



# NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<p align="center"><b>Parish Clergy:</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Mgr John Nelson</b> (Parish Priest &amp; Co-ordinating Pastor)</p> <p align="center"><b>Fr Joseph Awoh</b> (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><b>Secretary: Gwen Price</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>RBH Chaplaincy -</b> (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><b>Secretary: Sheila Jones</b></p>

## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

14/15 March 2009

Over the last week I have been wondering where re-wiring of a house would rank, i.e. the 'Richter' scale of stressful situations in life!

My house still had the old wiring which had lasted 49 years and it served its purpose well. But now it needed changing. So I sat down and worked out what I needed from a re-wiring. More sockets, new fittings, bathroom air extractor, smoke detectors, outside light, etc. And of course the whole house was turned upside down to make this possible, floor boards up, etc. The disruption, expense. 'Well it had to be done', I said to myself and I had to get through it!

It gave me a great deal to think about with regard to this time of the year – Lent. It has meant for me that my life has to be rewired. The old has served me well but now I must consider the changes that are essential. To sit down and assess what changes had to take place. As with the rewiring of the house I had to consider what had to be done in my Christian life and I think this will be at least for the duration of the Lenten Season prominent for me. I can't put it off, I can't avoid it, I can't runaway from it, but face it. And as we journey through Lent with the difficulties and upheavals, we face Holy Week with all its drama and the hopes and expectations, we too have to ponder as with the Apostles last Sunday, 'what rising from the dead could mean?'

*Fr Richard*

MASS INTENTIONS				
<u>ENGLISH MARTYRS</u>	<u>TIMINGS</u>		<u>ST. JOSEPH'S</u>	
Kathleen Brown RIP	6.30 pm	<b>Vigil Mass</b>		
Lesley Anthony RIP	9.30 am	<b>Sunday</b>	8.30 am	Beryl Trapani RIP
Joe D'Cruz RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	Fr Colm Kelleher RIP
Michael Henneghan RIP	5.00 pm			
Leo McSharry RIP	9.30 am	<b>Monday</b>	8.30 am	Angela Macbeth RIP
Doris Rose RIP	9.30 am	<b>Tuesday</b>	7.00 pm	Una, Sarah & Susan Campbell RIP
Bridie McGlynn & Anna Buckley RIP	9.30 am	<b>Wednesday</b>	9.00 am	Fr Steve Reidh RIP
Bridie McGlynn RIP	8.00 pm	<b>Thursday</b>	9.00 am	Trevor Williams RIP
Tilly Ryce RIP	9.30 am	<b>Friday</b>	7.00 pm	Philip Leday RIP
		<b>Saturday</b>	10.00 am	John & Bridget O'Driscoll RIP
<b>THE FEAST FOR THIS WEEK IS:</b>				
Wednesday - St Patrick      Thursday – St Joseph				
Thursday 7-8 pm	<b>EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT</b>		<b>Saturday 9.30-10 am</b>	
5.30-6.15 pm	<b>CONFESSIONS - SATURDAY</b>		10.30-11 am	
<b>Responsorial Psalm: "You, Lord, have the message of eternal life."</b>				

## COLLECTIONS FOR 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2009

Gift Aid:	£1,025.25
Planned Giving:	£39.50
Loose Plate:	£245.71
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£5.00
Charities	£125.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,440.46</b>
<b>Running Totals</b>	
Fr Zvonko	£209.32

### REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March are Maurice O'Brien & Ryan Hawkins.

### SPECIAL COLLECTION

There will be a Special Collection next Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> March for the Clergy Assistance Fund

### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will be on Saturdays at the revised time of 9.30 am followed by Mass at 10 am, on a trial basis during Lent.

### JOINT PARISH PASSEVER MEAL – WEDNESDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> APRIL

Tickets go on sale after all Masses this weekend and next. Numbers are strictly limited, so please book your ticket early: Adults £5, school pupils £2.50, younger children free. *Offers of help with preparing food or setting up on the day would be very welcome.*

### BAPTISM COURSE

The next Baptism course at St Joseph's will be on Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> April and Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> 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 942 7436* 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 in the Parish Office.*

### LENT GROUPS 2009

If any parishioner would still like to join a Lent Group, details are available at the back of the Church and you are asked to contact the Leader of the group of your choice.

### WELCOME

A warm welcome to Lola & Elise Osbourne who are being baptised here at St Joseph's today.

### 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. Due to several enquiries about this course from people seeking a shorter, more basic course, we are also able to offer a Level 2 Counselling Skills course starting on Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> April, to be held on consecutive Mondays (excluding Bank Holidays) until 6<sup>th</sup> July. Both courses will take place in the Small Hall here at St Joseph's. Please see details on the Noticeboard or contact *Nicki Richardson – Telephone No. 01993 881081 or email: nickirichardson@lifecharity.org.uk.*

### DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

Due to pressure experienced on producing the newsletter on Thursday mornings, **all** items for inclusion must be submitted to the Office by 10 pm on the previous Wednesday.

## EASTER LITURGIES

Details of the Easter Liturgies are now available in a yellow leaflet at the back of the Church. *Please take one.*

### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

On Tuesday, 21<sup>st</sup> July this year, Fr John marks the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his Ordination as a Priest. The plan is to celebrate a Mass of Thanksgiving that evening at 7.30 pm, followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre. *Everyone is welcome*, so please make a note in your diaries to keep the evening free.

### READING HALF MARATHON

Fr Richard and Fr John are planning to take part in this year's Reading Half Marathon. As it would be a great pity to expend all that energy(!) without purpose, they are both running to raise funds for the Duchess of Kent. The choice of charity was easy as this place is at the heart of our local community and many people in our communities come in contact with its work. So, on the next two weekends (15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> March) there will be Forms available after Mass to sign up to sponsor them. *Please be generous*, as the Duchess of Kent relies on donations to provide the wonderful service it gives.

### UNIVERSITY STUDIES COVER

Parishioners will be aware that I will be away from the parish from Thursday, 16<sup>th</sup> April until Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> May. Arrangements have been made by Fr John for Fr Zvonko to supply at St Joseph's for the period from Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> April until Monday, 11<sup>th</sup> May. I know that you will all warmly welcome Fr Zvonko during his visit – *Fr Joseph.*

### 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](http://www.fhc-online.com).

### PARENT/CARER AND TODDLER GROUP

Held in the Church hall each Thursday between 9.30 am – 11 am during term-time. Here, your children can play and socialise in a safe environment and you can enjoy a coffee and a chat. *Please do come and join us.*

### YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group session on Friday, 20<sup>th</sup> March will be a Cinema Night. For further details please contact *Nicola Ritchie 9415636.*

### LIFE – JUMBLE SALE

LIFE will be holding a Jumble Sale on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> March at 1 pm at English Martyrs Parish Centre. Jumble may be left at English Martyrs from 11 am that morning. If anyone is willing to help, please contact *Christine Wall – Telephone No. 941 1605.*

### YOUTH STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross this Tuesday, 17<sup>th</sup> March at 7 pm will be led by our Confirmation candidates and other young people in our Parish. Everyone is welcome. Mass follows at 7.30 pm.

### THE LINK

The Link Coffee Shop will have been open for 20 years this April and the occasion is going to be celebrated with a service in Tilehurst Methodist church on Saturday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2009 at 3 pm followed by refreshments in the church hall. All volunteers, past and present, are warmly invited to the celebrations, so if you have worked for The Link in any capacity over the last 20 years (or know of anyone who has who might have moved away), could you please let me have the details so that invitations can be sent. Current volunteers will automatically receive an invitation - Ann Epps (941 1479; ann.epps@ntlworld.com).