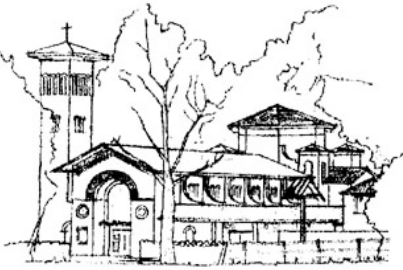
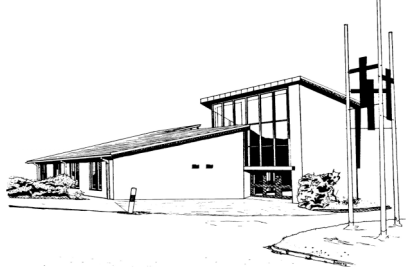


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<p style="text-align: center;">Parish Clergy:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mgr John Nelson (Parish Priest & Co-ordinating Pastor)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fr Joseph Awoh (Resident at St Joseph's)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Registered Charity Number: 246871</p>	
<p>64 Liebenrood Road Reading, Berkshire, RG30 2EB Tel: 0118 957 2149 englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk website: www.englishmartyrs.org.uk</p> <p>Secretary: Gwen Price</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RBH Chaplaincy - (Tel. 0118 3227105) Fr Chris Whelan Fr Richard Maniak (0118 9586637)</p>	<p>The Presbytery, Berkshire Drive Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG31 5JJ Tel: 0118 942 8632 e-mail: office@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk website: www.st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk</p> <p>Secretary: Sheila Jones</p>

THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

24/25 January 2009

I think that you would need to have lived on a different planet not to know that this week saw the Inauguration of a new President of the United States of America. The build up was relentless and the media absorbed by the events in Washington, as we saw the implications of a new person holding the most powerful position in the world. The day after the celebrations in the Mall – attended by over two million people in temperatures hovering below zero – we are told that President Obama and his White House staff were at work by 7am. A photograph was released of the President sitting at his desk in the Oval Office, talking on the telephone. I thought it was a most poignant picture of a man alone who carries the hopes and expectations of so many upon his slender shoulders. A previous President had a sign on that same desk which said simply: “The buck stops here.”

No one disputes that there are massive challenges to be faced by North America: an economy under enormous strain, wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, a Middle East in turmoil and inequalities at many levels of society. And we all know well that what happens in the States has an impact on the rest of the world, including Europe. But the overriding feeling on Tuesday was of joy, and hope, and solidarity. All those interviewed were looking forward, realistically, to making things better. In his speech at the Inauguration, President Obama made it clear to his fellow Americans that the challenges will be met, but that it will need them to work even harder so that it can happen. I didn't hear any whinging or self-pity.

In today's Gospel, from the very first chapter of St Mark, Jesus begins his ministry with a call to repentance. How convenient it is to find others to blame, find excuses for things going wrong. But no, the buck stops with us – we have responsibility for our own actions and behaviour. Only when we acknowledge this can we move forward and truly embrace the Good News. This Good News brings a new confidence, an outlook of hope and challenge. The fishermen left their old lives and followed Jesus and we are called to do the same. 2009 is not going to be an easy year for many people – we already know that. But this year will also present opportunities for growth, for building something better. And we are all called to be part of it, we are all invited to be involved.

Fr John

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS		ST. JOSEPH'S	
Bridget Tansey RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Congetta Magri RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Helena McLaughlin RIP
People of the Parish	11.30 am		10.30 am	Monica McNeill RIP
Alec Soane RIP	5.00 pm			
Bridgit Tansey RIP	9.30 am	Monday	8.30 am	Martin Tomas RIP
Kate Knollys RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Joe D'Cruz RIP
Sean Conneely RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Tim O'Leary RIP
Patrick Keane RIP	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Jasline Roze's Intentions
			2.45 pm	Funeral - Catherine Hanley
Fr Pat O'Donnell RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Chris Barrett RIP
		Saturday	10.00 am	Joe D'Cruz RIP
THE FEASTS FOR THIS WEEK ARE:				
Mon–SS Timothy & Titus	Tues–St Angela Merici	Wed–St Thomas Aquinas	Sat–St John Bosco	
Thursday 7-8 pm	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT		Tuesday 7.30-8 pm	
5.30–6.15 pm	CONFESSIONS - SATURDAY		10.30-11 am	
Responsorial Psalm: “Lord, make me know your ways.”				

COLLECTIONS FOR 18TH JANUARY 2009

Gift Aid:	£486.61
Planned Giving:	£51.50
Loose Plate:	£288.02
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£0.00
Candle Money	£32.92
TOTAL	£859.05
Running Totals	
Fr Zvonko	£173.32

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 1st February are Sean Murphy, Peter Chesworth and Rosalind Gilbert.

FR KELLEHER RIP

A special Requiem Mass will be offered for Fr Kelleher on Friday, 13th February 2009 at 7 pm. *All are invited*

If anyone wishes to send messages of sympathy/Mass cards, please send these to Nora Kelleher, 17 Claude Road, Drumcondra, Dublin 9, Ireland – *Fr Joseph*.

Has anyone got a decent photo of Fr Kelleher, for use in an obituary in Portsmouth People? If so, please phone Colin Parkes 0118 942 7436.

CELEBRATING MARRIAGE 2009

On 25th April 2009, there will be a special Mass at St Bede's, Basingstoke for couples in our diocese celebrating significant wedding anniversaries during 2009. If you are celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th anniversary during 2009, or any anniversary over 60 years, please let your parish priest know as soon as possible so that Bishop Crispian can send you an invitation. Attendance will be by invitation only and numbers are limited.

For more information contact: *Keith Chappell, Advisor for Marriage and Family Life, Park Place. kchappell@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Tel: 01329 835583.*

FR JOSEPH'S ABSENCE

Fr Joseph will be away from St Joseph's parish for the period 16th April – 29th May as part of his university studies. Fr John will be making arrangements to cover Fr Joseph's absence nearer the time.

CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

The Parish is in urgent need of more volunteers to help clean the Church on a weekly rota basis. This is usually one or two hours a week, every month or so. If you can offer assistance, will you please contact *Veronica Williams on 941 8783.*

SUNDAY COLLECTION COUNTERS

Will the Sunday Counters kindly note that due to the re-decoration of the Presbytery, for a temporary period, counting on Sunday will take place in the Presbytery lounge instead of the usual office. The office aids, i.e. plastic money bags, counting machine, etc., will be available in the lounge.

YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group session on Friday, 30th January will be a Final of Talents. For further details please contact *Nicola Ritchie 941 5636.*

JOE D'CRUZ RIP

Parishioners might like to note that there will be a parish Memorial Mass for Joe on Tuesday, 3rd February 2009 at 7 pm, followed by light refreshments in the hall. *All are welcome to attend.*

ORATORY SCHOOL – JUBILEE YEAR

On Candlemass, 2nd February at 7.30 pm, the Oratory School Schola and Chaplain, Fr Anthony Conlon, will be coming to sing Mass according to the Extraordinary Roman Rite (the old Latin Mass). This will be followed by refreshments in the Cenacle. *Please try to come along for what should be a very special celebration.*

WOODLEY JUMBULANCE GROUP

For our holiday this year, we are returning to "Le Fosso" in Brittany, where we had a lovely time in 2007. The centre is converted farm buildings especially adapted for people of reduced mobility and is wheelchair friendly. Travel by Jumbulance from St John Bosco, Woodley with no overnight travel. Travel dates: Monday, 24th August – Monday, 31st August. There are vacancies for helpers, and unable, male or female. If interested please contact *John Gill 969 4769; Marie O'Gorman 969 1927, or Anne MacDonald 958 5841.*

MRS CATHERINE (KATHLEEN) HANLEY RIP

The Parish offers condolences to Kathleen Hanley's family. Please pray for the repose of her soul. Kathleen's requiem Mass will be held here at St Joseph's at 2.45 pm on Thursday, 29th January 2009, followed by burial at St Michael's Churchyard. *All are invited.*

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION

Current job opportunity for a Human Resources Officer - Part-time paid post - 21 hours per week at £7 per hour (pay review pending). *For further details, see notice board in Church porch.*

CHURCHES IN READING DROP-IN CENTRE

CIRDIC would be very grateful for any items on the list displayed *in the Church porch*, to help them continue to support the homeless and needy.

CHRIST THE KING, READING – GOLDEN JUBILEE

As part of our celebrations to mark the Golden Jubilee of our Church, we have organised a series of Talks during the Sunday afternoons of Lent. They will take place in the Parish Hall at 3.30 pm and will be followed by Evening Prayer and Benediction – *Fr Bruce Barnes. Parish Priest of Christ the King, Reading. Please see poster on notice board in porch for further details.*

LENT GROUPS

Every year during Lent we are invited to renew ourselves in some way, perhaps by fasting and more time in prayer, perhaps by taking part in something beyond what we normally do. This year we are planning to offer Lent Groups in which we will reflect on our Celebration of the Mass. These small groups will meet at different times of the week (to enable as many as possible to participate) and usually be held in the homes of parishioners.

Next weekend there will be lists available for people to sign up to show their interest in taking part in one of these groups. Please give some thought as to whether you would like to be involved in a Lent Group – which will meet each week between Ash Wednesday and Holy Week. Not only will they be an opportunity to deepen our understanding and love of the Mass but also a chance to get to know a few people you may not have met and got to know.

BISHOP CRISPIAN'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY

On Tuesday, Bishop Crispian will have been our Bishop for twenty years. Please sign the cards for him as an assurance of our prayers.

OUR LADY OF PEACE

AND BLESSED DOMINIC BARBERI, EARLY

We have arranged a 'Ministers of Communion' training day on Saturday, 7th February - 10 am to 3.30 pm. Training by Paul Inwood from Portsmouth Diocese. Tea/coffee will be provided. Please bring lunch to share. *Please advise Jack Noronha on 2jand2m@talktalk.net or the OLOP parish office, Tel 0118 966 3711, if you wish to attend.*

CHURCHES TOGETHER

Meeting for prayer on Wednesday, 28th January at 8pm – St Catherine of Siena, Wittenham Avenue, Tilehurst. *Please see notice board in Church porch for more information.*