



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-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

5th/6th SEPTEMBER 2009

Part of my daily routine is to walk every morning from the office where I work across to Archbishop's House Westminster, to meet with Archbishop Nichols. It takes about ten minutes through a square, past shops and houses and through the streets behind Westminster Cathedral. This morning (Thursday) it was different from how it has been the rest of the week. There were lots of children heading back to school. There was plenty of excitement as they met their friends after the summer holidays. London is noisy anyway, but this morning the noise was of happy children – at least most of them seemed happy!

All through our history as Christians, the Church has placed great emphasis on education. We draw our inspiration from Jesus himself who devoted much of his ministry to teaching. I am sure it is pure coincidence that the schools, in London at least, are opening on the feast of Pope St Gregory the Great. He is one of the patrons of teachers and pupils. This is because Gregory was, unusually for his time, quite well educated and as a young man became a monk at a monastery in the centre of Rome, near the Colosseum. It was then as Pope that Gregory sent St Augustine to England to convert the English. The story goes that he had seen young English boys being sold as slaves in the Forum and is reputed to have said that they looked like *angels* and not *angles* (*angli* being the Latin word for English), and he wanted the English to hear the Good News of the Gospel.

The English built on Gregory's great tradition of education by founding monasteries with their schools, and then the missionaries went all over the world bringing education with them. When, in 1851 the Catholic Church was re-established in this country after the turbulence of the reformation and the penal laws against Catholics, the decision was made to establish schools often before founding churches, especially for the benefit of the poor in the growing industrial cities and areas.

We are now one of the few countries in the world where Catholic schools are an integral part of the State system, and a Catholic education is freely available to families. Of course there are costs and these are carried by us all through the contributions made through the resources the parish passes on to the Diocese. This is part of the support we can offer to Catholic parents as they seek to educate their children, as well as to the teachers, head teachers, governors, assistant staff and ancillary staff who all play their valued part in educating the next generation.

At the beginning of the academic year let us pray for our young people and all involved in their education so that in the words of today's second reading they might be "rich in faith and heirs to the kingdom which he promised to those who love him".

Fr Andrew

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS		ST JOSEPH'S	
Tillie, Pat & John Ryce RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Albert & Theresa Cook RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Renee Kelly RIP
Kenneth Woolcock's Ints	11.30 am		10.30 am	Tony Williams RIP
People of the Parish	5.00 pm			
Syro Malabar Mass	6.30 pm			
Brother Bennett RIP	9.30 am	Monday	9.00 am	Joseph Meredith RIP
Mary & Kathleen Disken RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	John Kearney RIP
Funeral – Bernard Stanfield	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Tony Williams RIP
Brother Bernard RIP	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Elizabeth Kearney RIP
Jim Rafter RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Mike Scholes RIP
		Saturday	10.00 am	Suzanne Bishop's Intentions
FEASTS OF THE WEEK:				
Tuesday – The Nativity of Our Lady		Wednesday – St Peter Claver		
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: "My soul give praise to the Lord."				

COLLECTIONS FOR 30TH AUGUST 2009

Gift Aid	£371.38
Planned Giving	£50.00
Loose Plate	£205.73
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£267.00
TF3	£9.00
Repository	£2.50
Candle Money	£20.05
Donations	£30.00
TOTAL	£955.66
<u>Running Totals</u>	
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£1,946.17

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 13th September will be Maurice O'Brien and Ryan Hawkins.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

There will be a collection next Sunday, 13th September for Racial Justice.

YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group session on Friday, 11th September will consist of Hair, Nails & Make Over and Football Fun at Prospect 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 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.

CLERGY

Father Richard is back from his break refreshed and raring to go! Father John has just left for two weeks Annual Training with the Territorial Army in Scotland, based at Inverness. He returns on the 20th September.

HANDMADE CARD SALE

There will be a sale of handmade cards **TODAY** following both Masses. All proceeds towards Fr Zvonko's Training Fund – *Jenny Pearson*.

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 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 all those involved with ecumenical work are encouraged to attend. The day will be led by Mgr Andrew Faley, and the theme which 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 OUT 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 12.30 pm. *All are welcome.*

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.

READING UNIVERSITY MASSES

These are starting again this Sunday at 6 pm at St William of York Church in Upper Redlands Road.

GET CREATIVE! FOR CAFOD PORTSMOUTH

The CAFOD Portsmouth office has recently launched a competition to produce a CD of songs and poems from people across the Diocese. Entries are welcome from individuals and/or schools and groups. The topic of the song or poem could be anything from environmental justice to livesimply, from worship to social action. Deadline for submissions: 7th June 2010. Full rules and entry forms can be downloaded from www.cafod.org.uk/portsmouth or contact the office at portsmouth@cafod.org.uk or 01252 329285 for more information.

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@freewillsmoonth.org.uk or visit www.freewillsmoonth.org.uk for more information.

UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS - TILEHURST FOUNDATION

The UCM in this parish is a friendly group of ladies who meet regularly on alternate Wednesday evenings in term time. We run a varied programme of talks, social occasions and spiritual events. The beginning of the new term is a good time to join us. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, 9th September at 7.30 pm in the small hall. It will be a Welcome Back evening. Why not come along and find out more? – *Marian Telepneff*.

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 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.

RELICS OF ST THERESE – 16TH SEPTEMBER

We have discovered that access to the Mass at the Cathedral with the Bishop at 2 pm on 16th September is by ticket only, and there is no guarantee for other people of gaining entry. Therefore, no coach is being organised and it is up to individuals to travel to Portsmouth to venerate the Relics if they wish to. You should note that the Relics will be in Oxford on 7th October.

PRAYING FOR THE SICK

If you know of anyone who is unwell and would like to be prayed for at Mass, please let St Joseph's Parish Office know. Their names will then be included in the bidding prayers. Please make sure the person is happy for their name to be mentioned beforehand.

HOLY COMMUNION AT HOME

If any parishioner is unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion at home, or if anyone knows of such a person, please inform the Parish Office or *Jo Boase* on 9672605, so that visits can be arranged.