



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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TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

29th/30th AUGUST 2009

I spent last Wednesday visiting my aunt and uncle in Walmer, Kent, where they both now live in a Residential & Nursing Home. My aunt Rose had a hospital appointment at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital so I went with her. Because she recently fractured her collarbone she couldn't manoeuvre in and out of my car so instead we used the hospital transport in the form of an ambulance/minibus vehicle. Things went well and we were back in Walmer in the early afternoon. As someone who keeps his eyes open I noticed how all those dealing with my aunt, on the journey, on arrival at the Hospital, the doctor and staff in the department, were courteous, kind and caring. You might say to yourself "isn't that exactly how it should be?" and you would be quite right. But it struck me how we often focus on the institution – the NHS – instead of focusing on the tremendous work done by those within it. The institution does sometimes creak at the seams, but try and imagine life without it.

In the United States a debate is raging about the future of Health Care. President Obama is engaged in a process to try and make provision for the 49 million Americans who do not have proper health cover in place – and is meeting ferocious opposition from many who believe that this will increase the financial burden on them. Some of them have looked across the Atlantic and either praised or slated our NHS. It isn't perfect but it is something which many of the most vulnerable have as a safety net for when they are in need. Once again, it is an area of our society where we can criticise and moan or we can, in a balanced manner, recognise and celebrate all the good that happens through those who dedicate their lives to looking after those who are sick, frail or hospitalised.

This week our Schools re-open after a break that seems to have flown by. We are blessed in Reading with very good Catholic Schools amongst other good schools. But if you were to rely on *The Daily Mail* version, things in education today are going downhill. What nonsense – written often by people who have little or no knowledge about the day-to-day workings of our schools. Schools are doing a tremendous job. Whilst recognising that there is always room for growth and improvement, shouldn't we be recognising and celebrating all that is good?

Fr John

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS		ST JOSEPH'S	
Josephine Quilty RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Norman Snow RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Tony Williams RIP
Martin & Kathleen Gaynard, John Nevin & Michael Henneghan RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	Tom Walsh RIP
Murtagh Family Intentions	5.00 pm			
Anna Twardzú RIP	10.00 am	Monday	10.00 am	Corazon Aquino RIP
Katie Porter RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Josephine (Jo) Johnston RIP
Tom Willingale RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Mrs Peggy Wheeler's Intentions
Hugh Faringdon Burrett RIP	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Patrick McAdden RIP
Robert Bradley RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Bridget McAdden RIP
		Saturday	10.00 am	Ellen McCormack RIP
FEASTS OF THE WEEK:				
		Thursday – St Gregory the Great	Friday – St Cuthbert	
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: "The just will live in the presence of the Lord."				

COLLECTIONS FOR 23RD AUGUST 2009

Gift Aid	£409.30
Planned Giving	£75.50
Loose Plate	£221.88
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£102.00
TF3	£4.25
Candle Money	£30.77
Hall Hire	£562.50
TOTAL	£1,406.20
Running Totals	
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£1,679.17

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 6th September 2009 are Tony Chaplin & 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 941 5636* 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.

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 green slips to the box at the back of the Church - *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.

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*.

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 942 7436*

PORTSMOUTH DIOCESAN CHRISTIAN UNITY COMMITTEE

This year's forum is to be held on 17th October at St Bede's, Basingstoke, and encourage those involved with ecumenical work to attend.

The day will be led by Mgr Andrew Faley, and the theme he will be addressing is "The Search for Christian Unity - an Audit for Today"

It is essential to register for this day by contacting Mairead Boyce (on behalf of the Executive Committee). Telephone No. 01367 242494 email boycemairead@aol.com.

GO OUR AND BEAR FRUIT

An afternoon of prayer exploring our call as disciples on Sunday, 20th September from 1.30 – 3.45 pm at St James Church, Abbey Ruins, Forbury Road, Reading. Contact: St James Presbytery, Abbots Walk, Reading, Berkshire, RG1 3HW - parish@jameswilliam-reading.org.uk; 0118 957 4171. Shared lunch in the school house at 12: 30pm. *All are welcome*.

HANDMADE CARD SALE

There will be a sale of handmade cards on Sunday, 6th September following both Masses. All proceeds towards Fr Zvonko's Training Fund – *Jenny Pearson*.

CAFOD FOCUS AFRICA

During the months of June and July, the fantastic sum of £201.89 was donated for CAFOD in the small Friday Self Denial envelopes (which can be found in the Church porch).

This included £105.00 from the first Sunday of the month's coffee mornings, which are organised by the Youth Group. I feel they really should be congratulated on all their hard work. There is a letter from CAFOD office to them all on the notice board showing how much they appreciate their efforts, as I am sure we all do. Thank you to everyone who contributed – *Margaret Chaplin*.

KNITWITS

The next meeting will be at the home of Theresa Bricker: 23 Bitterne Avenue on Monday, 7th September at 8 pm.