



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>

THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD – YEAR B

23/24 MAY 2009

Our lives have a certain rhythm. Birth, growth, discovery, maturity and, yes, death are all a natural part of the human experience. Around us year on year the seasons take us through a cycle, a rhythm of new life in spring, through summer and into autumn and winter. In the Church too we have our cycle and today's Feast of the Ascension is an important element as we move towards Pentecost and that great outpouring of God's Holy Spirit upon the early church – and us as the People of God. With this rhythm there are parts we find easier, and parts that we find more challenging. There are times for hard work and times for celebrating and rejoicing.

I have always felt that, in parish life, as June approaches we enter a time of many celebrations. Children and their families who have prepared for First Communion come to that moment on Saturday, 6th June (at St Joseph's we have already celebrated this event a few weeks ago). Then, on 26th June, a large number of young people will be confirmed by Bishop Crispian. The number involved has meant we have to celebrate this at Douai Abbey because our churches are too small to accommodate everyone. At the beginning of July Paul Leonard, whose family are very much part of our worshipping community, will be ordained a priest in Southampton. Paul has invited people to join him (see details on the reverse of the Newsletter). On Sunday, 7th June, we have our International Lunch which is a chance to get to know each other a little better and celebrate the backgrounds and cultures represented in our communities. Many of the couples who have been preparing for marriage will be celebrating their Weddings in the next few months. A lot comes together in celebration at this time of the year.

There is more good news. Some of you know that a new Headteacher began work at Blessed Hugh Faringdon School at Easter. His name is John Casey and he will be visiting us at English Martyrs and St Joseph's in the near future to speak about the School. A new Headteacher has been appointed at English Martyrs School and will arrive in September. His name is Jamie Carroll and he is currently Deputy Headteacher at St Joseph's in Newbury.

There is so much to celebrate and rejoice in. There is so much to thank God for, with all our hearts.

Fr John

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS		ST JOSEPH'S	
Aithna Bennett RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Geraldine Stanton RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Trevor Williams RIP
People of the Parish	11.30 am		10.30 am	Rose McCann RIP
Thomas John RIP	5.00 pm			
Sheila Lynch RIP	10.00 am	Monday	No Mass	
Thomas McCabe RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Tony Weafer RIP
Louie Fearn RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Angela Macbeth RIP
Bernard Ramanankilana RIP	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Mrs Kathleen Dalton RIP
Peter Duffy RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Dominic Clark's Intentions
		Saturday	10.00 am	Mrs Peggy Owens' Intentions
FEASTS OF THE WEEK:				
Monday – St Bede the Venerable		Tuesday – St Philip Neri		Wednesday – St Augustine of Canterbury
Thursday – Blessed Margaret Pole				
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: "God goes up with shouts of joy; the Lord goes up with trumpet blast."				

COLLECTIONS FOR 17TH MAY 2009

Gift Aid	£411.84
Planned Giving	£63.00
Loose Plate	£238.94
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£0.00
TF3	£9.50
Hall Hire	£659.25
Candle Money	£46.09
Donations (Flowers)	£25.00
TOTAL	£1,453.62
Running Totals	
Fr Zvonko	£269.32
TF3 (CAFOD)	£31.50
Clergy Training	£577.29

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 31st May are Tom & Pat McKeown and Hugh Glover.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

There will be a special collection **TODAY** for World Communications.

YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group session on Friday, 5th June will be an Equipment Night. For further details please contact *Nicola Ritchie* 9415636.

FR PETER CODD – 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

The parish will be sending Fr Peter a special anniversary card marking his 40 years as a priest and parishioners are invited to sign the special card after Masses this Sunday.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to Evelyn Jane O'Mahoney who is being baptised here at St Joseph's today.

EARLY NOTICE

Will parishioners kindly note that there will be no 10 am Mass on Bank Holiday Monday, 25th May at St Joseph's. There will, however, be Mass at 9.30 am at English Martyrs and at 12.15 pm at St James' Church.

MASS OF THANKSGIVING

FR JOHN'S 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF ORDINATION

As previously announced on Tuesday, 21st July 2009, Fr John marks the 25th Anniversary of his ordination as a priest. A Mass of Thanksgiving will be celebrated that evening at 7.30 pm at English Martyrs, followed by refreshments in the Parish Centre. Bishop Crispian will be present. Please make a note in your diaries of this event. Further details will be set out in this newsletter in the near future.

KNITWITS

The next Knitwits meeting will be on Monday, 1st June at 8 pm at the home of Christine Wall: 4 Tylers Place.

LIFE

In national terms, LIFE's income is not sufficient to run all of its services (caring/counselling, housing, education and the Fertility Care programme) to full strength. While the Reading & District group has no financial worries because of the very generous donations of many regular supporters, we would like to contribute to the national coffers from some of our local fundraising. To this end, we will hold a sale of plants, home-made cakes, gift items and clean bric-a-brac (not jumble) on SUNDAY, 31ST MAY, in the main hall after both Masses here at St Joseph's. We will be in the hall on Saturday, 30th May between 5 pm & 6.30 pm to set up and receive any donated items, and would be extremely grateful for any help on the day. Further details from *Christine Wall – 941 1605*.

MESSAGE FROM FR ZVONKO

We have received an email from Fr Zvonko thanking all in St Joseph's parish for the warm welcome he received on his recent visit. He sends his love and blessings to everyone.

JUST LISTEN!

This one day course offered by the Acorn Christian Listening Trust will take place at St Bede's, Basingstoke on Saturday 20th June. It is open to anyone interested in learning how to listen more effectively, and is particularly suitable for catechists, visitors to the sick and housebound, pastoral council members, and those involved in bereavement support. Further details on the poster at the back of church, or from *Keith Chappell* kchappell@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk 01329 835583. Cost £20 including a light lunch.

DOMESTIC ABUSE AND THE CHURCH

Saturday, 11th July at St Bede's, Basingstoke. This day aims to raise awareness of physical, psychological or emotional abuse suffered by both men and women, and to offer practical advice on recognising domestic abuse, supporting the victims and helping the cycle to be broken. Further details on the poster at the back of church, or from *Keith Chappell* kchappell@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk 01329 835583. No charge.

INTERNATIONAL LUNCH

St Joseph's and English Martyrs together are organising an International Lunch on Trinity Sunday – 7th June, 12.30 – 3.30 pm in English Martyrs parish centre. Please bring your favourite dish and bottle, wear your national dress, or give us song or dance. Everybody welcome. For further information, please contact *Charley* at shyamalie1@btinternet.com or see the poster on the noticeboard in the Church porch.

TRANSPORT TO CHURCH

One of our parishioners who lives in Lambourne Close, Tilehurst would like a lift to 8.30 am Mass on Sundays. Can you please help? If so, can you please contact *Eileen Kerrigan* on 941 2757 or *Sheila Jones*, Parish Secretary on 942 8632.

PRO-LIFE

As the abortion toll mounts, the attack on the sanctity of life becomes even bolder. Now abortion promoters want to advertise on TV and radio, and may be allowed to do so by the Advertising Standards Authority. The public consultation on this matter ends on 19th June. To express our views, we are urged to write to the A.S.A., Mid City Place, 71 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6QT, and to the Prime Minister and to our MP. Petition sheets will also be available in the hall next Sunday. Further information can be obtained from SPUC according to the attached leaflet, or from Christine Wall on 941 1605.

JOINT PARISH PASSOVER

The surplus cash from this year's Passover (£211) has been sent to Fr Zvonko's training fund. Fr Zvonko, a priest from Bosnia, has been serving the community at St Joseph's as a supply priest regularly over the last ten years and is currently doing some further study in Rome. His diocese has no funds to support him and he relies on the generosity of parishes like ours to help him to continue. Many thanks to all the people who helped to make the Passover successful. Next year's date is Wednesday, 31st March.

ANNUAL REUNION MASS

The APF and Mill Hill Missionaries will be holding their Annual Reunion Mass on Sunday, 7th June at 2.30 pm at St Joseph's Church, Maidenhead. All APF members, their families and friends are invited. If you would like to take part in this very special celebration, please contact the *Anne* on 942 8198.

PAUL LEONARD'S ORDINATION

The Parish of St Joseph's & St Edmund's warmly invite you to the ordination of Paul Leonard to the Sacred Priesthood by the Rt Rev Bishop Crispian on Saturday, 4th July at 12 noon in St Edmund's Church, Southampton, followed by a reception in St Anne's School Hall and to Fr Paul's Mass of Thanksgiving at 11 am on Sunday, 5th July in St Edmund's Church.

RSVP by 12th June to *Canon John O'Shea*, 14 Rockstone Place, Southampton SO15 2EQ. Tel. 023 8033 3589 or email catholic14@btinternet.com.