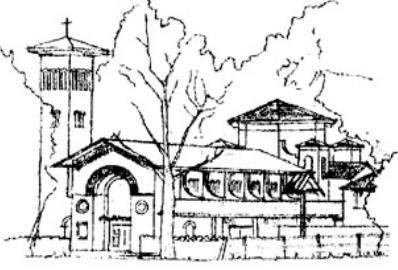
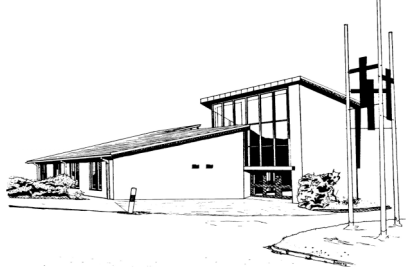


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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>

THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

24th/25th OCTOBER 2009

On Thursday morning the children from English Martyrs School filled the church. They came with their teachers and staff to celebrate Harvest Thanksgiving. Together we praised and thanked God for his many good gifts to us – and we considered how we must share the gifts we have received with others, especially those who are finding life difficult at the this time. We sang and we prayed.

As I looked across the sea of faces at that School mass, I found myself wondering what kind of church we will be in twenty or twenty-five years time, when those children are themselves parents. On each of the Sundays in October we have taken a count of the number of people attending Mass. At English Martyrs the average was about 800, at St Joseph's somewhere near 270. But we all know that there are many more Catholics living in this part of Reading who don't come. Most have not rejected the Church – they simply don't bother. And the fact is that the majority of the children who gathered for our School Mass are never brought by their parents on Sundays. So what church will it be when they are adults? Will our buildings have become museums, opened up for those special occasions like baptisms, weddings and funerals?

Last weekend we highlighted a gathering, hosted by Bishop Crispian, at St Joseph's Convent School on Saturday 7th November. The theme of the day is 'Stewardship' – how we celebrate and use the gifts God has given us. At English Martyrs I left a list at the back of the church in the hope that between fifteen and twenty people might join me in attending that day. Out of 800 people, three have indicated that they will come, which leaves me wondering whether we are banging our heads against a brick wall. Should we bother? At the weekend Masses, as I walk towards the altar to begin Mass, I see a lot of people standing there who refuse even to open a hymn book and have a go at joining in the singing. When we did the count of those attending Mass, we had to do it at the Offertory because if it had been done at the beginning or end we would have missed the significant number who arrive after Mass has begun, and left at communion time before Mass has finished.

The reason I raise the issue of our own commitment (and I include myself) is because what we do – or don't do – now, is going to decide what kind of church we have in twenty to twenty-five years time.

Fr John

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS		ST JOSEPH'S	
Rita Carvalho RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Joseph Albert RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Esperanza T Boac RIP
Gilbert Houston RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	Patrick Nolan RIP
Maria Palamartschuk RIP	5.00 pm			
Cliff Nutley RIP	9.30 am	Monday	8.30 am	David Petersen's Intentions
Louie Fearn's RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Jimmy McMahon RIP
Jim Rafter RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	10.30 am	Funeral - Mary Tomas RIP
John Sullivan & Nellie Moran RIP	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Francis Zakary RIP
Brenda O'Brien RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Dominic Clark's Intentions
		Saturday	10.00 am	Andrew & Tulane Marek's Ints.
FEASTS OF THE WEEK:				
Monday – Ss Chad & Cedd		Wednesday – Ss Simon & Jude		Friday – Blessed Winchester Martyrs
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: "What marvels the Lord worked for us! Indeed we were glad."				

COLLECTIONS FOR 18TH OCTOBER 2009

Gift Aid	£452.50
Planned Giving	£72.50
Loose Plate	£281.35
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£7.87
TF3	£7.50
Family Fast	£10.00
Hall Hire	£88.00
Repository	£83.50
Mission Sunday	£353.28
Racial Justice	£0.70
TOTAL	£1,357.20
Running Totals	
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£61.54

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 1st November are Maurice O'Brien and Ryan Hawkins.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

There will be a special collection next Sunday, 1st November for Bamenda. Every year we have a **special collection** to support the priests, religious and people of Cameroon in our twinned Diocese of Bamenda. This week, please take a copy of '**Bamenda Briefing**' from the back of the Church and see how much your help is needed.

YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group session on Friday, 6th November will be an Equipment Night. For details, please contact *Nicola Ritchie on 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.

CAFOD – FOCUS AFRICA

Very many thanks to everyone who contributed during September – a very generous £109.27. This will be of benefit to so many people. If you think that we at St Joseph's, over the past two months, have given enough to build a pit latrine (£140) providing clean toilet facilities for a whole community – with a little money left over! Thank you again – *Margaret Chaplin*.

MARY TOMAS RIP

The Parish offers condolences to Mary Tomas' family. Please pray for the repose of her soul. Mary's body will be received in to St Joseph's Church at 4.30 pm on Tuesday, 27th October, and her funeral Mass will be at 10.30 am on Wednesday, 28th October, followed by burial at St Michael's Churchyard. *All are invited.*

*Please note that there will be **no 9 am Mass** on Wednesday in order to accommodate Mary's funeral Mass*.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Following the success of last year's Christmas Hamper project, the Parish Working Group has decided to hold another hamper draw this year. Parishioners were very generous in donating items suitable for the draw and it would be appreciated if everyone could make similar contributions from now on. A basket will be available in the Church porch for all donations. Draw tickets will be available from **today** and proceeds from the draw will go to parish funds.

However, the parish has decided to donate £250 from the profits to the SVP Society for distribution to the less fortunate within the parish. The date of the draw will be Sunday, 13th December 2009 following the 10.30 am Mass in the large hall.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS

Parish Christmas cards will be on sale after each Mass. *All profits will go to parish funds.*

CENTRAL & WEST READING PASTORAL AREA

A bereavement service will be held at St Joseph's Church at 3 pm on Sunday, 1st November. All parishioners in the Pastoral Area are invited to attend and pray for deceased members of their families and friends. Light refreshments will be available in the large hall after the service.

If anybody knows of an elderly/disabled person who would like to attend the service, but is without transport, it would be much appreciated if parishioners could offer them transport facilities.

TRANSPORT TO MASS

One of our parishioners, who lives in Pegasus court on the Bath Road, would like a lift to 10:30 am Mass occasionally, about once a month. Ideally, we would like a group of people who could help out from time to time. The more the merrier - that way we can spread the load. If you are able to help, can you please contact either *Eileen Kerrigan on 01189 412 757* or *Sheila Jones the Parish Secretary on telephone number 0118 942 8632*.

NOVEMBER – HOLY SOULS

It is the custom at St Joseph's to offer petitions in remembrance of the holy souls. This year, during the month of November, there will be a basket in front of the Sanctuary to receive the petitions. Please do not place any offerings in the basket. Any such offerings should be referred to Fr Joseph or to Sheila Jones in the Parish Office.

KNITWITS

The next meeting will be at the home of Ruth Lewis: 30 Calder Close on Monday, 2nd November at 8 pm.

UCM

The UCM would like to thank all those who supported the cake and preserve sale last Sunday, particularly those who made items for sale. Over £135, including donations, was raised for Fr Zwonko's Training Fund.

WE WAIT IN JOYFUL HOPE – SATURDAY, 14TH NOVEMBER 2009

Come and enjoy a day exploring how we celebrate Advent, and some of the music both old and new that can enhance the season. The day will be lead by Diocesan Director of Music and Liturgy, Paul Inwood. All singers and instrumentalists most welcome, together with anyone who wants to know more about celebrating Advent in the parish. If you are bringing an instrument, please advise what it is when booking, and bring your own music stand.

This event will be held at English Martyrs Church from 10.30 am until 4.00pm. Tea and coffee will be provided but please bring your own lunch. To book your place, please contact *Sarah Finch on 0118 945 6545* or email sarah-finch@btconnect.com.

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD

Bishop Crispian invites you to 'Give Thanks to the Lord for He is Good', an opportunity to find out what stewardship is and why it is so important in the life of our diocese.

Saturday, 7th November at 10 for 10.30 am – 4 pm, St Joseph's Convent School, Upper Redlands Road, Reading, RG1 5JT, or Saturday, 14th November, 10 for 10.30 am – 4 pm, St George School, Leaside Way, Southampton, SO16 3DQ.

The cost of the day is £5. Tea and coffee are provided, and participants are asked to bring a packed lunch. To book, contact *Eileen Stephenson on 01329 835583* or estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

LIFE – A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES!

Charity Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 21st November in the English Martyrs Parish Centre. Charities will include Feed the Children, Traidcraft, Life, Talking News for the Blind, and more.