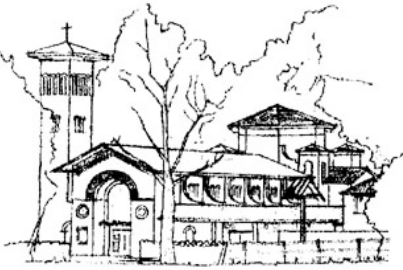
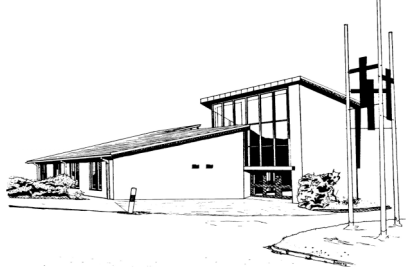


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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>

SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

14/15 February 2009

One of the things about our system of Government is that we are allowed to see some of what goes on in Parliament and the Committee Rooms in Westminster. It is a number of years now since television cameras were admitted to the main Chambers and so we get to witness parts of the weekly ritual called Prime Minister's Questions – although whether we actually learn much from it is open to debate. For that particular part of the week the House of Commons is usually packed with various MPs trying hard to be noticed. But no one really believes that the work of Government takes place in the Chamber. Most of it happens in offices and meetings attended by Ministers and Civil Servants. And most of this we do not get to see.

Last Tuesday we were told to expect a tough session in one of the Committee Meetings when former senior bankers were to be paraded before the Treasury Select Committee to be questioned about the absolute disaster that has befallen the banking system. Four men in suits arrived and within minutes were apologising for the mess they had helped create. Let's not forget that this is a mess with very real consequences as people are now losing their jobs and families their homes. But I had the feeling that the apologies were being given because that is what they thought they ought to do. Maybe it was just me, but I didn't detect the ring of sincerity. After all, these men are now wealthy individuals with large homes, millions in the bank and generous pensions. It is easier to say sorry when you are safe and protected from the consequences.

But hold on a minute. Who were the people putting these bankers on the rack? Members of Parliament. And over the years there have been plenty of examples of MPs looking after themselves rather than anyone else. A phrase from the Gospel came to my mind: "let him who is without sin, cast the first stone." The only way in which the misdeeds of others can be challenged is if we have put our own house in order. Sincerity, integrity, truthfulness and honesty must all be characteristics we strive for. In Parliament this week – in fact most weeks – the game seems to be finding someone else to blame for whatever has gone wrong. Perhaps it is necessary, or even entertaining, but I can't help wondering whether it provides a useful distraction from our own faults and failings.

Fr John

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS			ST. JOSEPH'S
Sean Leahy RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Ethelreda Davis RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Kathleen Matthews RIP
Calogera Magri RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	Joseph D'Cruz RIP
Eugene Herbert RIP	5.00 pm			
Tilly Ryce RIP	9.30 am	Monday	No Mass	
Mary & Tim Foley RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Patrick Hefferman RIP
Pat & Don Robertson RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Hellen Creed's Intentions
			11.00 am	Funeral - Elizabeth Bennellick
Bridie McGlynn RIP	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Edward Gerrity's Intentions
Eric Smith RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Martin, Michael, Eddie & Dominic Tomas RIP
			Saturday	10.00 am
THE FEASTS FOR THIS WEEK ARE:				
Tuesday-The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order			Saturday-St Peter Damian	
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: "You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation."				

COLLECTIONS FOR 8TH FEBRUARY 2009

Gift Aid:	£376.50
Planned Giving:	£77.50
Loose Plate:	£212.60
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£0.00
Catholic Education Service	£364.90
Candle Money	£27.71
Hall Hire	£405.00
Lorry Car Park Hire	£50.00
TOTAL	£1,514.21
Running Totals	
Fr Zvonko	£199.32

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 22nd February are John O'Shea and Clare McSoley.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

The Special Collection which was due to be held next Sunday, 22nd February for Cabrini Children's Society (formerly known as the Catholic Children's Society) will be transferred to Sunday, 1st March, in order to accommodate the Mission Appeal by the St Francis Xavier Foreign Mission Society.

MISSION APPEAL

Each year the Bishop authorises one Religious Order to make an Appeal for support across the Diocese. Next weekend, 21/22 February, two priests who are members of the St Francis Xavier Foreign Mission Society (the Xaverians) will be at English Martyrs and St Joseph's. They will preach at all the Masses and ask for your support for their work on the Missions. This is one of the ways in which we are conscious of our part in the worldwide mission of the Church which is to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to all peoples. Please support this work financially if you possibly can.

BLESSED PALMS

Please bring palms which were blessed last year to be burned and used on Ash Wednesday. A box for these palms is at the rear of the Church – *Fr Joseph*.

YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group session on Friday, 27th February will be an Equipment Night. For further details please contact *Nicola Ritchie* 941 5636.

CHRIST THE KING CHURCH, READING **- STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION**

As part of the 50th Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Church the following event is to take place:

Lenten Talks: A series of Talks during the Sunday afternoons of Lent have been organised. These will take place in the Parish Hall at 3.30 pm and will be followed by Evening Prayer and Benediction. First talk on Sunday, 1st March. *Please see the notice board for further details.*

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Due to poor attendance on Tuesday evenings, it has been decided to have Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament on Saturdays from 10.30 am until 11 am after the 10 am Mass, on a trial basis. This will take effect from the first Saturday in Lent, 28th February.

FR PETER CODD

We are delighted to report that Father Peter Codd is making an astonishingly quick recovery from his recent hip replacement operation. He was home from hospital a week after the surgery, and celebrated Mass the following day. Since then he has been busily getting out and about with the aid of a stick.

ELIZABETH BENNELICK RIP

The Parish offers condolences to Elizabeth Bennelick's family. Please pray for the repose of her soul. Elizabeth's requiem Mass will be held here at St Joseph's at 11 am on Wednesday, 18th February, followed by burial at St Michael's Churchyard. *All are invited.*

LENTEN 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.

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.

Anyone who would wish to take part in the Lenten groups is asked to complete the list in the Church porch. A parish meeting to discuss these events will be held immediately after Mass on Ash Wednesday, 25th February in the large Church Hall.

ENGLISH MARTYRS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Our School is seeking to appoint a Catholic Head Teacher for September 2009. The School now has 325 pupils and so is in Group 3. We have children who reflect the diverse and worldwide Catholic community with a dedicated and professional staff. In the words of the School Council which is made up of pupils of all ages: "Our school is a wonderful, warm and inviting place." Application Forms can be downloaded or completed on-line at www.reading.gov.uk or telephone 939 0039 for an application pack. Visits to the School are welcome and can be arranged through *Mrs Ann Lennon* (901 5466).

JOINT PARISH PASSOVER MEAL **WEDNESDAY, 8TH APRIL**

Planning for the Joint Parish Passover Meal is underway. This year, it will take place in English Martyrs' Community Centre on Wednesday in Holy Week. We need a small working group to organise publicity, ticket sales, music, liturgy and catering. If you would like to help with any of these activities, please leave your name and contact details with your Parish Secretary. *All offers of help are very welcome.*

UCM DIOCESAN STUDY DAY

The Union of Catholic Mothers Diocesan Study Day will be held in St Joseph's Church hall on Saturday, 28th February. The speaker will be Sister Ann Theresa from the Medaille Trust. The day will begin with Mass at 10 am and finish at 3.30 pm. All members of the parish are welcome to come along. The cost for the day is £5. Please bring a packed lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided.

TAMESIS CHAMBER CHOIR

On Saturday, 7th March at 8pm, Tamesis Chamber Choir will be performing a concert of uplifting sacred music in English Martyrs Church, Liebenrood Road, Reading. The theme of the concert is "Earth" and it will feature music by composers such as Palestrina, Parry, Rutter and Mendelssohn. Tickets cost £10 (£7 concessions) on the door, or get £2 off if you buy your tickets in advance by calling 934 3200 or online at www.tamesischamberchoir.co.uk.

MARRIAGE REFRESHER

The Diocesan Department for Pastoral Formation have developed a one-day course designated "A Marriage Refresher". In the first instance, the course will be on a trial basis and will be held on Saturday, 4th April 2009 at St Bede's, Basingstoke. Full details are displayed in the Church porch and a booking form is available in the Parish Office.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION SUPPLIER

First Holy Communion supplier run by former catholic school governor. Dresses, veils, tiaras and accessories. Telephone *Clare* on 01442 258607 or go to www.fhc-online.com.