



NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

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TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

22nd/23rd AUGUST 2009

Dominating the news at the moment is the number of soldiers killed in Afghanistan. The death toll has surged above 200 and bodies continue to arrive at RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire. Every single one represents a tragedy for family and friends – and these are almost all young men. Whilst the debate continues at a political level about why our soldiers are in that country, we must also focus on the willingness of those who go out there to serve their country even to the point of death. As their loved ones grieve and bury the dead, we are reminded that there are many casualties of war, many whose lives are touched and changed by every single death.

Last week I visited the National Memorial and Arboretum near Lichfield. Opened by the Queen a couple of years ago, it is a place where all those who have died in the line of duty since the Second World War are commemorated. Like many of you, I have stopped and read names on Memorials here and abroad of those who gave their lives in the First and Second World Wars. For me, to visit the National Memorial and read the list of those who died in Iraq whilst I was there in 2004 and in 2006/07 brought home that these are never just names – they are individual human beings. I recognised a number of the names inscribed on the huge walls. Also, you can't but notice that there is a large amount of space remaining, which will be gradually filled with names for 2009 and beyond. The reality of war and its consequences are brutal.

At the National Memorial near Lichfield there is a section where 306 soldiers are remembered. These were men shot at dawn in the First World War because they were judged to have shown cowardice or who had fallen asleep at their posts. Today, many would be diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress or Battle Shock and would be treated, not executed. In those days it was not fully understood and military discipline had to be upheld. Of the 306 who are marked with a wooden post, several were 17 years old and actually under the legal age for service. Some had gone into battle many times and then cracked, unable to return to the front line. As I stood there the other day, it struck me that then, as now, every war has many victims – but not all of them are recognised or remembered.

Fr John

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS		ST JOSEPH'S	
Theresa Cook RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Paul Barras' Intentions	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Mike Scholes RIP
Dec'd Mems of Dalton Family	11.30 am		10.30 am	Mike Scholes RIP
Fr Paul Leonard's Intentions	5.00 pm			
Tom Willingale RIP	9.30 am	Monday	No Mass	
Funeral - Carlo Villa RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Tony Williams RIP
George Joseph RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Mike Scholes RIP
Louie Fearn's RIP	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Mike Scholes RIP
Frank Yelland RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Tony Williams RIP
		Saturday	10.00 am	Alethea Patteson & Family's Intentions
FEASTS OF THE WEEK:				
Monday – St Bartholomew	Tuesday – Ss Louis IX & Joseph Calasanz	Wednesday – Blessed Dominic Barberi		
Thursday – St Monica	Friday – St Augustine of Hippo	Saturday – Beheading of St John the Baptist		
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: "Taste and see that the Lord is good."				

COLLECTIONS FOR 16TH AUGUST 2009

Gift Aid	£421.10
Planned Giving	£88.50
Loose Plate	£195.00
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£172.00
TF3	£8.50
Candle Money	£36.92
TOTAL	£922.02
Running Totals	
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£1,577.17

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 30th August 2009 are Tony Chaplin and John Macbeth.

YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group will re-commence on Friday, 4th September, which will consist of an Equipment Night. 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-tilhurst.org.uk>, then follow link for the Youth Group.

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.

THANKSGIVING MASS FOR PARISH HELPERS

As a thank you to all the people who help in St Joseph's 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 5 pm followed by refreshments in the Hall afterwards. All helpers are most welcome. For catering purposes, please complete and return the attached slip to the box in Church porch - 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.

FR COLM KELLEHER – MEMORIAL PLAQUE

The memorial plaque for Fr Colm Kelleher has been supplied and fixed by the stonemason which parishioners will see on the side wall at the entrance to the Church. The arrangements for the formal blessing of the memorial will be announced in due course.

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.

MARIAN PROCESSION – DOUAI ABBEY

There will be a Marian Procession at Douai Abbey in Berkshire on Saturday, 19th September at 11 am, which will be open to the public. The morning will commence with Mass in the main Abbey Church at 10 am (the choir will be the Douai Singers), followed by a Marian Procession at 11 am (starting from the main Abbey Church) around the extensive grounds of the Abbey (weather permitting, if the weather is poor there will be Marian devotions in the main Abbey Church). All ages/Parishes/Church groups are warmly welcome to attend Mass and the procession. Douai Abbey is a lovely venue set in the middle of the countryside, but with good transport connections. This event will be run by YCA (Young Catholic Adults) who will be having a retreat at the Abbey over the weekend of 18th – 20th September. If anyone would like to go on this retreat please ring *Damian Barker* on 07908 105787, as there are a few places left.

TOO MUCH, TOO SOON

A booklet prepared by the Family Education Trust entitled Too Much, Too Soon, is a critical response to the government's plans for your child's sex education. Bishop Crispian recently recommended that the booklet be brought to the attention of parishioners. It is particularly relevant to the parents of primary and secondary school children. Copies are available in a box at the back of the Church priced at £2.50 each. Kindly leave any monies in the box which will be collected daily.

CABRINI CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Cabrini Children's Society is holding a family charity day in conjunction with Surrey Gliding School at Kenley Airfield, Surrey on Bank Holiday Monday, 3rd May 2010. A flight lasting a maximum of 15 minutes (subject to weather conditions) will cost £45 and a barbecue including drinks will be held later in the day. Due to the popularity of this event, we would be grateful if you could let the Society know as soon as possible if you are interested by contacting *Ann Hoggan* on 020 8668 2181 or email ann.hoggan@cabrini.org.uk.

ST JOSEPH'S PARENT/CARER & TODDLER GROUP

St Joseph's Parent/Carer & Toddler Group will resume again on Thursday, 10th September at the usual time of 9.30 am – 11.15 am. If you have not been before, please do come along and join us, where you can enjoy a coffee and a chat and your children play and socialise in a safe and stimulating environment.

JOURNEY IN FAITH

Are you interested in finding out more about the Catholic faith? You may be considering becoming a Catholic or simply want to ask a few questions. Perhaps you are a Catholic who has been out of touch and would like to reconnect. The Journey in Faith group will start meeting on Thursday evenings in September. For more details please contact the parish office or phone Brigid Parkes on 9427436

COURSES IN PORTSMOUTH DIOCESE

Saturday, 19th September, 10.30 am – 3 pm - Liturgy for Loss & Bereavement. The day will be of benefit to anyone dealing with people who need support in loss and bereavement. Venue - St Margaret Mary Church, Middle Road, Park Gate, Hants SO31 7GH. (Please bring a packed lunch).

CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY ACTION

CCA are urgently seeking the following items:

- Single and double beds
- Wardrobes
- Chests of drawers
- 2 seater sofas

To meet these needs, the public donate good quality, unwanted furniture and household goods. CCA will collect furniture within postcode areas RG1-6 (inclusive), 8 (part), 30, 31 and 41 (part).

If you have any unwanted furniture, in good condition, would you please contact the CCA on 951 2338 on weekdays between 10 am - 4 pm.

They also require tins of soup, fish, meat, stews, vegetables and fruit (no baked beans), pasta, rice, spaghetti, tea, coffee, sugar. In fact, anything edible that can be stored!