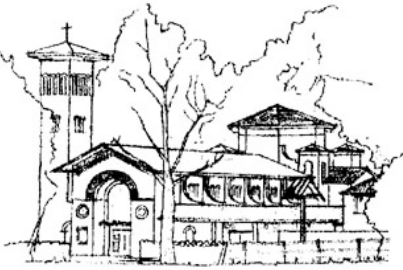
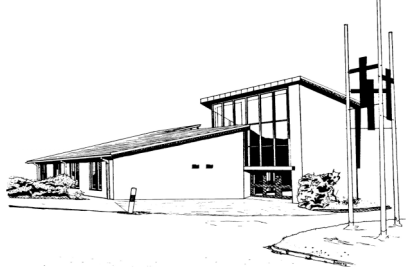


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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>

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

28 February/1 March 2009

As you may know a group from English Martyrs and St Josephs spent the week before last on pilgrimage in Rome and Assisi. On the way back last Monday evening, some of us were on a flight that had a cheerful, if noisy, group of football fans on it. They were all supporters of Roma, coming to London for the Champions League match against Arsenal. When the plane touched down at Heathrow they started to clap and sing. The refrain for their song was, "Roma wherever you go we will go too, we don't care. Just clap your hands, we are following you" - it loses something in translation!

When I saw that Roma had lost 1-0 to Arsenal, I couldn't help wondering whether they were as cheerful on their way back to Italy on Wednesday. Though it did strike me that the commitment many a football fan shows to their club is not a bad example of one way of approaching Lent. You have got to be pretty keen to follow a team, enjoying the successes and enduring failures, putting up with all kinds of weather and often making great efforts to be at a match.

If we could have a similar resilience in sticking to the traditional Lent practices of prayer, fasting and giving to charity, then I'm convinced that we would be going a long way towards the teaching given during today's Mass to "Repent, and believe in the Gospel."

Of course what the football fan has to be careful of is that their dedication to the team isn't at the expense of their family, their work and the other truly important things in life. But that's not the case, I don't think, with Lent: it's exactly the opposite. Being more aware of the presence of God by committing a little more time to prayer, in letting go of satisfying our own needs by denying ourselves and by offering help to those in need by more generous giving, we will in fact help us to be more fulfilled as individuals and therefore a better presence among our families, friends and community. So instead of gritting our teeth and with grim determination facing the next six weeks, why not be a little more cheerful about it, and – at least – in our hearts and minds just clap our hands and follow the Lord in prayer, self-denial and almsgiving.

Fr Andrew

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS		ST. JOSEPH'S	
Sarah Walsh RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
People of the Parish	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Veronica Williams' Intentions
T. Donoghue RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	Margaret Bailie's Intentions
Ethel Sinjani RIP	5.00 pm			
Syro Malabar Mass	6.30 pm			
Bridie McGlynn RIP	9.30 am	Monday	8.30 am	James Toner RIP
Betty Keating RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Beryl Trapani RIP
Funeral - Rozario De Fazio	12 noon			
Patrick Munnelly RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Fr Colm Kelleher RIP
Kate Knollys RIP	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Mary Aske RIP
			11.00 am	Funeral-Kathleen Cooney
Funeral – Robert Bradley	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Catherine Hanley RIP
		Saturday	10.00 am	Stan Madzelewski RIP
THE FEASTS FOR THIS WEEK ARE:				
Tuesday - St Vignal	Wednesday – St Casimir	Friday – Lenten Fast Day	Saturday SS Perpetua & Felicity	
Thursday 7-8 pm	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT		Saturday 10.30-11 am	
5.30–6.15 pm	CONFESSIONS - SATURDAY		10.30-11 am	
Responsorial Psalm: "Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant."				

COLLECTIONS FOR 22ND FEBRUARY 2009

Gift Aid:	£253.70
Planned Giving:	£53.50
Loose Plate:	£191.02
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£0.00
Candle Money	£36.07
Donations	£10.00
Francis Xavier Mission Appeal	£608.00
TOTAL	£1,152.29
Running Totals	
Fr Zvonko	£199.32

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 8th March are Tony & Jill Flint and Pat Knowles.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

The Special Collection for Cabrini Children's Society (formerly known as the Catholic Children's Society) will be held TODAY.

VOLUNTARY COLLECTION

There will be a Voluntary Collection next Sunday, 8th March for CAFOD Lent Fast Day. Envelopes available at the back of the Church.

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.

JOINT PARISH PASSOVER MEAL WEDNESDAY, 8TH APRIL

This year's Passover meal takes place at English Martyrs Community Centre in Holy Week, on Wednesday 8th April. Tickets go on sale at St Joseph's and English Martyrs from Sunday, 15th March. Numbers are necessarily limited, so book your ticket early. Adults - £5, school children - £2.50, younger children - free.

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.*

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.

YOUTH WORKER

Full details of a vacancy for a Youth Worker in the Areas of Southampton, Eastleigh and Winchester, are advertised in the Church porch.

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.

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.

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.

KNITWITS

Knitwits will next meet on Monday, 2nd March at 8 pm at the home of Theresa Bricker: 23 Bitterne Avenue.

KATHLEEN COONEY RIP

The Parish offers condolences to Kathleen Cooney's family. Please pray for the repose of her soul. Kathleen's requiem Mass will be held here at St Joseph's at 11 am on Thursday, 5th March, followed by burial at St Michael's Churchyard. *All are invited.*

NOTE FOR DIARIES

- LENT AND EASTER LITURGIES PLANNING

Details of the Lent and Easter Liturgies are printed on the back of this week's reflection sheet.

HAMPERS/BASKETS

Parishioners will remember that the parish organised a Grand Christmas Draw where all donations were placed in hampers/baskets. It is hoped to repeat this event in November/December of this year and any parishioners who have spare hampers/baskets are asked to donate them to the parish in preparation for the draw. *Thank you.*

LENT GROUPS 2009

Attached to this newsletter is a provisional list of Lent Groups. If you would like to join a group, please contact the Leader. See *attached sheet* for full information.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Eucharistic Ministers will be leading Stations of the Cross on Tuesday, 3rd March at 7 pm. Could any Ministers who are able to take part please be at the Church by 6.45 pm.

FR KELLEHER – MEMORIAL MASS – CAFOD DONATION

The sum of £525.89 was collected at the end of Fr Kelleher's Memorial Mass and has been forwarded to CAFOD. Fr Kelleher's sister sends her very warm thank you for the support and generosity of parishioners and she said how much Fr Kelleher would have approved of the donation being made to CAFOD.