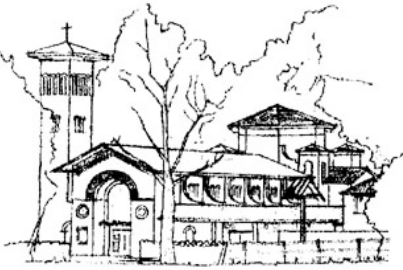
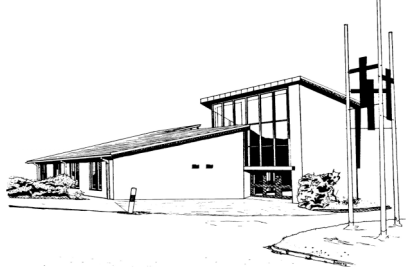


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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>

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR B

7/8 March 2009

Every year, some of us take a holiday. To go on holiday is to break the monotony of life, to do something new and exciting. Sometimes a holiday gives us the opportunity be on our own, away from the things and people that daily occupy us, and to replenish our energies. Some people go back to the same place several times; other people prefer to go to a new place each time they take a holiday. However, each time we go on holidays, either as individuals or as a family, or as a group of friends, there are two simple questions we ask ourselves: 1) Where am I (are we) going this year? and 2) what do I (we) need if we decide on a location?

Every year the Church invites us on a journey that will last for 40 days. This is the Lenten journey. This journey leads us to Good Friday and then to Easter. We need to ask ourselves the same questions we ask when we are planning a holiday: where am I going this Lent? What do I need for the journey?

Pope Benedict says in his Lenten Message for 2009 that denying ourselves material food nurtures an interior disposition to listen to Christ and be fed by His saving word. But he also adds that fasting is an aid to open our eyes to the situation in which so many of our brothers and sisters live. And, so on Ash Wednesday, I proposed to the parishioners at St Joseph's to adopt a Lenten project. I asked that each of us should identify a person(s) in need and freely embrace an act of self-denial for the sake of the one in need. Next year, we could think of a community project around Reading. That is an example of a journey we could make in Lent.

Last Sunday, at the English Martyrs Church I proposed another journey we could make during Lent. Before he started his work, Jesus went into the desert where he made a journey into his deeper self. In quiet reflection, he saw his strengths and weaknesses and asked the Father for strength and direction in his public work. He received strength to overcome the devil's temptations and received direction for the work that lay ahead. Lent is the time when the Church invites us to go into our own deserts, to find time to be alone, to receive new direction for our spiritual and social lives and grace to become the "new people" Christ calls us to be.

What do I need for my Lenten journey? I need TIME to be with God, to tell him about myself and my relationships, but more importantly, to LISTEN to what he wants to tell me about my life and my relationships. I need to REFLECT on where I am in my Christian and social life and how I can raise my life and my relationships to the level God wants for me.

Fr Joseph

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS		ST. JOSEPH'S	
Joseph Meredith RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Florrie Ballard RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Mrs Doreen Mary Morris RIP
Maureen Burke RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	Padraig Murphy RIP
People of the Parish	5.00 pm			
Mary Gouge RIP	9.30 am	Monday	No Mass	
Dec'd McLoughlin Family RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Julia Lynch RIP
Deceased Coll Family RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Christine Greig RIP
Consuelo Brandariz RIP	7.30 pm			
Tom Dudgeon RIP	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Eugene Herbert RIP
Jean Painting's Intentions	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Michael Cuddihy RIP
		Saturday	10.00 am	Michael Cuddihy RIP
THE FEAST FOR THIS WEEK IS+:				
Monday - St Frances of Rome				
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: "I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living."				

COLLECTIONS FOR 1ST MARCH 2009

Gift Aid:	£474.50
Planned Giving:	£37.50
Loose Plate:	£210.57
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£5.00
Donations (Youth Group)	£60.00
Cabrini Children's Society	£387.09
Candle Money	£40.88
Hall Hire	£294.00
Sale of Violin	£25.00
Foundation Mass	£300.00
TOTAL	£1,834.54
Running Totals	
Fr Zvonko	£204.32

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 15th March are Tony Chaplin and John Macbeth.

VOLUNTARY COLLECTION

There will be a Voluntary Collection **TODAY** for CAFOD Lent Fast Day – Friday, 6th March and envelopes are available at the back of the Church for donations.

EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

As announced last weekend, 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 PASSOVER MEAL

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.*

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).

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.

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.

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.

UCM

We will be visiting the Berkshire Records Office on Wednesday, 11th March. Numbers are limited, so please contact *Veronica* for more details on 941 8783.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to Paula, Natasha and Louis Oben 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. Contact: *Nicki Richardson* - 01993 881081 or email: nickirichardson@lifecharity.org.uk.

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.*

ST PAUL'S SCHOOL ASSOCIATION (SPSA)

The SPSA are holding a St Patrick's Night Dance on Friday, 13th March at St Paul's RC Primary School from 7.30 pm - midnight. Tickets are priced at £5.00. There will be a fully licenced bar and light refreshments on the evening, with entertainment from the one and only 'Bartley Coyne'. Tickets will be available to purchase from the school office from Monday, 2nd March, please call 942 2003 to book your tickets.

ST FRANCIS XAVIER MISSION APPEAL

The parish has received a letter from Fr John Ceresoli s.x., thanking the community for your generous collection of £608 for its annual mission appeal.

NOTE FOR DIARIES – LENT AND EASTER LITURGIES

In the Note for Diaries published with the newsletter last week, provisional times were set out for Stations of the Cross at St Joseph's on Good Friday, followed by a Walk of Witness in Reading Town Centre. The Catholic Clergy have been advised that the Walk of Witness in Reading Town Centre will **not** take place this year. Arrangements are, however, in hand for the Stations of the Cross led by Fr Joseph to take place at 11 am. At 11.45 am, we will be joining the community of St Catherine of Siena in a short Walk of Witness from St Joseph's to the Memorial at Tilehurst Triangle for a short ecumenical service. *All are welcome to attend.* The Solemn Liturgy on Good Friday will, as usual, take place at 3 pm – *Fr Joseph.*

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

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 (15th and 22nd 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.

CAFOD – FOCUS AFRICA

Many thanks for the £62.11 contributed during January/February to help CAFOD with their work all over the world, where nearly 1 billion people – 14% of the world's population, go hungry everyday. In ERITREA alone, there are over 85,000 acutely malnourished children and CAFOD has now set up a supplementary feeding programme to help them. So thank you for helping CAFOD to enable them to do this – *Margaret Chaplin.*