

# ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, TILEHURST



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

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🌐 [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

✉ [miriam@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk](mailto:miriam@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk)

## SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2023 (YEAR B)

### MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER - SUNDAY, 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER

Sunday, 10 <sup>th</sup> December <b>SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	5 pm (Vigil)	Sr Mary O'Sullivan RIP
	8.30 am	Frank Jennings RIP
	10.30 am	Mariamamma Cherian RIP
	5 pm	Syro Malabar
Monday, 11 <sup>th</sup> December <b>of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent</b>	10.30 am	Richard O'Connor & family's intentions
	7 pm	St Paul's School Advent Liturgy
Tuesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> December <b>of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent</b>	10.30 am	Slawomir Wruszczak RIP
	<b>6.30 pm</b>	<b>Advent Penitential Service</b>
Wednesday, 13 <sup>th</sup> December <b>St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr</b>	10.30 am	Lynne Connell RIP
Thursday, 14 <sup>th</sup> December <b>St John of the Cross,</b> Religious, Doctor of the Church	9.30 am	Renata Bobik Dawes' parents RIP
Friday, 15 <sup>th</sup> December <b>of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent</b>		
Saturday, 16 <sup>th</sup> December <b>of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Week of Advent</b>		
Sunday, 17 <sup>th</sup> December <b>THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT</b>	5 pm (Vigil)	Mary Cox RIP
	8.30 am	Sabino Rato RIP
	10.30 am	Jackie Cattigan RIP

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

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.*

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

### GERRY HEENAN RIP



The parish offers condolences to the family of Gerry Heenan who died recently. Gerry's Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December at 10.15 am. All are welcome. Please pray for the repose of Gerry's soul. May he rest in peace.

### CHRISTMAS SERVICES

This year, Advent is very short with Sunday, 24<sup>th</sup> 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, 24<sup>th</sup> December, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent, Mass will be celebrated at **10 am only** followed by:

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

**SUNDAY COLLECTIONS:  
2<sup>ND</sup>/3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2023**

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£159.00
Planned Giving (envelopes)	£5.00
Loose Plate	£350.06
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£514.06</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. SVP Treasurer: Jack Ewins - 0773 449 9190 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*.

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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.

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



### 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.

"A voice is calling". Is Christ calling you to let Him manifest His love in you as a priest or consecrated religious? Talk to your priest or contact *Cn John Cooke: vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk* or call *01329 318 869*.

### 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.



### LIFE - COFFEE MORNING & SALE

On Friday, 15<sup>th</sup> December after morning Mass at the English Martyrs Church: Gifts, Cakes, Raffle, Tea/Coffee, etc.

### NEW STARTERS SEPTEMBER 2024

Open Mornings for the September 2024 Intake: 15<sup>th</sup> December 1.30 pm & 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.



### THE SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> December, is the Second Sunday of Advent. You can find the readings for Sunday's Mass [here](#). This week, we feature Fr Anthony Fyk's Liturgy notes from our diocesan [Liturgy Project website...](#)

Adventus, the Latin term which this liturgical season derives from, translates to 'coming to'. During this season, we are 'coming to' two realities. Initially, the first 'coming to' recalls the past event of the coming of the Son of God to humanity, being incarnated and becoming man. "For he assumed," as the first Eucharistic preface of Advent states, "at his first coming the lowliness of human flesh, and fulfilled the design [God] formed long ago, and opened for us the way to eternal salvation." Through Christ's incarnation, the way to eternal life, fullness of life, true peace, and happiness has been opened. However, the second 'coming to' recalls our devoted and expectant delight in his coming in Glory. Our minds and hearts are led to look forward, with joy, to Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. For as the preface continues, "...when he comes again in glory and majesty and all is at last made manifest." We are, therefore, currently in this 'in-between period' of holding on to the past event of Christ's coming at the Incarnation but also holding out to the future promise of his Second Coming. What does the liturgy instruct us to do during this period? The preface tells to "we who watch for that day may inherit the great promise in which now we dare to hope." We need to watch in hope. Although all may seem dark around us, we need to keep our gaze on the light that will come, knowing that our hope in never in vain. We may take inspiration from the Psalmist during this season - "Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him...delight yourself in the Lord and he will give you the desires of your heart" (Ps 37:7,4). Likewise, we may listen to Mendelssohn's Elijah (Op.70, MWV A25): "O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for Him."

### 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.*

