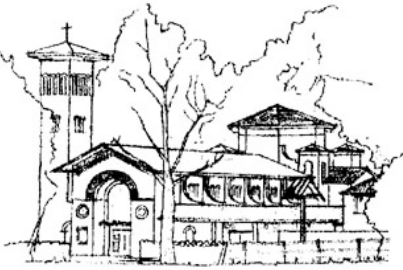
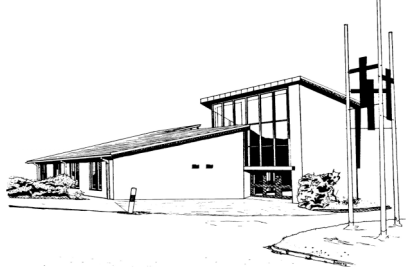


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<p align="center">Parish Clergy:</p> <p align="center">Mgr John Nelson (Parish Priest & Co-ordinating Pastor)</p> <p align="center">Fr Joseph Awoh (Resident at St Joseph's)</p> <p 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 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>

SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

21/22 February 2009

When we were students studying for the priesthood we were allocated certain number of books at the beginning of each term. On the inside cover there would be a large stamp, saying 'ad usum', meaning for the use of. So it said ad usum Richard Maniak. What brought this memory back to me was when reading a certain article recently, where this was mentioned. It was a reminder that what we received was not our property but for our use which put a different complexion on the whole subject.

The story which brought this to mind for me was the one about a monk who lived in his monastic community. Every time he needed or wanted something he had to go to Fr Abbot and ask for permission. The final straw was when he went to Fr Abbot and asked if he could have a new shirt. He thought to himself, how is it that so many of my contemporaries have high flying jobs, responsibilities, families and commitments and I have to go and ask if I could have a shirt, knowing that there are times when I would be told – "no you can't".

After some reflection, soul searching and torment, it came to light for me that whatever we have is given to us for our use. So often we forget and use things thinking it is solely our property and we have the right to anything we want. It was the figure of a Fr Abbot that I realised I needed in my life because many times we acquire things and take them for granted. I no longer felt inferior to my contemporaries who are living their lives in the busy world, because I realised that we all need a Fr Abbot to whom we can turn to as a sounding board.

During this season of Lent there will be occasions when we will decide to give up things or do extra things for which we may need recourse to a Fr Abbot to see if these are truly the things we need to be concentrating on at this time. As St Paul said in last week's Liturgy, "whatever you eat, whatever you drink, whatever you do, do it for the glory of God. Never do anything offensive to anyone, to Jews or Greeks or to the Church of God....."

Fr Richard

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS		ST. JOSEPH'S	
Frederick Bennett RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Jocelyn Baptiste RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Mary Valdhick RIP
People of the Parish	11.30 am		10.30 am	Elizabeth Burne RIP
Betty Keating RIP	5.00 pm			
Bridie McGlynn RIP	9.30 am	Monday	No Mass	
Geraldine Maria Stanton RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Michael McHugh RIP
Bridie McGlynn RIP	9.30 am	ASH WEDNESDAY	9.00 am	Mrs Lawler RIP
D'Cruz/Price Family Dec'd RIP	7.30 pm		7.30 pm	Fr Colm Kelleher RIP
Tim Foley RIP	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Indira Thomas' Intentions
Bridie McGlynn RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Iris McSoley & Mary Walker RIP
		Saturday	10.00 am	Fred & Mary Burgess RIP
THE FEASTS FOR THIS WEEK ARE:				
Monday-St Polycarp				
WEDNESDAY – ASH WEDNESDAY (Day of Fasting and Abstinence)				
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: "Heal my soul for I have sinned against you."				

COLLECTIONS FOR 15TH FEBRUARY 2009

Gift Aid:	£308.43
Planned Giving:	£59.50
Loose Plate:	£258.74
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£0.00
Candle Money	£25.21
Hall Hire	£171.50
TF3 (Fr Kelleher)	£525.89
TOTAL	£1,349.27
Running Totals	
Fr Zvonko	£199.32

REMINDER

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

SPECIAL COLLECTION

The Special Collection which was due to be held on Sunday, 22nd February for Cabrini Children's Society (formerly known as the Catholic Children's Society) will be held on Sunday, 1st March.

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.

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.

LENTEN 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 in a parishioner's home.

Anyone who wishes to take part in the Lenten groups is asked to complete the list in the Church porch.

A parish meeting to discuss these meetings will be held after the 7.30 pm Mass on Ash Wednesday, 25th February, in the Parish Hall. All are welcome!

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. Closing Date: 25th February.

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

We will meet in the small hall after evening Mass on Ash Wednesday for a discussion evening. All ladies are welcome to join us.

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 Medaille Trust is a charity founded by Catholic nuns, brothers and priests. Its aims are to help women, young men and children who have been freed from the empowerment of sex-trafficking and enable them to regain their sense of dignity of self-worth. The trust does this by providing safe housing and offering opportunities for physical and psychological healing and rehabilitation. 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.

BAPTISM COURSE

The next Baptism course at St Joseph's will be on Wednesday, 22nd April and Wednesday, 29th April 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. If you are considering Baptism for your child before July when the next course will be held, please register for this course by contacting *Brigid Parkes* on 9427436 or alternatively email the Parish Office (details on the front of this newsletter).

FR KELLEHER'S MEMORIAL

Several ideas for a suitable memorial to Fr Kelleher have been put forward to Fr Joseph. Suggestions so far are: A Baptismal Font, a stained glass window, a plaque and the naming of the small hall as the Kelleher Room. If anyone has any suggestions or views, please inform *Sheila Jones* at the Parish Office.

ONE MAN WENT TO MOW!

Spring will soon be here and the grass will begin to grow. At present, we have just one person cutting the grass of the entire grounds of our Church. Therefore, we desperately need a team of helpers to assist him, on a rota basis. If you could help, please contact *Colin Parkes* on 942 7436.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Women's World Day of Prayer will be held on Friday, 6th March 2009 at Tilehurst Methodist Church at 7.30 p.m. The service, this year, has been prepared by the Christian Women of Papua New Guinea. All the women (and men and young people) of the parish are invited to attend.

LIFE

LIFE is offering an NFCE Level 3 Course in counselling skills and theory, starting after Easter. The course is ideal for nurses, social workers, etc, and for anyone wishing to acquire counselling skills for use in their professional or voluntary work. Please see the poster on the Church notice board for more details. Contact: *Nicki Richardson* - 01993 881081 or email: nickirichardson@lifecharity.org.uk.