



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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THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY – YEAR B

15/16 AUGUST 2009

An article which caught my attention recently in the local paper was headed, 'We've sold our souls'. This reminded me of the poem I wrote last time and in it I said, "But the shortcuts that are offered is to sell their souls to those who are not boverred ..." The newspaper article referred to two women convicted of prostitution. They said, "Almost every prostitute comes from a dysfunctional family..." And "most prostitutes have suffered disturbed upbringings. You suffer mentally. You do feel." They said, "we've sold our souls to the devil and there is not enough help out there. ... You need a good man to take you away from all this."

This reminded me of the story in the Gospel about the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:1-42). Because of her reputation the Samaritan woman goes to the well during the hottest time of the day so as to avoid the comments of her neighbour. Nobody in their right mind went out in the heat of the midday sun. But she seizes this opportunity to get water.

Jesus speaks about the living water, which gives eternal life, divine grace and refreshes the soul. The Samaritan woman responds by saying, "Give me that water! Then I will never be thirsty again, nor will I have to come here to draw water." (John 4:15).

Jesus tells her a few home truths about her relationships with men. In the ensuing exchange He identifies himself to her ... something quite special in this intimate encounter. It is known that the Messiah will come and she is aware of it too. Jesus says to her, "I am He, I who am talking with you." (John 4:25-26).

The Samaritan woman's spirit is enlightened and illuminated by Jesus. She realises what it means to receive this living water, which is the spiritual refreshment that comes from her encounter with Jesus. She was impressed that He knew all about her – "Come and see the man who told me everything I have ever done." (John 4:29). But furthermore, she was given the opportunity to be forgiven. She became an instrument of God's tender love, compassion and mercy, and she brought many to believe in Jesus. Those who heard Him knew that, "He really is the saviour of the world." (John 4:42) "You need a good man to take you away from all this..." as quoted above. Is Jesus that good Man and how, for us all, the encounter with Jesus makes us instruments of His tender love, compassion and mercy!

Fr Richard

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS		ST JOSEPH'S	
Anthony Weafer RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Ralph Mascarenhas RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Mike Scholes RIP
Deceased Members of McGlynn Family RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	Roche Figueira RIP
J.H. King RIP	5.00 pm			
Joe Sweeney RIP	9.30 am	Monday	No Mass	
Katie Curran RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Fr Charles Malamba's Ints
Joseph Albert RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Michael Scholes RIP
Mary Walsh RIP	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Martin McCabe's Intentions
Anna Hitchins RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Dominic Clark's Intentions
		Saturday	10.00 am	Alethea Patteson & family's intentions
FEASTS OF THE WEEK:				
Wednesday – St John Eudes	Thursday – St Bernard	Friday – St Pius X	Saturday – The Queenship of Mary	
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: "On your right stands the queen, in garments of gold."				

COLLECTIONS FOR 9TH AUGUST 2009

Gift Aid	329.00
Planned Giving	64.00
Loose Plate	198.98
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	299.00
TF3	26.00
Candle Money	25.11
TOTAL	942.09
Running Totals	
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	1405.17

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 23rd August 2009 are Tony & Jill Flint and Pat Knowles.

YOUTH GROUP

For details, please contact *Nicola Ritchie* 9415636 or check the web site for forthcoming events or to print off application forms: <http://www.st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk>, then follow link for the Youth Group.

NEW PARISH OFFICE EMAIL ADDRESS: ST JOSEPH'S

Please note the new St Joseph's Parish Office email address: sjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk in keeping with the format outlined by the Portsmouth Diocese. The old email address will be monitored until the autumn, when we will cease to use it.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME: 2009/2010

St Joseph's Parish Programme will begin next term in preparation for reception of the sacrament next May. If your child will be in Year 3 or above in September, you are invited to register for the programme as soon as possible. If your child attends St Paul's school, please collect an application form from the **SCHOOL OFFICE** and hand it in to the **PARISH OFFICE** (open Tuesdays and Thursdays 9 am -12.30 pm). Parents of children at other primary schools should collect the form from the Parish Office. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept applications received after **Friday, 18th September**, so please do not forget to register in plenty of time.

CONFIRMATION JUNE 2010

If you will be in Year 8 or above in September and are interested in joining the Confirmation program, please leave your name, phone number, home address and email address with the Parish Office. There is a strict cut-off date: **Monday, 19th October**, to allow us to plan the resources required. (Late applicants will be asked to re-apply the following year). The program will begin with a Come and See evening in November.

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD

Bishop Crispian invites us to an introduction to Stewardship in Portsmouth Diocese. What is it and why is it important? This day will take place on: 7th November – at St Joseph's Convent School, Upper Redlands Road, Reading. Cost £5 (will be covered by the parish) + bring your own packed lunch. For details and booking: Dept. for Pastoral Formation, Park Place Pastoral Centre, Winchester Road, Wickham, Hants PO17 5HA. Tel. 01329 835583 or email estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

THANKSGIVING MASS FOR PARISH HELPERS

As a thank you to all the people who help in the parish in any way, e.g. if you visit the sick, the elderly, prepare the altar, clean the church etc. Fr John and Fr Joseph will be offering a Thanksgiving Mass for all helpers on Saturday 5th September at 5pm followed by refreshments in the Hall afterwards. All helpers are most welcome.

Fr John / Fr Joseph

FR ZVONKO

During his recent brief visit to St Joseph's, Fr Zvonko once again expressed his sincere thanks to the parish for the financial support given to him to help with his university studies.

Fr Zvonko receives no financial assistance from his home diocese of Banja Luka and relies on donations from family and friends.

With Fr John's approval, St Joseph's Parish will be having a special voluntary collection for Fr Zvonko during the next few weeks and envelopes are available at the rear of the Church.

With the help of all Fr Zvonko's friends here at St Joseph's, we hope to be able to send him some further financial assistance in time for the new academic year in October. Please be as generous as you can.

CAFOD SUPPORTERS DAY and CLIMATE JUSTICE MASS

On Saturday, 12th September from 10.30 am - 3pm (Mass at 3.30 pm at St Bede's, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX. All CAFOD supporters are welcome to come along to hear about CAFOD's work in Bangladesh and Ethiopia and about upcoming plans for Harvest Fast Day 2009. We will be joined by Maurice McPartland, Head of Africa. The day will end with a special Vigil Mass for Climate Justice. Please note that everybody is welcome to attend the Mass - even if they do not come for the whole day). To book a place please email portsmouth@cafod.org.uk or telephone 01252 329 385.

TRIP TO WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL

Fr Dominic at St James is planning a trip to Winchester Cathedral on Wednesday, 23rd September. The coach will leave St James at 10 am arriving in Winchester for the lunch time Mass at St Peter's Church, the local Catholic Church. After time for lunch, there will be a private guided tour of Winchester Cathedral which will take approximately one hour. The coach will leave for the return journey to St James at 4.30 pm. The cost is £10 per person and we would like payment when you book your seat. If you find, nearer the time, that you can't come, the payment will be refunded. If you would like to come, please contact the Parish Office at St James on 957 4171 or email parish@jameswilliam-reading.org.uk.

AUGUST HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

St Joseph's Parish Office will be closed for two weeks from the week commencing Monday, 3rd August. Sheila Jones will be back in the Parish Office on Tuesday, 18th August. It is anticipated that a newsletter will continue to be published during this period. For urgent matters, i.e. sick calls and funerals, please continue to ring St Joseph's Church on 942 8632.

SPECIAL BREAKFAST

Arranged by Reading Churches Men's Group - 8.15 am for 8.30 am on Saturday, 5th September in the Cedar Room, Park House Reading University (Pepper Lane entrance). "Hong Kong Before and After" - 40 years of amazing Christian work in Hong Kong. Guest speaker - Jackie Pullinger, author of "Chasing the Dragon". Bring a friend/relative/ neighbour/colleague to hear this remarkable woman. To book £10/head - send cheque 'RCMG' and SAE to John Ledger, 27 Radstock Lane, Earley, Reading, RG6 5RX. Tel: 9861917 (or *John Broady* 9543879). Please book by 1st September latest.

PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE

The August/September 2009 edition of the Portsmouth People is now available in the Church porch – *Please help yourself to a copy.*