

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

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TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) - 17TH/18TH OCTOBER 2020

Gospel Matthew 22:15-21

John was critically ill. His parents, Titus and Blessing, unable to prevent a dog biting him, recognised that he needed urgent medical help and walked for two days to the hospital, carrying John on their backs for the entire distance. People saw John's symptoms of rabies and avoided the family in the isolated African fishing villages through which they trekked.

Many mission hospitals cannot afford to keep anti-rabies vaccine on standby in case of need. It's expensive and must be kept cool, a real problem in places with uncertain or non-existent electricity. The Sisters at the hospital tried to contact other medical facilities within a range of several hundred miles. Some could only be reached via a walkie-talkie radio. With John's condition rapidly deteriorating, the situation was increasingly desperate. At last, a distant Salvation Army hospital responded via the radio. They would give John their only dose of vaccine. To send it by road would take at least eight hours. Instead, they had contacted a Lutheran volunteer pilot with Mission Medic-Air. He would fly the vaccine to the mission hospital if someone could meet the six-seater plane in two hours' time. Blessing sat, ignoring the risks to herself, with John on her knee, refusing to let go of her child. Sadly, it was too late and John died even as one of the Sisters prepared the injection which, a few hours earlier, might have saved his life.

In today's Gospel, Jesus' enemies tried to trap him with a clever question about whether or not to pay taxes. Whichever answer he gave could lead to his ultimate downfall. The Pharisees and Herodians were not concerned about the legitimacy of taxation: they just wanted to get rid of Jesus, who was "not one of us". Likewise, they saw the Romans as "them" and not "us": foreigners with a different language, way of life and religious beliefs. There was an unbridgeable divide: "they" could never be the same as "us". True, the Romans had occupied Israel and had created their own "them and us" situation which fostered hatred and dissent rather than respect and unity, but Jesus' questioners had no intention of healing the divisions between the two peoples. They were unprepared for Jesus' suggestion that the only conflict of interests lay in their own hearts.

Today is World Mission Sunday, when Catholics across the world unite in praying for and supporting the Church in countries where it is new or young. "Mission" is not about a "them and us" situation. That Saturday afternoon, as Catholic Sisters tried to obtain anti-rabies vaccine for a sick child, the Salvation Army willingly donated all they had; the Lutheran pilot gave up his day off to fly several hundred miles. Three Christian denominations and people of several nationalities did all that they could to help one little boy. Ignoring their many differences, everyone concerned was "us" – including a family whom neither the pilot nor the Salvation Army team would ever know.

Pope Francis told a true story: "It happened here in Rome that a homeless man had an abdominal pain... he went to a priest; the priest saw him and was moved. He said: 'I'll take you to the hospital but I want you to do me a favour. When I start explaining what you have, act like you're fainting'... He did well because it was peritonitis. If he had gone alone, he would have been discarded, and he would have died." World Mission Sunday is about forgetting differences and, instead, coming together. Jesus' challengers could not look beyond "them and us". The Pharisees discarded the Romans and Jesus because they were "them" and not "us". Jesus reminds us to look inside our hearts. World Mission Sunday tells us that, as Christians, there is no such thing as "them and us". *We discard nobody.*

MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 18TH OCTOBER – SUNDAY, 25TH OCTOBER 2020

Sunday, 18 th October TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	5 pm (Vigil)	Sean Murphy RIP
	8.30 am	Peggy Hodgkinson's intentions
	11 am	Patricia MacMahon RIP
Monday, 19 th October	NO MASS	
Tuesday, 20 th October	12 noon	John Donohoe RIP
Wednesday, 21 st October	11 am	Stephen Hill RIP
Thursday, 22 nd October		Rosemary Emms RIP
Friday, 23 rd October		Maurice O'Brien RIP
Saturday, 24 th October		People of the Parish
Sunday, 25 th October THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	5 pm (Vigil)	Karine & Stefen Griffiths' intentions (20 th Wedding Anniversary)
	8.30 am	Mick Joyce RIP
	11 am	Patricia MacMahon RIP

**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, 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, Caroline Hurst and Kevin Keep.

If you would like to add a name to this list, or if you have any queries, please contact *Sheila* in the *Parish Office*.

BREDA WILLIAMS RIP

The parish offers condolences to the family of Breda Williams who died recently. Breda's Funeral Mass will take place here at St Joseph's on Monday, 26th October at 10.30 am, *by invitation only*, followed by 12.15 pm at Henley Road Crematorium. Please pray for the repose of Breda's soul. *May she rest in peace.*

**SVP APPEAL - MEN'S WARM CLOTHES
ON SATURDAY, 17TH OCTOBER**

CIRDIC has appealed to us to donate warm clothes for the homeless men they serve. They need warm sweaters, coats, shirts and T-shirts, trousers, underwear and socks. SVP will organise a collection in the church car park from 2 – 3 pm. *Thank you in advance for your donations.*

LIVE STREAMING

Live streamed Masses are scheduled at these times: Tuesday 12 noon, Wednesday 11 am, Saturday 5 pm (Vigil), Sunday 8.30 am & 11 am. The YouTube link for live Mass from St Joseph's Tilehurst is:
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCruCvuFlvKVpmI2vvGWdDKQ>

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

The office is open for telephone and email contact only. There is no face-to-face contact, *until further notice*. Office hours are Tuesdays, 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.

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.



Reminder: Next weekend, clocks go back one hour!

FEELING UNWELL?

If you feel unwell, please do not attend Mass. If possible, please let us know so that we can inform the stewards that you are unable to attend. If you become unwell with any COVID19 symptoms within 3 days of visiting St Joseph's, please contact us immediately, so that we can follow the necessary procedures.

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=ZlpNYlBxbTZSUIJR3lwSHJRSnhCUT09>, or join by phone: 0330 088 5830 Meeting ID: 655 6366 6322 Password: 085487

KEEP WARM AT MASS

As the weather changes, please wear warmer clothing when you come to Mass. We are still advised to keep windows open during Mass to reduce risk of spreading infection from COVID19.

SUNDAY OBLIGATION

There is still no Sunday obligation: If you are extremely vulnerable, then please pray the Mass with us 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, so that the weekend Masses are available for those with work or commitments during the week.

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.

VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to volunteer your help in any way, please contact the Parish Office. We welcome offers to read and/or steward at Mass. We would appreciate more offers of help for cleaning. Perhaps there is a couple, or family, who could offer to clean once/week between Masses? With the addition of new Mass times, some of our volunteers are now helping twice a week because we don't have enough volunteers. *Please help!*

TRACK AND TRACE: QR CODE

The government has launched a Track and Trace App. A QR Code poster is displayed in the church porch. If you have a smartphone, please download the NHS COVID-19 app from the App Store or Google Play Store. When you arrive at church, open the App, select 'Venue Check In', and scan the QR Code to register your details with the Track and Trace programme. Do this anywhere which displays a QR Code poster. If you have COVID19 symptoms, immediately fill them in on the App so that an alert is sent to those you have been in contact with.

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, *weather-permitting*.

FOGGER/SPRAYING MACHINE

We have purchased a new 'fogger' spraying machine to allow us to clean quickly between services. We are grateful to any Mass attendees who would like to donate towards the cost of this machine - perhaps just an extra £1 in the bucket as you leave Mass.

ST PAUL'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS - SEPTEMBER 2021

If your child, or you know of a child who will be starting school in September 2021, then they should be filling out their Council Application form and a new 2021 Supplementary Information Form for St Paul's. 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 website and the school office is happy to answer any other questions www.stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk

ADDITIONAL SATURDAY MORNING MASS

From 31st October, we are introducing an additional Mass on Saturday at 10 am.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THIS WEEKEND'S FIRST HOLY COMMUNICANTS!

A big **THANK YOU** to the children, to their parents and the team of catechists who prepared the children, and to all involved in preparing the Church and the Liturgy for our beautiful celebration:

Tony Chacko	Tiberius Giles
Charlie Gollop	Gabriel Goon
Eva Sebastian	Mylo Green
Annabel Olejarova	Ollie Togher
Jason Hobden	Henry Thomas
Neelix Giles	

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>

COLLECTION FOR 11TH OCTOBER 2020

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£634.00
Planned Giving (envelopes)	£10.00
Loose Plate	£427.68
Gift Aid (via bank)	£650.00
Planned Giving (via bank)	£35.00
CAFOD Harvest Fast Day	£20.00
Mass Stole Fees	£220.00
Home Mission Sunday	£21.00
(TF10) CAFOD Covid Appeal	£90.00
TOTAL	£2,107.68
<u>RUNNING TOTALS</u>	
TF3 (CAFOD)	£116.25
TF9 ("On Fire!")	£3,874.77
(TF10) CAFOD Covid Appeal	£96.25
Home Mission Sunday	£119.75
Family Fast Day (CAFOD)	£808.83

TODAY IS WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

World Mission Sunday supports missionaries who work alongside communities that are poor or in need, regardless of their background or belief. By supporting Missio, the Pope's charity for world mission, you will help missionaries share the love of Christ with those most in need. Please pray for the mission of the church throughout the world, and give what you can to this very important collection, which will sustain the future of our Church.

Like every charity, the pandemic has resulted in dramatic loss of revenue for Missio. Please call 020 7821 9755 (9 am – 5 pm), or visit Missio's website - missio.org.uk, to give a single gift or to set up a direct debit, Gift Aided if possible. A large proportion of Missio's income comes from the Red Boxes. Boxholders are asked to empty their own boxes this year, writing a cheque, payable to Missio, which they can post through the parish letterbox, or hand to me. Many thanks.
Mike Tomas, APF Secretary -0770 803 2743.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF UNBORN CHILDREN

We have been invited to join SPUC's national pro-life chain on Saturday, 24th October, to mark the 53rd anniversary of the passing of the Abortion Act in October 1967. We will be standing with placards along a section of London Road, Reading, 2 metres distanced and with the knowledge of the police. Time: 10 am - 12 noon. Participants can stay for the first or second hour, or both. For more details, including where to meet, please telephone *Martin Martinez, Chairman of SPUC Reading branch, on 07436 018 688.*

BACK 2 BASICS

- SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSION)

The FFM team have created an online group input that will help all adults wanting to know more about their faith, especially parents whose children are preparing for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. We will be looking at this sacrament using artwork, group activities and discussion, and offer an introduction to Catholic morality, looking at topics such as the dignity of the human person, grace, sin, freedom, conscience, human happiness, and the call to holiness. This online course is open to everyone: all adults, parents, grandparents and catechists. The Back2Basics Reconciliation will be presented **this November, every Monday from 7 pm - 9 pm.** We will finish each session with a time of prayer, with the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph. To Register for this course:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZArcuusrDkuH91xaOhE8B_Kzyj2Q3yGpk7V

SAINT OF THE WEEK

ST JOHN PAUL II - 22ND OCTOBER

The life and times and achievements of Pope St John Paul are well known, so I thought I would give you some lesser known facts about him.

- 1) He was the first non-Italian Pope for 455 years, was the youngest since 1846 and wasn't even the most senior Cardinal in Poland when elected.
- 2) What is not widely known (which I have on very good authority), is that he disappeared briefly after the election, allegedly to a bar.
- 3) His tenure was the third longest (26 years). St Peter served for 37 years and Pius IX served for 31.
- 4) Most saints feast days are on the date of their deaths; St John Paul's is on the date of his installation. He died in April 2005, and his anniversary would have clashed with Lent or Eastertide, so 22nd October was the date chosen.
- 5) He had a fantastic memory, and could remember the names of the 2000+ bishops worldwide.
- 6) He was the first Pope to visit the White House and the first Pope to set foot inside a mosque (in Damascus).
- 7) In 1947, he visited Padre Pio who heard his confession. Fifty-five years later, Pope John Paul canonized him.
- 8) He enjoyed skiing and continued to do so until he was 73 years old.
- 9) He enjoyed a glass of beer - with his breakfast.
- 10) Every Pope has a Papal coat of arms. John Paul's has a gold letter M in the bottom right-hand corner signifying his devotion to The Blessed Virgin Mary. When his heraldic adviser told him that having letters on a coat of arms wasn't really appropriate, John Paul politely replied that he was the Pope and he would have what he wanted. Pope Saint John Paul - pray for us. *Mike.*