Catholic Diocese of
PORTSMOUTH

CHRIST THE REDEEMER PASTORAL AREA
St Joseph's | Christ the King | St John Bosco |
English Martyrs | St James & St William of York



St Joseph's Church
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. 1199568
Priest in charge: Fr Henry Jan Nkop MSP
✉ *hnkop@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk*

Parish Secretary: Sheila Jones
Parish Office hours: 9 am – 12.30 pm
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

Safeguarding Representatives:
Miriam da Cruz Fernandes & Muriel Fernandes
✉ *safeguarding.reajo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk*

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 29TH NOVEMBER 2026

Saturday, 28th November **Our Lady on Saturday**	9 am	Rosary & Exposition
	10 am	Renata's private intention
	10.30 am	Confessions
	5 pm Vigil	David Dye RIP *(Foundation Mass)*
Sunday, 29th November **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT** LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS & FEASTS: Year **B**	8.30 am	John Herbert RIP
	*10.30 am	John Horkan RIP
Monday, 30th November **ST ANDREW**, Apostle	10 am	Deceased members of the parish (7 of 7)
Tuesday, 1st December **of the 1st Week of Advent**	10 am	P O Joseph RIP
Wednesday, 2nd December **of the 1st Week of Advent**	9.30 am	Cedric Wilson RIP
Thursday, 3rd December **St Francis Xavier**, Priest	NO MASS	
Friday, 4th December **St John Damascene**, Priest, Doctor	6 pm	First Friday Devotion
	7 pm	MSP Benefactors
Saturday, 5th December **of the 1st Week of Advent**	9 am	Rosary & Exposition
	10 am	In Thanksgiving
	10.30 am	Confessions
	5 pm Vigil	Steven McCreight RIP
Sunday, 6th December **SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT**	8.30 am	Artemio Ojeda RIP
	*10.30 am	Slawomir Wruszczak RIP

**Please note only 10.30 am Sunday Mass and special Masses are: *https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCruCvuFlvKVpmI2vvGWdDKQ*

VOCATION PROMOTION VISIT – 5TH/6TH DECEMBER: CANON JOHN COOKE

Have you asked yourself who is responsible for 'finding' your next priest? Is it down to Archbishop Richard Moth, Bishop Philp or maybe even a task for Fr Henry to plan for his own succession? It may surprise you to realise that the duty of fostering and supporting vocations lies with the whole Christian community. Whilst it is important that each one of us comes to a realisation of our own personal vocation through God's plan for each one of us; our call to holiness and discipleship in Jesus' name - it is good to focus on the need for priestly vocations in our Diocese. I hope that our visit to you highlighting vocations will be memorable, that it stirs up a fresh enthusiasm in the parish for praying for vocations, for actively encouraging vocations and for being open to the possibility of exploring a God-given call. And who knows, it may be the start of a journey towards the priesthood for one of your parish members sat in the pews this weekend. We can all play a part in God's Divine plan because the Holy Spirit works through each one of us.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS: 21ST/22ND NOVEMBER 2026

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£213.50
Planned Giving (envelopes)	£41.00
Loose Plate	£490.70
TOTAL	**£745.20**

Donate to our parish by bank transfer thus avoiding admin fees: A/C Name: CDP Reading St Joseph. Sort Code: 30–93–04. Account No. 00885992.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Your offerings at Christmas are for the personal use of the priest serving the parish. Please use your marked box of envelopes, the card reader, or put an offering into any envelope and mark it for *Fr Henry*. The link to the Clergy Christmas Collection fundraising page for our parish is as follows: https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/reading-st-joseph-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2026 *(admin fee incurred)*.

†

R.I.P.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:

Adelina O'Connor: Lina's Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 am on Friday, 11th December followed by burial at Henley Road Cemetery. No flowers please. Donations to SVP. *All are welcome.*

Patrizia Chessell: Patrizia's Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 11 am on Friday, 18th December. *All are welcome.*

We pray that their gentle souls may rest in peace.

The SVP Christmas Lunch has been cancelled.

🎄 RAFFLE TICKETS 🎄

Please return all unused raffle tickets, stubs and money ASAP. Drop them into the Parish Office letterbox or bring them to the small hall next Saturday, 5th December between 10 am - Midday.

🎄 CHRISTMAS FAIR 🎄

Donations can be brought to the small hall on Saturday, 5th December between 10am - Midday. Baked goods can be brought directly to the fair on Sunday.

There will also be a Silent Auction at the fair. The items to bid for are: Daewoo Sky Blue Kettle, Tefal Avanti Classic Kettle, Sipsmith Sloe Gin, Chivas Regal Blended Scotch Whisky, Water Guns Set, Sensio Foot Spa, Kurls Salon: Blow Dry, Salon16: Wash and Cut. Please promote our fundraiser to friends and family. *We hope to see you next Sunday at the fair!*

🎄 Donations Needed 🎄

Bottles (alcohol, soft drinks, shampoo etc)
Puzzles and very good quality books
Tombola, Gift items, Candles, Soaps
Hats, scarves, gloves, shawls, bags
Homemade gifts/decorations
Festive baked goods such as mince pies, brownies, stollen, yule logs,
fruit cake, gingerbread

!!CHRISTMAS CARDS, CANDLES & CALENDARS ON SALE NOW AT THE REPOSITORY!!

🎄 CHRISTMAS TREE APPEAL 🎄

Is there a lovely person or family in our parish who would like to provide and decorate the church Christmas tree? The parishioners who have been happily doing this for quite a while feel that the time has come to step back and would be grateful to hand over to younger people if possible! If you like the idea of joining in to get the church ready for Christmas, please contact the Parish Office for more details. *Many thanks.*

NOVEMBER – ALL SOULS

The 10 am Mass on Monday, 30th November will be offered for our departed loved ones. There is a basket in front of the Altar to receive the names of your departed loved ones. Please place your intention and offering in the basket before the beginning of Mass.

PARISH RETREAT

A Day of Recollection here at St Joseph's on Saturday, 12th December beginning with Mass at 10 am, followed by retreat until 3 pm in the large hall. Bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided. All are welcome. *Donations towards costs will be gratefully received.*

POSADA

Our Posada (Travelling Crib) will start its journey around the parish on the First Sunday of Advent, 29th November. If you would like to host Mary and Joseph for a night during Advent, please sign the rota, available in the church porch.



There are no further ADoRE meetings planned. We will review in the new year.

OPPORTUNITIES DURING ADVENT FOR CONFESSIONS IN OUR PASTORAL AREA

- **St Joseph's:** Penitential Service on Wednesday, 16th December beginning at 6.30 pm, with individual confessions at 7 pm.
- **Christ the King:** 18th December from 7 pm
- **Our Lady of Peace:** Before and after morning Mass, and 5 – 6 pm on 17th & 18th. Also on 19th from 10 am.
- **English Martyrs:** 19th December – Penitential Service at 9.45 am, confessions 10.10 am
- **St James:** 5 – 6 pm Saturdays
- **St John Bosco:** 14th & 16th from 5 – 7 pm.

Please plan ahead!

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Gerard, Charles, Stefen, Nina, Julie, Pauline, Babs, Maggie, Mike, Brigid, Adrian, Veronica, Dan and Joe, Helen, Tommy, Liz, Lina, Anna, Pat, Cameron.

ST JOSEPH'S BABY & TODDLER GROUP

Thursdays | 8.45 – 11.30 am | large hall | term-time only. *All are welcome.*



St Vincent de Paul Society
England and Wales
Turning Concern into Action

Donations can be made directly to our bank account: Saint Vincent de Paul, Sort Code 60-60-04, Account No. 46075070, via the card reader machine or by completing a Standing Order form, available at the back of the church. Thank you for your generosity. SVP President: *Rita Boyce* *ritaur@yahoo.co.uk* **DRIVERS:** The SVP urgently needs volunteer drivers (men or women) for food centre deliveries in the Reading area. An estate car/small van would be ideal. Membership of the SVP is not required. For more details, please contact *Jack Ewins, SVP Treasurer – 0773 449 9190*.

TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK

We are supporting approximately 45 households, weekly, with food and household products, many thanks to your very generous donations. This week we are short of tinned corned beef, spam, hotdogs, meatballs and mackerel, pot noodles, long life juice, long life milk, sugar, toothpaste, shampoo and washing up liquid. Financial donations can be made to CDP Reading St Joseph. Sort Code: 30-93-04. Account No: 00885992. Please include as a reference, 'Foodbank'. *Many thanks.*

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS: GIVE A GIFT OF HOPE THIS CHRISTMAS

World Gifts
Gifts that make a difference

In Advent, let's share the promise of hope that has been made to us with our sisters and brothers around the world. You can buy CAFOD's World Gifts for family and friends this Christmas online at https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/ or pick up a catalogue available in the church porch.

CAFOD'S ONLINE ADVENT CALENDAR 2026

Our online Advent calendar of daily prayer and reflection will offer an opportunity to pause, reflect, pray and take action as we prepare for Christmas. Join us as we journey through the season of Advent with our global family: Advent calendar for children



RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (R.C.I.A.)

Thinking about becoming a Catholic? Sessions run from September - Easter. If you would like to find out more, please give your contact details to the Parish Office.

APF/MISSIO



The box emptying deadline is 15th December. The autumn magazines are available at the back of the church. *Mike Tomas, APf/Missio Secretary - 0770 803 2743.*

"Be on guard! Keep awake! For you do not know when the time will come." Advent begins with Christ's call to remain watchful and attentive. God's call is first heard when we learn to recognize His voice amid the distractions of daily life. Could the Lord be inviting you to consider priesthood or consecrated life, serving His people with a generous heart? Stay awake to His call through prayer, Eucharistic Adoration, and time with Scripture. Talk to your priest or contact *Cn. John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk* or call *0132 931 8869.*

MOTHER'S PRAYERS

We meet after 7 pm Mass on Fridays to pray for our families. Please speak to Aline *Phillips* for more information, or just come along: https://www.mothersprayers.org

CURRENT JOB VACANCIES

Please click the link to access current job vacancies across the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Careers - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth

VOICES OF HOPE

An Advent retreat: Join the open online retreat on the Sundays of Advent (29th November – 20th December, 7 pm – 8.15 pm), live on Zoom and recorded so you can catch up at any time. It is completely free to join; an optional donation supports the work. Offered by the Centre for Applied Carmelite Spirituality. Details and registration: https://cacs.org.uk/voices-of-hope/

CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday, 5th December | 11 am – 1 pm | English Martyrs Church Hall, Liebenrood Road, RG30 2EB. Admission free. Stalls take cash only.

THANK YOU!

Della and Mike Keep would like to thank Fr Henry and everyone at St Joseph's for the kindness, love and support they have given since they lost Kevin. *May God bless you all.*

A MESSAGE FROM FR JOHN NELSON AND THE FUNDRAISING TEAM

Thank you for your generosity to the Priest's Retirement Fund. Looking after our retired priests is an important way we can support our wider church family, and we are grateful for your support. To find out more about the fund, visit https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work/priests-retirement-fund-2/ If you missed the opportunity to donate, you can still do so by scanning the QR code.

ST JOSEPH'S HOLY SPIRIT PRAYER GROUP

Every first and third Tuesday | small room at the back of church | 7 – 9 pm. *Everyone is welcome.*

For further information about St Paul's Primary School Open Day on 8th December at 9 am, please contact the School Office on *0118 942 2003*, or speak to *Michael Robinson after 10.30 am Mass.*

RELATIVES IN HOSPITAL?



It is crucially important that when a Catholic is admitted to hospital, the family ensure that the Catholic Chaplaincy is contacted so that appropriate support can be given. One suggestion is that the patient carries a note to give to hospital staff on admission notifying staff that they are Catholic and that they would really appreciate the Catholic chaplaincy service. This could be followed up by a call from the family to the ward, making the request. Hospital staff are often under immense pressure and a person's religious details and requests may be overlooked. Let us pray for all the medical staff who are caring for the sick – and also for our magnificent chaplains in their irreplaceable work. Let us pray too that no Catholic dies without the sacramental care of Mother Church. *[Image: Royal Berkshire NHS]*



