
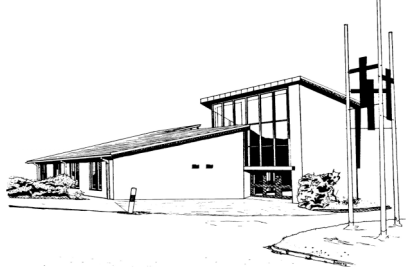


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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: sjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk website: www.st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk</p> <p>Secretary: Sheila Jones</p>

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

12th/13th SEPTEMBER 2009

Last weekend, details of Paul Biya's (President of Cameroon) ludicrously lavish holidays in France were making the rounds of social networks around the world. It was said that he spent a month in La Baule in France where he hired a hotel for himself and his entourage for 42.000 euro a day, excluding extra costs! To spend that kind of money for a month seems out of touch for a poor and highly indebted country like Cameroon. Yet, the president of Cameroon is not alone in pillaging the resources of a poor African nation and stashing the money away in private bank accounts in the developed world or acquiring properties for themselves in rich countries.

I cannot understand how the citizens of rich nations feel when their elected officials receive these corrupt presidents and treat them like gods when everyone knows what they are doing to their countries and their people. The Mayor of La Baule did not only receive the Cameroonian president; he awarded a medal of honour to him after the latter's spectacular spending spree in his city. And La Baule is not the only city in the developed world where Paul Biya is an honorary citizen.

The French know that 48% of Cameroonians live below the poverty line and the country relies heavily on foreign aid and that is the reason France has pledged to provide 537 million euros over the next five years to Cameroon within a development framework and also to implement a debt recovery plan. And there are many other African countries on Transparency International's top ten corruption list who receive millions of dollars in aid! No doubt most of the money given to African countries in aid has so far not made any difference to the lives of ordinary Africans.

It seems to me that the countries of the West would prop up corrupt and anti-democratic governments in Africa as long as they obtain access to prized natural resources. The recent controversial release of Al Megrahi from a Scottish prison on compassionate grounds threw up allegations that there were underhand dealings with the Libyan government motivated by business considerations. In the final analysis, the losers are the ordinary men and women of these poor countries. It is thanks to Aid organisations and Faith Groups that some of these desperately poor citizens can have clean water to drink, and some of their children can go to school and enjoy basic health care and hygiene.

I think that while many Christians and other people of goodwill across Europe have been doing well in supporting these Aid Organisations, it is time we begin to speak out against elected officials in rich nations who publicly profess to be giving our tax money to poor countries as aid and at the same time encouraging the leaders of those countries to siphon and spend that money with reckless abandon on themselves and their cronies, while their people die of hunger and disease.

Fr Joseph

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS			ST JOSEPH'S
George Crossland RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Willie Roulston RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Frances Hoban RIP
Tom Willingale RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	Mike Scholes RIP
Bridie McGlynn RIP	5.00 pm			
Funeral John Cassidy RIP	9.30 am	Monday	No Mass	
Jack MacDonald RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Mrs Maria Palamate RIP
Kate Knollys RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Tony Williams RIP
Gerard Campbell RIP	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Joan & Norman Bricker RIP
Rodgers Family RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Paul Spackman's Intentions
		Saturday	10.00 am	Raymond Brown RIP
FEASTS OF THE WEEK:				
Monday – THE TRIUMPH OF THE CROSS		Tuesday – Our Lady of Sorrows		Wednesday – Ss Cornelius & Cyprian
Thursday – St Robert Bellarmine		Saturday Ss Janarius and Theodore of Canterbury		
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: "I will walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living."				

COLLECTIONS FOR 6TH SEPTEMBER 2009

Gift Aid	£445.50
Planned Giving	£62.00
Loose Plate	£195.09
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£115.00
TF3	£12.50
Repository	£2.50
Candle Money	£58.93
Hall Hire	£185.50
Lorry	£50.00
TOTAL	£1,127.02
Running Totals	
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£2,061.17

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 20th September will be Tom & Pat McKeown and Hugh Glover.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

There will be a collection **TODAY** for Racial Justice. There will also be a collection next Sunday, 20th September for CASE (Catholic Agency to Support Evangelisation).

YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group session will be on **Saturday**, 19th September and will consist of a trip to Thorpe Park.

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 programme, 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 programme will begin with a Come and See evening in November.

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.

KNITWITS

An advance notice for your diaries: We would like to invite you to our "social get together" to celebrate our 20th anniversary on Saturday, 14th November at 2.30 pm in the large hall. More details nearer the time. Do hope you can come – *Margaret Chaplin*.

SHORT HOLIDAY BREAK - UNATTACHED CATHOLICS

A small mixed group of us have booked holiday accommodation in Devon from 12 - 15 November. We have a vacancy for one male - or two if prepared to share, at a reduced cost. More information from: 0118 9475782, or maryelizabethheron@yahoo.co.uk - *Mary Colbeck*.

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 meets on Thursday evenings. For more details please contact the parish office or phone *Brigid Parkes* on 9427436

OCTOBER 2009: FREE WILLS MONTH

Over the month of October, CAFOD is offering all those aged 55+ and resident in the UK the chance to make a will for free with participating solicitors in Reading. A list of participating solicitors will be confirmed on 1st October and can only be obtained via the Free Wills Month information line, the FWF website and the local press. Call *Free Wills Month* on 0845 020 4309, email info@freewillsmoth.org.uk or visit www.freewillsmoth.org.uk for more information.

LITURGY AND PRAYER FOR LOSS AND BEREAVEMENT

On Saturday, 19th September 2009 (10 for 10.30 am – 3 pm). Venue: St Margaret Mary Church, Middle Road, Park Gate SO31 7GH. The day will benefit anyone dealing with people who need support in loss and bereavement e.g. clergy and laity working in chaplaincy and bereavement support, ministers of communion, visitors to the sick and housebound, catechists and pastoral council members. Cost: Free. Tea and coffee will be provided. Please bring a packed lunch. For further information or to book a place, visit the website www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or contact *Eileen Stephenson* - estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk 01329 835583.

RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH!

On Saturday, 19th September 2009 (9.30 am - 1.00 pm). Venue: St Peter's Primary School, Olivers Battery Road North, Winchester, SO22 4JB. A half-day for Confirmation catechists, youth leaders and anyone working with young people to look at the new resources for Confirmation produced by CAFOD. For further information contact *Dave Hill* - dhill@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/01329 835583, or to book a place visit the website www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or contact *Eileen Stephenson* - email: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/01329 835583.

BAPTISM COURSE

The next Baptism course at St Joseph's will be on Wednesday, 14th October and Wednesday, 21st October 8 pm - 9.30 pm in the main Church hall. We will be using a programme called: Baptism – helping your child get the most out of life. Godparents are also welcome to join us for discussion and to watch a DVD. The courses only run every few months, so if you are new or expectant parents, it might be better to attend this course if you wish your child to be baptised fairly soon.

If you are considering Baptism for your child, whatever their age, please register for the course by contacting *Brigid Parkes* on 9427436 or alternatively email the Parish Office (details on the front of this newsletter).

FRANCES ZAKARY RIP

The Parish offers condolences to Frances Zakary's family. Please pray for the repose of his soul. Frances' requiem Mass will be held here at St Joseph's at 10 am on Monday, 21st September, followed by burial at St Michael's Churchyard. *All are invited*.

CAFOD FOCUS – AFRICA

During August £51.95 was donated to help the people in Africa – Many thanks to everyone who contributed.