
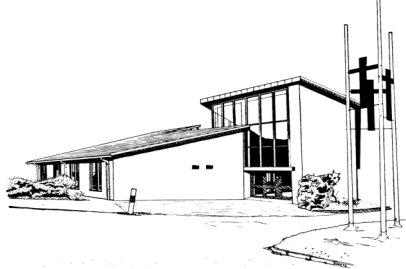


# NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

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

## FEAST OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – YEAR B

3/4 January 2009

There is discussion about what the words *auld lang syne* mean. It certainly means something about times gone by and one translation is *long long ago*. So at the beginning of the New Year, people all over the world have held hands and celebrated the future together while singing about the past. For us as Christians, as for many other people who believe in God, that's a perfectly reasonable thing to do. We can look to the faith, wisdom, experience and even the mistakes of previous generations, to help us to learn how to live our own lives.

This makes sense because what the past reminds us of, and what our faith teaches us, is that people come first; and it will always be so. During Christmas we have been celebrating the truth that God entered into his own creation and became a human being. In so doing, Jesus Christ, firstly as a baby and then as a man, revealed to us the truth about the dignity of every single person and the sheer beauty and precious nature of each human life. This means, therefore, that we should live our lives concentrating on what is important - other people.

That is one reason why the celebration of the Epiphany is very important, and for Catholics in some parts of the world, it is a feast which is celebrated more than Christmas Day. The Epiphany is often the day for giving presents. The Wise Men who search for the Messiah and eventually find the child Jesus, represent all of us. They bring their gifts and in giving, they receive peace and a deeper understanding about God.

When we are willing to share in each other's lives, there is hope for us and a way to remain close to God. Where we are prepared to be less self-centred and more interested in our family, our friends and those in our community, there is a chance for us to become better people. When we decide to be generous to others, concentrating less on our own satisfaction, then the human family flourishes and that which was wrong can be made right.

Therefore, each of us can change our own lives and in doing so change the lives of others. If you are looking for a New Year's resolution, why not resolve to grow in generosity and friendship with someone else? It's a start.

**Fr Andrew**

| <b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>  |  |                   |                     |                            |
|---|--|-------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>ENGLISH MARTYRS</b>  | <b>TIMINGS</b>                             |                   | <b>ST. JOSEPH'S</b> |                            |
| Thomas & Mary Keady RIP   | 6.30 pm                                    | <b>Vigil Mass</b> |                     |                            |
| Brian Fincham RIP   | 9.30 am                                    | <b>Sunday</b>     | 8.30 am             | Thomas Walshe RIP          |
| Bridget Toolan RIP  | 11.30 am                                   |                   | 10.30 am            | Peter Convery RIP          |
| Vincenzo Severino RIP   | 5.00 pm                                    |                   |                     |                            |
| Syro Malabar Mass   | 6.30 pm                                    |                   |                     |                            |
| Beatrice Tansey RIP   | 9.30 am                                    | <b>Monday</b>     | 8.30 am             | <i>No Mass</i>             |
| Mr & Mrs J. O'Hare's Ints<br>[Golden Wedding Anniversary]                         | 9.30 am                                    | <b>Tuesday</b>    | 7.00 pm             | Nellie O'Donnell RIP       |
| John O'Shea's Intentions  | 9.30 am                                    | <b>Wednesday</b>  | 9.00 am             | Nellie O'Donnell RIP       |
| J.H. King RIP   | 8.00 pm                                    | <b>Thursday</b>   | 9.00 am             | Nellie O'Donnell RIP       |
| Kevin McMahon RIP   | 9.30 am                                    | <b>Friday</b>     | 7.00 pm             | Paul Spackman's Intentions |
|   |  | <b>Saturday</b>   | 10.00 am            | Richard Patrick RIP        |
| <b>THE FEAST FOR THIS WEEK IS:</b>  |  |                   |                     |                            |
| Wednesday – St Raymond of Peñafort  |  |                   |                     |                            |
| Thursday 7-8 pm   | <b>EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT</b> |                   | Tuesday 7.30-8 pm   |                            |
| 5.30-6.15 pm  | <b>CONFESSIONS - SATURDAY</b>              |                   | 10.30-11 am         |                            |
| <b>Responsorial Psalm: "All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord."</b> |  |                   |                     |                            |

## COLLECTIONS FOR 28<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2008

|   |                  |
|---|------------------|
| <b>Gift Aid:</b>                                    | <b>£344.57</b>   |
| <b>Planned Giving:</b>                              | <b>£57.70</b>    |
| <b>Loose Plate:</b>                                 | <b>£294.24</b>   |
| <b>TF5 (Fr Zvonko)</b>                              | <b>£5.00</b>     |
| <b>CAFOD Congo Crisis Appeal</b>                    | <b>£10.68</b>    |
| <b>Christmas Offerings</b>                          | <b>£2,428.11</b> |
| <b>Crib (Children's Society)</b>                    | <b>£85.53</b>    |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>£3,225.83</b> |
| <b><u>Running Totals</u></b>                        |                  |
| <b>Fr Zvonko</b>                                    | <b>£162.34</b>   |
| <b>Christmas Offerings</b>                          | <b>£2,428.11</b> |
| <b>CAFOD Congo Crisis Appeal</b><br>(Final Payment) | <b>£1,136.27</b> |
| <b>Crib (Children's Society)</b>                    | <b>£85.53</b>    |

### REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> January are Tony & Jill Flint and Pat Knowles.

### 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.*

### PARENT/CARER AND TODDLER GROUP

We look forward to welcoming you back again on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009. The timing will be as usual from 9.30 am – 11 am.

### STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

Christ the King is having a 'Stewardship of Creation' day on 14th February 2009 as part of their 50th Jubilee year. *Further details are available in the Church porch.*

### KNITWITS

Our next meeting will be at Colleen Collins' home: 40 Blewbury Drive, on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 8 pm – *Margaret Chaplin.*

### BAPTISM COURSE

The next Baptism course at St Joseph's will be on Wednesday, 14th January and Wednesday, 21st January from 8 pm - 9.30 pm in the main Church hall. We will be using a programme called: Baptism – helping your child get the most out of life. Godparents are also welcome to join us for discussion and to watch a DVD. The courses only run every few months, so if you are new or expectant parents, it might be better to attend this course if you wish your child to be baptised fairly soon.

If you are considering Baptism for your child, whatever their age, please register for the course by contacting *Brigid Parkes on 9427436 or alternatively email the Parish Office (details on the front of this newsletter).*

### PRAYING FOR THE SICK

If you know of anyone who is unwell and would like to be prayed for at Mass, please let St Joseph's Parish Office know. Their names will then be included in the bidding prayers. Please make sure the person is happy for their name to be mentioned beforehand.

## HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME

If any parishioner is unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or if anyone knows of such a person, please inform the Parish Office or *Jo Boase* on 967 2605, so that visits can be arranged.

### JOURNEY IN FAITH

Are you interested in finding out more about the Catholic Faith? Whether you are considering becoming a Catholic or would simply like to ask a few questions you are welcome to join the Journey in Faith group. Please phone *Brigid Parkes* – 942 7436 for more details.

### GENE STOLTZFUS – INTERNATIONAL PEACE WORKER

On Tuesday 20th January, 2009, at 7.30 pm at Quaker Meeting House, Church Street. Does non-violence work in this century? Call *Marian* on 0118 947 3647 or email [readingpeaceworks@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:readingpeaceworks@yahoo.co.uk).

### CHURCH LIGHTING

During the last few weeks, the Church funds have been enhanced by your generous contributions in supporting both the sale of Christmas cards and in buying tickets and making contributions to the Grand Christmas Draw.

The Finance Committee and our maintenance advisors felt the need to improve lighting throughout the Church complex. You will have noticed the improved lighting on the Sanctuary and energy-saving bulbs will be gradually introduced in the bowl lights throughout the Church.

Improvements have also been made to the floodlighting of the car park and the Emergency Exit lights. Your contributions have helped enormously in making these improvements possible – *Fr Joseph.*

### UCM

Our first meeting of the year will be the AGM on Wednesday, 7th January at 7.30 pm in the Small Hall. All ladies are welcome to join us.

### REMINDER

St Joseph's Office hours are on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9 am until 12.30 pm.

