not seven, I tell you, but seventy-seven times", or "seventy times seven" in some translations. This multiplication is because mercy is not just for this life, for the time we have, the time of the seven days, but also for eternity. Eternity is unimaginable but we can think of it as time multiplied by time. The Gospel story of the servant being led to judgement is our story, because if we do not forgive, how can we enter the world of forgiveness, which is heaven?

Christian morality is the morality of heaven. We are not just concerned with how we live with each other on this earth, but with the life of the world to come. The shape of this new world is determined by how we live in this world. It is present, too, in the sacraments, in prayer, in those moments of peace that God alone can give. What really connects us to heaven is mercy. Nothing in Christian thought makes sense without the idea of the forgiveness of sin. The incarnation is for the sake of the forgiveness of sin.

The servant in the Gospel parable is asked to be like God to his fellow servants by forgiving them. It is not just God saying, "I forgave you, therefore you should forgive others", but God saying, "I forgive all human beings, but I wish to forgive some of them through you. Their debt to you is yours and theirs, but the forgiveness is mine. And I want you to be ministers of that forgiveness."

In our world, politics, in essence, is the art of helping people to live together; and since all have sinned and owe each other debts that cannot be repaid, the work of politics should be seen as fundamentally a work of mercy and forgiveness. In offering mercy to the world, Christ has the key to every other good thing in this world. Mercy is not just a medicine to cure the disease of our sin, but is the divine nature, in the particular situation of our world. By sharing in this mercy, we share in the divine nature. We may or may not remember our sins in heaven; but in the vision of God, we would see that mercy is natural to God, and know that God would always offer forgiveness without reserve. Yet there quite simply isn't any forgiveness to those who do not forgive. That would be like trying to breathe in without breathing out. And so, any theory of politics, or philosophy of life, which has no room for mercy has missed the point of life itself and why God made us. Whatever we believe, we are living as God's servants among fellow servants. We are called to friendship with God, which is the fulfilment of service on earth, but we do not become God's friends if we refuse to be friends with each other. Forgiveness cannot be forced on us. God offers it, and we are to offer it with God, but it must be accepted. No one will accept forgiveness who does not want to share it with others. So, it is in forgiving that we are forgiven.

MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 13TH SEPTEMBER – SUNDAY, 20TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Sunday, 13 th September TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>(Collection for Catholic Education Service)</i>	5 pm (Vigil)	Sabino Rato RIP
	10 am	Cyril & Trevor Williams RIP
Monday, 14 th September THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS		
Tuesday, 15 th September Our Lady of Sorrows		Patricia MacMahon RIP
Wednesday, 16 th September Ss Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs	11 am	Patricia MacMahon RIP
Thursday, 17 th September		Norman & Joan Bricker RIP
Friday, 18 th September		Paul Spackman's intentions
Saturday, 19 th September		Patricia MacMahon RIP
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

COLLECTION FOR 6TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£312.00
Planned Giving (envelopes)	£5.00
Loose Plate	£144.05
Gift Aid (via bank)	£650.00
Planned Giving (via bank)	£35.00
Easter Collection	£100.00
Home Mission Sunday	£5.00
TOTAL	£1,251.05
<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>

**HOME MISSION SUNDAY
COLLECTION NEXT WEEK**

Encourages prayer and support for the outreach of the Church. Missio/APF works through local bishops and churches to ensure that collections go directly to those in need.

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.

LIVE STREAMING

Live streamed Masses are scheduled at these times: Saturday at 5 pm (Sunday 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/UCruCvuF_lvKVpmI2vvGWdDKQ

**PLEASE PRAY FOR
THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND:**

Nora Colley, Pat Togher, Bernadette Smeesters, Gerard Tomas, Lya Turner, Charles Livingston, Barbara Turner, Mary Hoban, Jean Trott, Stefen Griffiths, Nina Aramo, Jo Boase, Julie Thompson, Michael & Joy O'Connell, Carmela Garzia, Kathleen Urban, Helen, Natasha, Marek, Bridget, Iga, 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*.

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.

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*.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH OFFICE **- OPENING HOURS**

The Parish Office is open for telephone and email contact only. There will be no face-to-face contact, until further notice. Office hours are Tuesdays, Thursdays & Fridays from 9 am - 12.30 pm. Please telephone: 0118 942 8632, email: sjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk, or drop Mass offerings/correspondence through the Presbytery letterbox.

You are welcome to email or telephone *Sheila* in the *Parish Office* if you would like *Fr Peter* to say a Mass, or if you have anything to include in the newsletter.

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 with 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.

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.

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.

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.

The wearing of face masks is now obligatory in shops, on public transport and in other social settings. Our diocesan guidance has encouraged the wearing of face coverings especially if it has not been possible to maintain a two-metre distance. However, government advice has now made this compulsory. As the Prime Minister said, the wearing of face coverings is necessary in "indoor settings where you're likely to come into contact with people you do not normally meet" including cinemas, museums and galleries. "We now recommend face coverings are worn in these settings."

In response, let us work to make our churches truly safe. This will also help each one of us to feel more secure when attending Mass. I know that many have been following Mass online and, recognising their hunger and thirst for God, have found all sorts of new ways to be close to the Lord. But online is not the same as 'in line', and being there. It's not the same as actually receiving Jesus in Holy Communion. It's not the same as participating in the eucharistic community. The sacraments are central to our faith. If it means wearing a face mask, then that is surely a small price to pay in return for meeting our Lord and Master Jesus Christ and receiving His grace in the holy sacraments.

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.

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=ZlpNYlBxbTZSUIjZR3lwSHjRSnhCUT09>, or join by phone: 0330 088 5830 Meeting ID: 655 6366 6322 Password: 085487

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).

FEAST OF THE WEEK OUR LADY OF SORROWS

On Tuesday, we celebrate the memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows. Many of our senior parishioners will know its original title, i.e. The Seven Sorrows (or Dolours) of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The feast was originally celebrated on the Friday before Good Friday in what was known as Passion Week.

I suspect many people these days link Mary's Sorrows just to the events of Good Friday when in fact only four are. The Seven Sorrows are:

- 1) The Prophecy of Simeon
- 2) The Flight into Egypt
- 3) The loss of Jesus for three days
- 4) Mary meeting Jesus carrying His cross
- 5) Mary standing beneath the Cross on Calvary
- 6) Mary receiving the Sacred Body of Jesus taken down from the cross
- 7) Mary witnessing the burial of Jesus

The rosary of the Seven Sorrows consists of one Our Father and seven Hail Marys after each one. *Mike.*

**Pray for us O most sorrowful Virgin,
That we may be made worthy of the
Promises of Christ.
*Amen.***



**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.

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. 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. Ideally, we are looking for people that can bring the following skills to the board:

- Finance, Accounting and Budgeting
- Educational background.

The Diocese of Portsmouth has produced a Foundation Governor Role Description which is issued along with this advertisement 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.