

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

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TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (A) – 27TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Gospel - Matthew 21:28-32

Tom Holland is a popular English historian. In his adolescence, he was a lukewarm Christian who preferred the stories about Romans and Greeks to those of Israel and the early Christians. He wrote bestselling books about Julius Caesar and Alexander. In a 2019 book called *Dominion*, he recalls that after twenty years of study of the ancient world he found their values alien. He came to realise that his deepest values and those of Western society had been inherited from Christianity; and that at the heart of those values was the cross. It made God seem closer to those who were weak than those who were mighty. It was a scandal.

St Paul was also scandalised by this audacious claim of a crucified saviour, and was determined to persecute this blaspheming sect, the follower of Jesus Christ. And yet years later, St Paul was to write, “to shame what is strong... [God] chose what is weak”.

On his way to Damascus, Paul, the zealous Pharisee, encountered the risen and crucified Christ. He had to choose: either the Jewish law or the risen Lord. Paul was overwhelmed by God's grace and turned to Christ. He had to re-think all his views. He understood now that the God who had freed Moses from slavery in Egypt and brought the Jews out of their prison of exile had gone even further and been willing in Jesus, God's Son, to suffer the degrading death of the cross. Paul was astonished that God could reveal such amazing love.

And instead of being ashamed of the cross, he puts it in the centre of his Gospel. When he writes to his congregation at Philippi in today's Second Reading, *Philippians 2:1-11*, he wants to touch their hearts to make them more loving to each other. How can he change them? He recites a beautiful hymn, which tells the story of Jesus' divine love: how Jesus did not cling to his status as divine Son but in the incarnation humbly took on our human condition and was willing to face death. And not just any death but the terrible punishment meted out to slaves – crucifixion. Jesus plumbed the depths of human suffering, and his Father answered his prayer by raising him up to eternal life, so that the whole of creation recognised him as Lord. Paul tells his congregation to steep themselves in this story so that their hearts are touched by this divine love, and they imitate Jesus and think like him.

Tom Holland came to realise that our Western society was based on Christian values, although most people do not recognise it. Such prized beliefs as the equal intrinsic worth of all human beings and the inherent dignity of the individual person depend on a crucified and risen Christ, and St Paul drew out the implications of such divine love for his congregations. Many people today do not realise what an outrageous claim was being made in a Roman Empire where power and status were supreme. Now God showed compassion for outcasts; poor people were closer to God than those who were rich: “the last will be first, and the first, last”. It is not surprising, then, in today's Gospel, that the tax collectors and the prostitutes are drawn by Christ's strange love before the religious leaders.

Historians can help us to see the past in fresh ways. If Christianity and its values are to survive in the West, then it will need communities like those of St Paul to respond to the demanding but amazing love revealed in Jesus' crucifixion. We are called to overcome our profound divisions and hatreds by letting our hearts and minds be filled with the power of his divine humility; and to ask that God may give us the mind of Christ.

MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 27TH SEPTEMBER – SUNDAY, 4TH OCTOBER 2020

Sunday, 27 th September TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	5 pm (Vigil)	Patricia MacMahon RIP
	10 am	Mary & David Ralph's intentions
Monday, 28 th September	NO MASS	
Tuesday, 29 th September THE HOLY ARCHANGELS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL , feast		Fr Peter and St Joseph's parishioners
Wednesday, 30 th September St Jerome , Priest, Doctor of the Church	11 am	Harry & Mick McSoley RIP
Thursday, 1 st October St Teresa of the Child Jesus , Religious, Doctor of the Church		Margaret & Charles Tinsley RIP
Friday, 2 nd October The Holy Guardian Angels		Harry McSoley RIP
Saturday, 3 rd October	11 am (FHC Mass)	Mary Pickup RIP
Sunday, 4 th October TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	5 pm (Vigil)	Harry McSoley RIP
	8.30 am	Mary Pickup RIP
	11 am	Anne Morris 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, 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 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 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 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.

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

Please note that 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 the Parish Office

CONTACT DETAILS

If you are a parishioner and are registered for Mass, you should expect to receive an invitation at least once every other week. If you have registered, but have never received an invitation, please us contact to ensure we have your correct contact details. *Thank you.*

READING UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Message from The Catholic Society of the University: New students are invited to join fellow students at the 5 pm Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church. This is the perfect opportunity to praise God alongside other students, as well as connecting with them before or after Mass. Please book Mass on the parish website www.olo.org.uk.

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 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.

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.

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.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE

For full details and to sign up, see our website at 40daysforlife.com/reading-2, or contact *Martin* at 40daysforlifereading@gmail.com or on 0743 601 8688.

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.

OCTOBER ROSARY MISSION ROSARY WHIRLWIND BRITISH ISLES

As a start, perhaps put the nightly 8 pm Rosary, October 13th, October 31st & November 1st & 2nd in your diaries, for this is to be a much-needed, intensive Mission. What amazing grace it would be if someone or a group from every parish throughout England, Wales, Scotland and our Isles signed up! Our Lady of the Rosary needs your help - United in prayer with Our Lady of the Rosary. The Sign-Up Map for October 13th Rosary Whirlwind British Isles is at www.rosaryonthecoast.co.uk. Updates are on the Walsingham Facebook page and Rosary on the Coast Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/WalsinghamBlog>
<https://www.facebook.com/rosaryonthecoast/>
Antonia Moffatt - Outreach Coordinator - The Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady, Walsingham.

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/UCruCvuFlvKVpmI2vvGWdDKQ>

THANK YOU!

Thank you to Fr Peter and all in St Joseph's parish for your prayers and gifts for my 80th Birthday. God bless. *Carmen.*

READERS

We would love to have more readers on our rota, particularly when we add additional Masses. If you are willing to read at Mass, please let us know.

WELCOME!

Congratulations and welcome to Aura who celebrates her First Holy Communion and Confirmation this weekend. We also welcome Joanna, Paul, Adam and Alan who are to be received into the church. *May God bless you all!*

COLLECTION FOR 20TH SEPTEMBER 2020

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£96.00
Planned Giving (envelopes)	£10.00
Loose Plate	£117.20
Repository	£39.90
Mass Stole Fees	£50.00
Home Mission Sunday	£60.00
TOTAL	£373.10
<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
Home Mission Sunday	£93.50

SECOND COLLECTIONS

This year, many charities and groups have suspended their appeals because of the coronavirus pandemic. However, a special page is available 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. On 10th & 11th October, our parish is marking CAFOD's Family Fast Day to help people facing the worst of the coronavirus crisis. We've all felt the impact of this terrible disease. Let's come together to help the poorest and most vulnerable people in the world survive, rebuild and heal. Please pray for all those affected, and donate online at cafod.org.uk/give, or by using one of the envelopes and putting it in the collection basket or send it direct to CAFOD. You can also give easily via text. Text CAFOD to 70085 to donate £10. Texts cost £10, plus one standard rate message and you'll be opting in to hear more about our work and fundraising via telephone and SMS. If you'd like to give £10, but do not wish to receive marketing communications, text CAFODNOINFO to 70085. Please do support this appeal and pray for those in need.

There are also two further appeals from the Holy Father: On 3rd/4th October, 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 have developed some online giving pages focused on each of the second collections. *In advance, thank you for your generosity.*

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>

SAINT OF THE WEEK

ST THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS (THERESA OF LISIEUX) - 1ST OCTOBER

Born in 1873, Therese Martin was a stubborn, little girl who experienced a profound conversion at the age of thirteen. Two years later, she felt that God was calling her to enter a local Carmelite order. After initially being refused, her persistence finally persuaded her Bishop to allow her to become a nun. She followed her two elder sisters into the Order. Such was the influence of her spiritual writings, she was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope St John Paul II in 1997. She is only one of four female Doctors of the Church - the other three are: Saints Teresa of Avila; Catherine of Siena and Hildegard of Birgin. Her autobiography, *Story of a Soul*, is a spiritual classic and one of the most beautiful autobiographies ever written. Therese wrote it out of obedience to her Mother Superior, Agnes of Jesus, who was also her elder sister, Pauline. Therese died at the very young age of twenty-four, from tuberculosis. She is Patron of the Missions and, with St Joan of Arc, Co-Protectress of France. St Therese of Lisieux - Pray for us. *Mike*.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC MASSES IN OCTOBER

From 4th October, we are adding an additional Mass on Sunday. **New Mass times on Sundays will be at 8.30 am and 11 am.** 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.

KEEP WARM AT MASS

As the weather changes, please wear warmer clothing when you come to Mass. We are still advised to keep windows and doors open during Mass to reduce risk of spreading infection from COVID19. Thank-you to Richard Epps has very kindly fitted a small porch over the Fire Exit by the organ to minimize rain coming in.

HOLY COMMUNION

From Wednesday, 30th September, we will return to receiving Holy Communion at the usual time during the Mass. Mass attendees are asked to watch the stewards carefully to know when to come forward, and how to safely return to your own pew.