

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 📘 <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

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 17TH DECEMBER 2023 (YEAR B)

MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 10TH DECEMBER - SUNDAY, 17TH DECEMBER

Sunday, 17 th December THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT ('Gaudete')	5 pm (Vigil)	Mary Cox RIP
	8.30 am	Sabino Rato RIP
	10.30 am	Jackie Cattigan RIP
Monday, 18 th December Liturgy of the Day	10.30 am	Peggy Hodgkinson & family's intentions
Tuesday, 19 th December Liturgy of the Day	10.30 am 5.05 pm	Renata Bobik-Dawes family's intentions Gerry Heenan RIP – Reception into church
Wednesday, 20 th December Liturgy of the Day	10.15 am	Funeral: Gerry Heenan RIP
Thursday, 21 st December Liturgy of the Day		
Friday, 22 nd December Liturgy of the Day		
Saturday, 23 rd December Liturgy of the Day		
Sunday, 24 th December THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT	5 pm (Vigil)	Eileen Drake RIP
	10 am	Wendy Kelly RIP (<i>Foundation Mass</i>)
THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD		
	6 pm <i>Carols at 5.45 pm</i>	People of the parish
	8 pm	Syro Malabar Christmas Mass
	Midnight <i>Carols at 11.30 pm</i>	People of the parish
Monday, 25 th December	9.30 am	People of the parish
Tuesday, 26 th December ST STEPHEN, The First Martyr	10.30 am	Intentions of Altar Servers

* Please note that services are live streamed: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCruCvuFlvKVpml2vvGWdDKQ> *

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.

GERRY HEENAN RIP



The parish offers condolences to the family of Gerry Heenan who died recently. Gerry's body will be received into the church on Tuesday, 19th December at 5.05 pm. Gerry's Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, 20th December at 10.15 am. *All are welcome.* Please pray for the repose of Gerry's soul. May he rest in peace.

**SUNDAY COLLECTIONS:
9TH/10TH DECEMBER 2023**

Gift Aid (envelopes)	£161.00
Planned Giving (envelopes)	£5.00
Loose Plate	£382.44
TOTAL	£548.44
Running Totals	
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 10th 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.



Update: Thanks to the fantastic generosity of St Joseph's parishioners, we now have two laptops and two mobile phones. *Thank you very much.*

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

Clothing donations for CIRDIC are welcome on the 1st 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.



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.

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:

10th 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.



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

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

This Sunday, 17th December, is the Third Sunday of Advent, also known as Gaudete or 'rejoice' Sunday. You can find the readings for Sunday's Mass [here](#). This week, we feature Fr Jeremy Corley's Commentary from our diocesan [Liturgy Project website](#)...

At a time when most people are focusing on preparing Christmas celebrations, the Advent liturgy invites us into the wilderness with John the Baptist. He is the voice that cries in the wilderness: "Make a straight way for the Lord."

Our celebration of Christmas misses the point if we fail to welcome Christ into our midst. In the December wilderness of shopping centres and town streets, we are called to prepare the way for our Saviour.

John the Baptist gave his whole life to preparing for Christ's arrival. He himself was not the Messiah. He himself was not Elijah, despite being a similar kind of prophet. He himself was not the expected prophet like Moses (Deut 18:18). Instead, he saw himself as a voice pointing to Christ.

CAFOD ADVENT APPEAL

Jo Lewry shares news of CAFOD's Advent appeal and resources.

During Advent, as we wait for Christmas and the joy of Jesus' birth, it's important to remember that some things can't wait. For families in Afghanistan, time is running out to get the vital supplies they need to survive the winter. Omar is a father who lives in a remote, mountainous part of Afghanistan. It can get as cold as -25C in the mountains, and heavy snowfall often leaves communities isolated, so Omar and his community usually try to stockpile enough food, fuel, and warm blankets to see them through. But recently, severe drought and a major economic crisis have forced many families to eat whatever food they can get just to survive - leaving little or nothing to sell or put aside for the winter. With the temperatures plummeting and blizzards threatening to leave remote communities cut off completely, people like Omar can't wait any longer for the supplies they need to survive the cold. Please give today - your donation this Advent is so vital to families facing the harshest conditions. You could help a father like Omar keep his family warm until the snow melts. "Life has been tough with the droughts this year," Omar says. "Our garden is gone and all the fruit trees. We used to grow almonds but now those trees are as dry as the rest of the land. The droughts have caused so much havoc in this area, acres of farmland destroyed and many families like mine are living on the edge." You can donate to Advent Appeal [here](#) and don't forget we have our advent prayer calendar and other prayer resources [here](#).