



NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

21/22 March 2009

Targets, targets, targets. These were in the news again this week concerning the appalling situation that existed in a hospital in Staffordshire between 2003 and 2008. As you may have heard, the conditions and care offered to patients were dreadful and some blamed the culture of targets for the failings. This Government has pinned many of its hopes in health care and education to targets which it has set. Often these have produced good results and, for example, waiting times for operations have come down significantly. But if managers are obsessed with meeting targets then things will go wrong – as they did in the case of the hospital in Staffordshire.

I can remember clearly, just before departing for Iraq in 2004, how the Field Hospital Unit I was with was addressed by our Commanding Officer. Most of us had not been to Iraq before and there was a certain nervousness about what it would be like, and how we would cope. He suggested to each of us that, as well as doing our job to the best of our ability, we should also set ourselves some personal targets for the months we would be away from home. Perhaps improving our level of fitness, maybe losing some weight, or reading books that we'd always meant to read but hadn't, or taking a language course with us to learn. His point was that, at the end of that Operational Tour, we should return home having done the job we were sent to do but also having gained something personally. Targets can be good.

Next weekend, Father Richard and I are running in the Reading Half-Marathon, together with about 14,000 other people. Each of them has established a target. Richard's target is to complete the run in a respectable time. My target is simply to finish the course!! But whatever targets we set ourselves, the challenge can spur us on to achieve things we might not normally have tried. Last Saturday morning, *Weightwatchers* began holding meetings in the Parish Centre and seemed to be doing brisk business. People want to aim for targets that they set themselves.

This Lent, many of us established targets: perhaps giving something up, or coming to Mass during the week, or praying the Stations of the Cross, or giving more time to personal prayer. We may have achieved what we set out to do or we may not. But simply by setting ourselves a goal, however down to earth, will have helped us to grow and to change. Which is a big part of the whole idea of the Journey of Lent.

Fr John

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS		ST. JOSEPH'S	
Bridget Walsh RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Dolly Gorman RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Annie Kate Walshe RIP
Rose Herbert & Family Intent.	11.30 am		10.30 am	Julia Lynch RIP
Jose Segarty Intentions	5.00 pm			
Ann Alleyne RIP	9.30 am	Monday	8.30 am	Sheila Doyle RIP
Joan Bowden RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Fr Colm Kelleher RIP
Mary Gouge RIP	10.00 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Fr Colm Kelleher RIP
Reginald Powys Lybbe RIP	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Norman Bricker & Family's Ints.
Kathleen Conroy's Intentions	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Fr Colm Kelleher RIP
		Saturday	10.00 am	Fr Colm Kelleher RIP
THE FEASTS FOR THIS WEEK ARE:				
Monday - St Turibius of Mongrovejo		Wednesday - THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD		
Thursday 7-8 pm	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT		Saturday 9.30-10 am	
5.30-6.15 pm	CONFESSIONS - SATURDAY		10.30-11 am	
Responsorial Psalm: "O let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not!"				

COLLECTIONS FOR 15TH MARCH 2009

Gift Aid:	£421.53
Planned Giving:	£60.50
Loose Plate:	£215.40
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£0.00
Repository	£60.00
Candle Money	£36.40
Hall Hire	£108.00
Lorry Parking	£50.00
Flowers	£9.42
TOTAL	£961.25
Running Totals	
Fr Zvonko	£209.32
CAFOD Family Fast	£548.06

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 29th March are Harry & Liz McSoley.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

There will be a Special Collection **TODAY** for the Clergy Assistance Fund.



****British Summer Time begins next Sunday, 29th March****

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 PASSEOVER MEAL – WEDNESDAY, 8TH APRIL

There are a few tickets left for the Passover Meal. 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, 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 942 7436 or alternatively email the Parish Office (details on the front of this newsletter).

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross this Tuesday, 24th March at 7 pm will be led by the Readers in our Parish. Any reader, (whether on the rota or not) who wishes to participate, is asked to be in Church by 6.45 pm. Mass follows at 7.30 pm. *Everyone is welcome.*

ALTAR SERVERS PRACTICE

A practice for the Holy Week services will be held on Saturday, 28th March at 3 pm. It is a privilege to serve the Holy Week ceremonies, not a right, so participating will be dependent upon attendance at the practice. If you cannot attend this practice, please let me know – Mike Tomas: 0770 803 2743.

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, 2nd 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).*

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, 20th April, to be held on consecutive Mondays (excluding Bank Holidays) until 6th 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.

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, 21st July this year, Fr John marks the 25th 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!!!

Due to the Reading Half Marathon, the 11.30 am Mass on Sunday, 29th March at the English Martyrs Church has been cancelled.

Sponsorship forms for Fr Richard and Fr John will again be available after each Mass this Sunday here at St Joseph's and parishioners will be able to pay in their sponsorship money at the same time. *Please be generous as the Duchess of Kent home relies on donations to provide the wonderful service it gives.*

YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group session on Friday, 27th March will be a Lent Mass rehearsal and Membership Renewals. For further details please contact *Nicola Ritchie* on 9415636.

YOUTH GROUP LENT MASS

In addition to the ceremonies listed in the yellow Easter 2009 leaflet, the Youth Group will be celebrating a Lent Mass on Friday, 3rd April at 7 pm. *All are welcome.*

LIFE – JUMBLE SALE

LIFE will be holding a Jumble Sale on Saturday, 28th 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.

ST PAUL'S WALKING BUS

The organisers of the St Paul's Walking Bus to the school have asked that nobody should park their car in the top car park while the children are gathering there, during the period 8.30 am – 8.40 am. Will parents kindly comply with this request.

CAMEROONIAN MASS – EASTER SUNDAY

Fr Joseph will be celebrating Mass with some of his Cameroonian/African friends at 3 pm on Easter Sunday. Parishioners who would like a lie-in on Easter Sunday morning are invited to attend Mass and come in to the hall after Mass for some Cameroonian food and drink.

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**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS
TO ST JOSEPH'S NEWSLETTER**

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

**FR KELLEHER'S MEMORIAL MASS
- CAFOD COLLECTION**

There is a copy of a letter on the notice board that CAFOD sent to Miss Kelleher, regarding the retiring collection held at the end of the Memorial Mass for Fr Kelleher.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS

Please note that next Sunday, 29th March, there will be a special Mass at 10.30 am for the First Holy Communion children and it may run on longer than normal.

RUBBISH

Please help make our Church more welcoming by picking up any bits of rubbish you see around the grounds and putting them in the grey wheelie bin by the hall door. It's not all our fault – some is thrown over the fence, or discarded by people using the hall and car park. But it would be helpful if everyone could take care not to drop litter, or allow their children to do so.

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 9672605, 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* - 9427436 for more details.

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.

REMINDER

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

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.

UNIVERSITY STUDIES COVER

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

ADVANCE NOTICE

Church cleaning for Easter will be after morning Mass on Wednesday, 8th April.

EASTER CARDS

Easter Cards are now available at the Repository. We also have a large selection of greetings cards for a variety of occasions, as well as Mass cards.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Many thanks to all who supported this year's Women's World Day of Prayer. The Tilehurst service was quite well attended and we were able to donate £120.40 for the welfare of suffering families all over the world.

**MASS ON WEDNESDAY, 25th MARCH
AT ENGLISH MARTYRS CHURCH**

Please note that Mass on Wednesday at English Martyrs is at 10 am (not 9.30 am). Because Fr Richard and Fr John will be away at a Clergy Conference with the Bishop throughout Tuesday and Wednesday, Father Joseph will be on his own and so the time of the Wednesday Mass has had to move to 10 am.

'FRANCIS'

The Three Rivers Production Company in association with Park Place, Wickham, present a new play to stir the senses and linger in the mind.

Evening Performances: 7th, 8th and 9th May at 7.30 pm.
Matinees: 10.30 am - 8th May and 2.30 pm - 9th May.
Tickets: £10 adults - £8 Children (16 & under). *Park Place Pastoral Centre, Wickham. Telephone No. 01329 833043.*

CHRISTIAN MEDITATION

Fr Lawrence Freeman OSB will be giving two talks on Christian Meditation at the Friends Meeting House, St Giles, Oxford on Friday, 27th March at 12.45 pm & 7.45 pm. *All welcome.* Further information from *Maureen Dingle: 0118 942 7016* or *Chris Knollys: 0118 958 8407.*

