

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, 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>

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth - Registered Charity No. 1199568

Priest in Charge: Fr Jude Mbonu ✉ fatherjude@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Sheila Jones

Parish Office hours: 9 am – 12.30 pm
Tuesday, Thursday & Friday

**Safeguarding Representative:
Miriam da Cruz Fernandes**

☎ 0118 943 3524

✉ miriam@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 3RD DECEMBER 2023 (YEAR B)

MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 3RD DECEMBER - SUNDAY, 10TH DECEMBER

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|---|----------------|------------------------|
| Sunday, 3 rd December FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT <u>LECTIONARY FOR SUNDAYS & FEASTS: Year B</u> | 5 pm (Vigil) | Donal English RIP |
| | 8.30 am | Frank Jennings RIP |
| | 10.30 am | Donal English RIP |
| Monday, 4 th December of the 1st Week of Advent | | |
| Tuesday, 5 th December of the 1st Week of Advent | | |
| Wednesday, 6 th December of the 1st Week of Advent | | |
| Thursday, 7 th December of the 1 st Week of Advent St Ambrose , Bishop, Doctor of the Church | | |
| Friday, 8 th December THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY | 7.30 pm | Carmen's intentions |
| Saturday, 9 th December of the 1st Week of Advent | | |
| Sunday, 10 th December SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT | 5 pm (Vigil) | Sr Mary O'Sullivan RIP |
| | 8.30 am | Frank Jennings RIP |
| | 10.30 am | Mariamamma Cherian RIP |
| | 5 pm | Syro Malabar |

* Please note that services are live streamed: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCruCvuFlvKVpmI2vvGWdDKQ> *

Advent Penitential Service: Tuesday, 12th December @ 6.30 pm

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| Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 9 am on Saturdays + Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament. <i>All are welcome.</i> |
| Confessions are available after any weekday Mass or by appointment. |
| The church will be open for private prayer on Mondays and Tuesdays from 8.30 am until after the 10.30 am Mass. |
| Mass will be celebrated at 9.30 am on Thursday, <i>every other week.</i> |
| Fr Jude is available for appointments on Wednesdays between 11 am – 1 pm or by telephone on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays. |

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

This year, Advent is very short with Sunday, 24th December being the only day in the fourth week, the last day of Advent, Christmas Eve, and also, beginning with the Vigil Mass, the first day of Christmas time. Therefore, on Sunday, 24th December, the 4th Sunday of Advent, Mass will be celebrated at **10 am only** followed by:

- Sunday, 24th December – Christmas Eve Mass: The Nativity of the Lord at 6 pm and 11.30 pm Carols followed by Midnight Mass.
- Monday, 25th December – Christmas Day Mass at 9.30 am.
- Tuesday, 26th December – St Stephen's Day Mass at 10.30 am.

**SUNDAY COLLECTIONS:
25TH/26TH NOVEMBER 2023**

| | |
|------------------------------|----------------|
| Gift Aid (envelopes) | £161.00 |
| Planned Giving (envelopes) | £10.00 |
| Loose Plate | £438.04 |
| TOTAL | £609.04 |
| <u>Running Totals</u> | |
| Stella Maris | £573.72 |
| Day for Life | £597.16 |
| Peter's Pence | £420.10 |
| Home Mission | £403.28 |
| CAFOD Fast Day | £579.44 |
| World Missions | £949.70 |
| Bamenda Sunday | £754.58 |

DONATIONS

To make a payment or donation online, we encourage you to do a bank transfer instead of using the website which incurs a 4.8% admin fee. Our bank details as follows: Account Name: Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth CDP – Reading St Joseph. Account No. 00885992. Sort Code: 30-93-04.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Traditionally, your offerings at Christmas are for the personal use of the priest serving the parish and form a major part of his annual income. Parishioners should use their marked box of envelopes, the card reader, or put an offering into any envelope and mark it for *Fr Jude*. Here is the link to the Clergy Christmas Collection fundraising page for our parish:
<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/reading-st-joseph-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2023>

POSADA (TRAVELLING CRIB)

If you would like to host the Posada during Advent, please sign the rota in the porch *before* 3rd December.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND

Gerard Tomas, Charles Livingston, Barbara Turner, Stefen Griffiths, Nina Aramo, Jo Boase, Julie Thompson, Aldo Garzia, Marek, Pauline, Babs & Don, Maggie Tranter, Leszek Wlasak, Jackie Hopper, Sisters of St Ann (in Bamenda), Caroline Hurst, Kevin Keep, Brigid, Adrian Robson, John Cronin, Alan Allen, Veronica Williams, David Petersen, Colin Joseph, Gerry Heenan, Helen, Eileen, Tony Chaplin, Diane McDonnell, Dorothy McMahon. If you would like to add a name to this list, or if you have any queries, please contact *Sheila* in the *Parish Office*.

THANK YOU

I would like to thank all those parishioners for their kind expressions of sympathy on the death of my beloved husband, Donal. To those who sent Mass cards, flowers, telephone calls or called at the house. I am very grateful. Holy Mass will be offered for your intentions at 10.30 am on Tuesday, 30th January 2024. *Maureen English*.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

We are pleased to announce that, God willing, the Tilehurst Drop-in Centre and Food Bank will open every Wednesday afternoon commencing 10th January. This is a St Joseph's Outreach Project. Your prayers and generous support would be most welcome. If anyone can donate an old mobile phone or laptop, in good working condition, we will ensure it is professionally cleaned. Please contact *John Foley* - 0776 925 1747.

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Jenny Gouk will be selling handmade, religious Christmas cards from the Repository on the weekend of 9<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup> December. All donations will go towards the newly created Tilehurst Drop-in Centre and Food Bank.



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

The St Vincent de Paul Society is part of an international Christian

voluntary network dedicated to tackling poverty in all its forms. The SVP Conference here at St Joseph's extend their hand in the care and personal service of individuals and families who need help by offering friendship and support, transport to hospital and medical appointments, financial assistance, where able and home visits. Social events such as Easter and Christmas Parties are also organised together with Soup Lunches and Afternoon Teas. Support is also provided to SVP Conferences in Sudan and India and to both CIRDIC and New Beginnings with monthly meat deliveries. Donations to support these causes can be made directly to our bank account: Saint Vincent de Paul - Sort Code 60-60-04 - Account No 46075070, or contactless via the card reader machine. If you're a taxpayer, you can Gift Aid your donation; SVP gets 25% extra money to spend on good causes. To Gift Aid, give your full name and address or include it in the envelope with your donation. To donate to the SVP by Standing Order, complete a donation form, available in the church porch. Please return to: SVP Finance Office, Allenby House, Rees Way, Bradford, BD3 0DZ. Many thanks for your generosity. Key contacts: *SVP President: Rita Boyce - 0798 464 3250 ritaur@yahoo.co.uk. SVP Treasurer: Jack Ewins - 0773 449 9190 jackewins9@gmail.com.*

**SVP SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY**



Please join us for our annual SVP Senior Citizens Christmas party on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> December from 1 - 4.30 pm in the large hall. Traditional, hot Christmas lunch | St

Paul's Children's Choir | Carol Singing with the Silver Tones | Bingo . . . . and more! Come alone, bring a friend, make some friends - *All welcome!* If you would like to spend a relaxing afternoon amongst friends, please put your name down on the list at the back of the church by Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December. If you would like more information, please contact *Patrizia Chessell* on 0774 054 7922. *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them". Matthew 18:20.*

## MOTHERS PRAYERS

Come together to pray with other mothers for our children, grandchildren and families. Meetings at Aline Phillips' home, 7 pm, Tuesdays. Attendance is flexible. Contact *Aline* on 0790 456 9437 if you would like to attend and to hear more about the prayer group and meeting location.



## FROM CARITAS PORTSMOUTH

COP28 has now begun (30 Nov – 12 Dec). In Laudate Deum, Pope Francis describes how some of the big changes we need to happen to slow the rate of climate change must come from the actions of governments. Let us pray for those leaders, that they can listen to those already affected by climate change and have courage to act. Visit our website <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk> for links to prayer resources.

## CHARITY CHRISTMAS FAYRE

Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 11 am – 1 pm at the English Martyrs Church Hall, Liebenroad Road, Reading. Charities include: LIFE, The Children's Society, Thames Valley Animal Welfare. Stalls selling: Gifts, cards, plants, toys, handicrafts, jewellery, Avon, cakes, a tombola, a raffle and more. Admission FREE!

## APF



It is time to empty the Mission boxes again. Please hand them to the Sacristan or into the Parish Office by 15<sup>th</sup> December. Any monies received after this date cannot be included in the 2023 accounts. The 2024 calendars are available on the table at the back of the church. *Mike Tomas, APF Secretary.*

## ADVENT IS HERE!

Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December, is the First Sunday of Advent, when the Church enters into a short but magical season that prepares us for the Coming of Christ. Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us in Bethlehem is remembered, and as a season when that remembrance directs our minds and hearts to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period of hope, of devout and joyful expectation. The liturgical colour is violet, and not the purple of Lent and penance. At Sunday Mass, the Gospel readings each have a distinctive theme: the Lord's coming at the end of time (First Sunday of Advent), John the Baptist (Second and Third Sunday), and the events that prepared immediately for the Lord's birth (Fourth Sunday). The Old Testament readings are prophecies about the Messiah and the Messianic age, especially from the Isaiah. On weekdays, there are two series of readings: one to be used from the beginning of Advent until 16<sup>th</sup> December, the other from 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> December. In the first part of Advent, there are readings from Isaiah, distributed in accord with the sequence of the book itself and including those texts that are also read on the Sundays. In "late Advent", the last week before Christmas, the events that immediately prepared for the Lord's birth are presented from Matthew and Luke. With all the secular preparations for Christmas, Advent is always a busy period! The challenge is to find time for prayer and reflection. This year, with Christmas Day being on a Monday, we have the shortest possible Advent of all, just three weeks, so do try and find the time in order to keep a sense of true perspective during this holy season and thus be able to find from the Lord much joy and happiness.



## CAFOD'S WORLD GIFTS

You can buy World gifts online

<https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/> and catalogues will be made available in your church.

**Winter survival kit £30**

For vulnerable families living in remote, rural areas harsh winter weather can be devastating. They are often at risk from being cut off from the rest of the world due to avalanches, landslides and flooding. This gift can provide much-needed cash for families so they can purchase essential items like warm clothing, blankets, fuel, and food in preparation for winter. "I am very grateful for the cash assistance programme. It has changed our lives." Omar\*, Afghanistan. Omar\* lives in Daikundi province in Afghanistan with his family of eight. Daikundi region often gets cut off from the rest of the world during winter due to avalanches, landslides and flooding. \*Name changed to protect identity.

**Remarkable Radio £40**

For people living in remote communities, radio is a remarkably helpful tool. This chatty charity gift can boost crucial communication in rural areas and raise awareness on vital issues. Radios help indigenous people whose lives are at risk for defending their rights and protecting the environment. "Through this radio, communities are able to share their struggles, their joys and their hopes for changing their situations." Iolany, Honduras.

We also have the popular world gifts from last year e.g. Vegetable Garden £5, Queen Bee £4, Souper Soup Kitchen £10, Teach Someone to Read £10.

## NEW STARTERS SEPTEMBER 2024

Open Mornings for the September 2024 Intake: Tuesday, 5<sup>th</sup> December at 10 am, Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> January at 10 am. Booking is essential. Come have a look at our Outstanding Catholic School, as judged by the Diocese. <http://www.stpauls.w-berks.sch.uk/> Telephone No. 0118 942 2003.

