



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>	
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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR B

2/3 MAY 2009

Last year I went to a meeting of the National Conference of Priests to report on some of the work being done within the Bishops' Conference. The theme for the meeting was about where the priest fits into the community which he has been asked by the Bishop to be part of. The main speaker was an American priest who teaches in a seminary in the United States and he spoke about what it means for a priest to be a *good shepherd*: the phrase which is repeated in today's Gospel.

He reminded the priests who were at the meeting that when Jesus talks about the *good shepherd*, the word "good" has two meanings. The obvious one is to be virtuous, so, for example when we talk about someone as a good person. The other meaning is more about being competent, being skilled and having the appropriate qualities and gifts: a good snooker player, for instance.

When it comes to being an ordained priest, he said that you have to try to be good in both senses of the word. A good priest is a person who tries, just like everyone else, to live an honest, moral life. But just as importantly a good priest has to be somebody who is also good at being a priest. So you have to try your best to be competent, to keep learning and always looking for ways of improving the way you do the many things a priest does.

I find that to be really stimulating because it means there will always be ways for me to look at being a better priest and to improve and develop in what I am given to do as a priest. And my experience bears that out. I can honestly say that I have never been bored as a priest: there has always been something or someone for me to be a priest with and for. It's a good and fulfilling life, so please do pray to the *Good Shepherd*, that more men will respond to a call to ministerial priesthood in the Church today.

Fr Andrew

MASS INTENTIONS				
<u>ENGLISH MARTYRS</u>	<u>TIMINGS</u>		<u>ST JOSEPH'S</u>	
Aithna Bennett RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
John & Mary Knox RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Trevor Williams RIP
Mary Halligan's Intentions	11.30 am		10.30 am	Leonilda Figueira RIP
Joanne & George's Intentions	5.00 pm			
Syro Malabar Mass	6.30 pm			
Louiza Fearn's RIP	10.00 am	Monday	10.00 am	Les Hopper RIP
Anne Wells & Kate Lines RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Deceased Members of Donohue Family RIP
Dave & Clare Palmer's Ints	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Private Intention
K. McGlynn RIP	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Deceased Members of Stenson Family RIP
Patrick Heffernan RIP	9.30 am	Friday	8.30 am	Antanas Kusta RIP
Lent Groups Mass	7.30 pm			(Note: Mass time change)
		Saturday	11.00 am	First Holy Communion Mass
FEAST OF THE WEEK:				
Monday – THE ENGLISH MARTYRS				
Thursday 7-8 pm	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT			
5.30–6.15 pm	CONFESSIONS - SATURDAY			
Responsorial Psalm: "The stone which the builders rejected has become the corner stone."				

COLLECTIONS FOR 26th APRIL 2009

Gift Aid	£390.50
Planned Giving	£55.00
Loose Plate	£300.22
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£0.00
TF3	£3.50
Holy Places	£2.00
Candle Money	£26.32
Clergy Training Fund	£425.50
Repository	£239.53
TOTAL	£1,442.57
Running Totals	
Fr Zvonko	£209.32
Easter Offering	£2,843.01

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 10th May are Tony Chaplin & John Macbeth.

REVISED LITURGY TIMES **– FIRST HOLY COMMUNION DAY: 9TH MAY**

Will parishioners kindly note that due to the celebration of the children's First Holy Communion at 11 am, there will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 9.30 am, no normal Saturday Mass at 10 am and no Confessions at 10.30 am on that day.

YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group session on Friday, 8th May will be a Cinema Night. For further details please contact *Nicola Ritchie 9415636*.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Helpers wanted to carry out collections on Sunday, 10th May. Anybody interested, please contact John Macbeth on 941 4685.

Details and application forms of Walk The Country on 16th May 2009 are available in the Church porch. By taking part you will be making a difference to some of the world's poorest countries.

DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH YOUTH DAY WITH ARCHBISHOP CORNELIUS OF BAMENDA SAYING 'YES' TO GOD

Sunday, 17th May, 10.30 am – 5 pm at Oaklands Catholic School, Stakes Hill Road, Waterlooville, PO7 7BW. African Drumming, Art and Crafts, Drama, Music, Prayer Stations, Bishop's Catechesis, Celebration of Mass, B-B-Q. Cost £5 (incl. B-B-Q). Further details from *Dave Hill, Advisor for Youth Ministry, Dept. of Pastoral Formation, Park Place Pastoral Centre, Winchester Road, Wickham, Hants PO17 5HA, or Tel: 01329 835583, or email: dhill@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk*.

UCM

Mr John Price from the Berkshire History Society will be coming to our next meeting on Wednesday, 6th May to tell us how to get started on researching a family tree. We meet in the small hall at 7.30 pm and all ladies are welcome to join us.

GIFT AID EVELOPES

During the last couple of weeks, Gift Aid envelopes within the English Martyrs Gift Aid system have been placed in the collection plate at St Joseph's. Parishioners are reminded that at present the English Martyrs parish and St Joseph's have separate bank accounts, and envelopes therefore need to be placed in the appropriate parish. To ensure that Gift Aid envelopes do not go astray, will you kindly place the weekly offering in the appropriate parish collection plate. Parishioners co-operation in this matter will be much appreciated.

ANNUAL ROSARY RALLY

The Annual Rosary Rally (Crusade) this year is being held at St John's Cathedral on Saturday, 16th May. Further details are available in the Church porch.

DROP OFF AND PICK UP FROM ST PAUL'S NEEDED

My daughter will start Reception in September. She will only just be 4 when she starts so I would like her to be with a family in the morning and after school. I will need to drop her off at 7.50 am then pick her up around 6 pm. If you are able to help or know someone that would be able to please contact Laura Guernion on 0118 9420741 in the evening or at the weekend. I will of course pay for this service.

CAFOD – FOCUS AFRICA

Many thanks to everyone who contributed during March in the Friday Self-Denial envelopes – the total being £73.70. £548.06 was also given to the recent Family Fast Day appeal during Lent. Your care and support continues to change the lives of so many people each day, by reaching out to children and communities in need.

KNITWITS

Our next meeting will be on Monday, 11th May at 8 pm at the home of Veronica Williams: 9 Orkney Close, Calcot.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULTS

The Diocese is arranging training sessions for all parish personnel involved with children and vulnerable adults over the coming months (May – September). They have also informed us that attendance at a relevant session will be mandatory. For those who were not able to attend the previous session at St Joseph's, I have information regarding venues and dates, and there is a list in the Church porch – *Jo Boase*.

YOUTH RETREAT AND SOCIAL FOR YOUTH OF ENGLISH MARTYRS AND ST JOSEPH'S

To celebrate the involvement and commitment of our Youth, we are hosting an event next Sunday, 10th May, in St Joseph's hall from 4-8 pm to include Mass, followed by refreshments.

If your faith is important to you and you would like to be part of this Youth get-together, we warmly encourage you to attend. Different groups will be organised for different age groups from age 10 right up to young adults, so you will be mixing with people of your own age. If you would like to come, or want more information, please leave your name, telephone number and email addresses with the Parish Secretary at either Church.

Any musicians – please let us know and bring your instruments on the day.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND CONSECRATED LIFE

Today, the fourth Sunday of Easter, is known as Good Shepherd Sunday because in the Gospel we hear Jesus speak of himself as the Good Shepherd who lays down his life for his sheep. That is why it is the day chosen as World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life and the Holy Father has written to us on this day inviting us to pray trustingly to God for those called to share in the Good Shepherd's ministry of caring for his flock.

Pope Benedict has also invited us to celebrate a Year for Priests, beginning on 19th June – the feast of the Sacred Heart. It is to be dedicated to promoting the spiritual perfection of priests and to recognizing more fully the irreplaceable value of priestly ministry at the heart of the Church. The Pope says we should not allow ourselves to become discouraged by accepting as inevitable that a time will come when we have to do without priests. Once again, we entrust the whole Church to the providence of God in our prayer for and encouragement of priestly vocations.

LENT GROUPS' CELEBRATION MASS

Participants in the St Joseph's and English Martyrs Lent Groups are invited to a celebration Mass at 7.30 pm on Friday, 8th May at English Martyrs Church. *All parishioners and friends are also warmly invited to attend*. On this day, Mass at St Joseph's will be at 8.30 am and the 7 pm Mass is **cancelled**.