

# ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, TILEHURST



**St Joseph's Presbytery, Berkshire Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, RG31 5JJ**

☎ 0118 942 8632 ✉ [stjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:stjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

🌐 [www.st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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

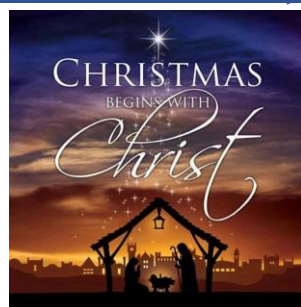
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**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023 (YEAR B)**

**THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD – 25<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER**

**THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH – 31<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER**

**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024**



***THANK YOU VERY MUCH! . . . . .***

to those who have prepared our Christmas celebration;  
and to those who serve the parish throughout the year, in many ways:  
the Sacristan and her team,  
those who clean the Church and arrange the flowers,  
those who look after the Repository,  
those who provide the singing and musical accompaniment,  
to those who read as Ministers of the Word,  
to the Ministers of the Eucharist and Altar Servers,  
to those who provide Liturgies for the children,  
to those who provide the Catechetical instruction,  
to the Leaders and helpers of our Toddler Group  
to the Governors and Staff of our Catholic Schools,  
to the members of our Finance Committee, Liturgy Group, Co-ordinating Team, SVP,  
to those who care for families, the young, the elderly, the sick,  
to those who represent the parish at weekday Mass,  
to those who help with administration,  
to those who ensure the safety and maintenance of our church property,  
to those who administer the hall hiring,  
to those who attend to the cleaning and maintenance,  
to those who maintain the church grounds, lighting & other equipment,  
to those who attend to the finances of the parish,  
including Gift Aid, counting, book-keeping and banking,  
to those who prepare the Audio-Visual slides, screen operators, IT and the website.  
Have I left anyone out? If so, I offer my sincere apologies.  
Please do continue your kind service to the Glory of God.

Thank you and God bless you all.

***Father Jude.***

***Fr Jude would like to wish all parishioners a peaceful  
and joyful Christmas and every blessing for 2024.***

**MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023 - 14<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2024**

Sunday, 24 <sup>th</sup> December <b>THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>  <b>THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD</b>  <i>*Midnight Mass &amp; 9.30 am Christmas Day Mass will be live-streamed*</i>	5 pm (Vigil)	Eileen Drake RIP
	10 am	Wendy Kelly RIP ( <i>Foundation Mass</i> )
	6 pm <i>Carols 5.45 pm</i>	People of the parish
	8 pm	Syro Malabar Christmas Mass
	Midnight * <i>Carols 11.30 pm</i>	People of the parish
Monday, 25 <sup>th</sup> December	9.30 am *	People of the parish
Tuesday, 26 <sup>th</sup> December <b>ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr</b>	10.30 am	Intentions of Altar Servers
Wednesday, 27 <sup>th</sup> December <b>ST JOHN, Apostle, Evangelist</b>	10.30 am	Gene Ignatowski RIP ( <i>Foundation Mass</i> )
Thursday, 28 <sup>th</sup> December <b>THE HOLY INNOCENTS</b>	9.30 am	Jean-Marie Gothschek RIP
Friday, 29 <sup>th</sup> December <b>ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY</b>		
Saturday, 30 <sup>th</sup> December <b>Liturgy of the Day</b>		
Sunday, 31 <sup>st</sup> December <b>THE HOLY FAMILY of JESUS, MARY &amp; JOSEPH</b>	5 pm (Vigil)	Charles & Julia Newman RIP
	8.30 am	Frank Hannon RIP
	10.30 am	Kathleen O'Shea RIP ( <i>Foundation Mass</i> )
Monday, 1 <sup>st</sup> January 2024 <b>MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, solemnity</b>	10.30 am	Michael Lanigan RIP
Tuesday, 2 <sup>nd</sup> January <b>Ss Basil the Great &amp; Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church</b>	10.30 am	Jimmy Walshe & family's intentions
Wednesday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> January <b>Liturgy of the Day</b>	10.30 am	Anne Walshe & family's intentions
Thursday, 4 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Liturgy of the Day</b>		
Friday, 5 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Liturgy of the Day</b>		
Saturday, 6 <sup>th</sup> January <b>Liturgy of the Day</b>		
Sunday, 7 <sup>th</sup> January <b>The EPIPHANY OF THE LORD, solemnity</b>	5 pm (Vigil)	Sheila, Paul & Jasmine's intentions
	8.30 am	Susan Brady's intentions
	10.30 am	Nora Mary Colley RIP
Monday, 8 <sup>th</sup> January <b>THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD</b>		
<b>BEGINNING OF ORDINARY TIME</b>		
Tuesday, 9 <sup>th</sup> January		
Wednesday, 10 <sup>th</sup> January	10.30 am	Fr Colm Kelleher RIP ( <i>Foundation Mass</i> )
Thursday, 11 <sup>th</sup> January	9.30 am	Yvonne Millichap RIP
Friday, 12 <sup>th</sup> January		
Saturday, 13 <sup>th</sup> January		
Sunday, 14 <sup>th</sup> January <b>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>Day of Prayer for Peace</b>	5 pm (Vigil)	Leelamma Cherian RIP
	8.30 am	Special intention
	10.30 am	Donal English RIP

*\*Please note that we only live-stream 10.30 am Sunday Mass and special Masses:\**  
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCruCvuFlvKVpml2vvGWdDKQ>

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 9 am on Saturdays  
 + Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament. *All are welcome.*

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, *every other week (please check the newsletter).*

Fr Jude is available for appointments on Wednesdays between 11 am – 1 pm  
 or by telephone on Mondays, Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

**SUNDAY COLLECTIONS:  
16<sup>TH</sup>/17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£286.00
Planned Giving (envelopes)	£10.00
Loose Plate	£315.97
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£611.97</b>
<b>Running Totals</b>	
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.



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 C.I.R.D.I.C. 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](mailto:ritaur@yahoo.co.uk). SVP Treasurer: Jack Ewins - 0773 449 9190 [jackewins9@gmail.com](mailto:jackewins9@gmail.com).

**TILEHURST DROP-IN CENTRE & FOODBANK**

The Tilehurst Community Drop-in Centre & Foodbank, a St Joseph's parish initiative, provides a warm space with food and a listening ear for needy members of the wider community, Wednesdays, 1 – 3 pm from 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024.



In addition, the needy will be provided fresh food, long-life food and household products to take home. Donations to support this cause would be most welcome. A collection bin for long life food and household products will be situated in the church porch. Cash donations in an envelope, with your name. Gift Aid number (if applicable) and "FOODBANK", written on top, can be placed in the collection basket during Mass or handed in to the Parish Office. You can also donate using the cash machine in the church porch or directly into the parish bank account by including "YOUR NAME, FOODBANK" as a reference. Account Name: CDP Reading St Joseph. Sort Code: 30-93-04. Account No: 00885992. Many thanks for your generosity. Any questions, please contact *John Foley – 0776 925 1747*.

**C.I.R.D.I.C. CLOTHING DONATIONS**

Clothing donations for CIRDIC are welcome on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month. Please place your bags behind the repository or in the crying room, for the parish to deliver to C.I.R.D.I.C.

**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>

**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, 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*.

*Reminder: When coming to Mass, please park considerately, safely and do not block driveways, park on verges or near T-junctions.*



### **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.

### **NEW STARTERS SEPTEMBER 2024**

Open Morning for the September 2024 Intake: 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.



### **CAFOD'S WORLD GIFTS**

You can buy World gifts online  
<https://worldgifts.cafod.org.uk/>

"The Child who has been conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit, for He will save His people." Is the Holy Spirit leading you to share your gifts as a priest or religious brother or sister? Talk to your priest or contact Cn John Cooke - 0132 931 8869.

Email: [vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### **CHRISTMAS CRIB COLLECTION**

In the Diocese, we alternate our annual Christmas Crib offerings between Friends of the Holy Land and the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. This year, the Christmas Crib offerings will go to the Friends of the Holy Land (FHL). As violence rages in the Holy Land, the situation for our Christian family there has gone from very difficult to critical. Caught in the middle of terrible conflict after a year of pressure, many more families from places like Bethlehem, East Jerusalem and Ramallah are thinking seriously about emigrating. We face the possibility of the last members of the ancient Christian community leaving the homeland of our faith forever. Your support can make all the difference. Thanks to your donations so far, FHL have been able to send practical life-saving supplies to around 1,100 people sheltering in the Gaza church compounds – including children and people who are injured and ill.

*Thank you in advance for your generosity!*

### **"HEAR ANGELS CRY"**

#### **- A CHRISTMAS SONG FROM BETHLEHEM**

This year, there will be no Christmas tree or traditional festivities in the place of Jesus Christ's birth. Instead, the focus in the Church of the Nativity and Manger Square in Bethlehem will be on remembering the thousands killed, and praying for peace. Youstina Safar, a resident of Bethlehem and a student at Bethlehem University, has collaborated with the London-based band Ooberfuse to deliver a powerful message through their Christmas song "Hear the Angels Cry". Pope Francis wrote that his hope was that the song "will inspire many people this Christmas to pray for a new flourishing of fraternal solidarity, reconciliation and peace in the Holy Land". You can watch on YouTube, stream on Spotify, Apple Music or buy on Amazon:

[Hear Angels Cry- Ooberfuse & Youstina / أغنية " اسمعوا صرخة " - يوستينا و أوبير فيوز](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...)

### **ST JOSEPH'S PARISH OFFICE**

The Parish Office will close from Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December and will re-open on Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January.



### **WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE HUMAN? MEDICAL ETHICS AND SOCIAL CARE TODAY**

The Diocese is planning an exciting Symposium on Medical and Social Ethics. The Symposium will take place at The Arc (formerly The Discovery Centre) in Winchester (opposite St Peter's Catholic Church) on Saturday, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2024 from 10 am - 4.15 pm. The Symposium features presentations from well-known experts and is led by David Wells, the popular motivational speaker. It is open to people of all faiths and none, specialist and lay, to students and to anyone with an interest in medical and social care. The aim of the Symposium is to bring the Christian Tradition and its values into a constructive and fruitful dialogue with those of other viewpoints. Tickets cost £20, including sandwiches and refreshments, and are available on-line via Eventbrite: <https://what-does-it-mean-to-be-human-symposium.eventbrite.co.uk>

There will be two keynote presentations: "What does it mean to be a Human Being?" (Mgr Michael Nazir Ali) and "How significant is the Sexual Revolution?" (Ryan Christopher of ADF International). Participants can also choose two of six workshops on issues to do with the start of life and the end of life, spirituality and mental health, gender dysphoria, respect in healthcare and the value-systems in contemporary healthcare provision.



A warm welcome to Archie Shane Liam Fenton who was baptised here last weekend.