
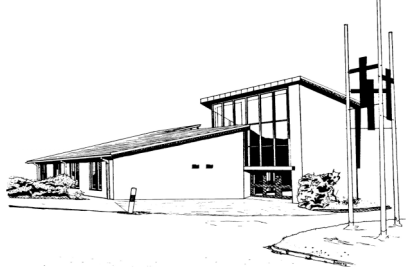


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<p style="text-align: center;">Parish Clergy:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mgr John Nelson (Parish Priest & Co-ordinating Pastor)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Fr Joseph Awoh (Resident at St Joseph's)</p> <p style="text-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 style="text-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>

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR B

14TH/15TH NOVEMBER 2009

If God is a loving God, “Why does he allow wars to take place, violence, death, destruction..? How often do we hear such things said and there are countless other scenarios? You would need to look into the question of “good and evil” and even what is meant by “loving” to fathom some of the philosophical and theological arguments. But for me the answer to “where is God” led to an encounter with God who loves in the most tragic situations in our lives.

A few years ago I was returning from Lisieux in Northern France after having visited the place of birth of St Therese, whose relics have recently toured these shores. When I reached Caen I went into a church. It was dark and to my shock and amazement I saw a large crucifix-Jesus, without arms or legs. Charred from having been in a fire when the church was burned down in the Second World War. Only the crowned head and shoulders remained. A short history was on the wall telling how it had been found in the cinders of a burned down church. This experience made a profound impact on me and stayed with me as I took the ferry back to Portsmouth. It was going to be a six hour journey back so I went into the shop just to browse around. To my amazement I saw on each Newspaper a photo of a funeral taking place in Northern Ireland. On the front of one of the photos was a carving of the bust of Jesus with a crown of thorns, eyes raised to heaven! I couldn't believe that I had already had a similar experience in the church. I bought a paper and read the article. Thomas Begley had taken a bomb with an eleven seconds fuse into a fish and chip shop. It went off before then and killed him and others. As I was reading my eyes were filling with tears as if my whole experience was to strike home for me. Jesus, disfigured, deformed and dismembered crying out, “I was there!” But no one would recognise him and no one would expect to find him so closely connected to such a tragic event. I thought to myself, “One day I shall go to Northern Ireland”, and I did. I walked with a group from Derry to Knock. I recalled to them my story and afterwards they said, “Father, St Therese is our patron. I have also recently seen the same photograph that I saw all those years ago on the front page of a newspaper only this time it spoke about the “miracle” of the peace talks in Northern Ireland!

Fr Richard

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS			ST JOSEPH'S
J.H. King RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Alex Pich & Family's Ints.	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Kathleen Gaughan RIP
Peter Walsh RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	Cis & Jimmy McCarthy RIP
Kath Conroy's Intentions	5.00 pm		2.00 pm	Blessing of graves at Henley Road Cemetery
Jim Rafter RIP	9.30 am	Monday	No Mass	
Bishop Hollis' Intentions	9.30 am	Tuesday	11.00 am	Funeral-Jack Cummins RIP
			7.00 pm	John Lewis Hadland RIP
Fr Paul Leonard's Ints.	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Kathleen Pearl
Simone Rossi RIP	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Kathleen Gaughan RIP
Funeral-Catherine Wilson RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Francis Zakary RIP
		Saturday	10.00 am	Martin Burke RIP
FEASTS OF THE WEEK:				
Monday – St Edmund of Abingdon Tuesday – Ss Elizabeth of Hungary, Hilda & Hugh of Lincoln Wednesday – Dedication of the Basilicas of Ss Peter & Paul Saturday – The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary				
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT			Saturday 9.30-10 am	
5.30-6.15 pm	CONFESSIONS - SATURDAY			10.30-11 am
Responsorial Psalm: “Preserve me God, I take refuge in you.”				

COLLECTIONS FOR 8TH NOVEMBER 2009

Gift Aid	£407.50
Planned Giving	£67.00
Loose Plate	£254.61
TF3	£8.49
Christmas Draw Money	£50.00
Repository	£180.00
Christmas Cards	£13.50
Bamenda	£17.00
Hall Hire	£36.00
Donations	£200.00
Lorry Parking	£50.00
TOTAL	£1,284.10
Running Totals	
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£169.44
Bamenda	£491.03
TF3	£11.19

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 22nd November are Pat Toner & Angela Barry.

YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group session on Friday, 20th November will be Youth Sunday rehearsal and planning.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS

Just a reminder to all parishioners: It would be much appreciated if you could contribute suitable Christmas items for the hampers. A large box is available in the Church porch for collection of all donations. Draw tickets are now available and proceeds from the draw will go to parish funds.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH CHRISTMAS CARDS

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

NOVEMBER – HOLY SOULS

Fr Joseph will be offering a number of designated Masses in November for the departed members of families, parishioners and friends. It is not possible to celebrate individual Masses for each family in the Parish. In addition to our general intention to include them in every Mass, the following Masses will be offered specifically for those named:

Monday, 23rd November at 8.30 am

Monday, 30th November at 8.30 am

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES

The annual blessing of the graves at Henley Road Cemetery will take place at 2 pm on **TODAY**. *All are welcome.*

TONY WILLIAMS RIP

The family would like to thank Fr Joseph and parishioners for Masses, cards, prayers and support during our sad time. A Mass will be said for your intentions – *Rita, Clare and Paul.*

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN READING PRAYER MEETING – MONDAY, 16TH NOVEMBER

St Joseph's will be hosting the next Prayer Meeting at **7.30 pm** on 16th November. The original notice stated that the meeting would commence at 7 pm. Please note the change of time to **7.30 pm**. The meeting will be held in the small hall next to St Joseph's Church, and is an occasion for parishioners from churches in the West Reading area to meet socially for prayer and discussion. Light refreshments will be available during the meeting. *All are welcome – Fr Joseph.*

HOLY WATER SCOOP

Has anyone got a nice big sea shell they could donate as a holy water scoop to go with the new font? If so, please contact the Parish Office – *Thank you.*

LIFE – A DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES!

in the English Martyrs Parish Centre next Saturday, from 1 - 4 pm. Charities include Life, Feed the Children, Traidcraft, stalls selling Christmas cards, gifts, toiletries, jewellery, handicrafts, bric-a-brac, cakes (UCM), children's corner (Pre-School), raffle, lucky dip and teas. Admission 20p. Please support this event. No Mayor's Market this year. Home-made cakes would be much appreciated for the UCM cake stall. If anyone can help would you please bring the cakes to the Fayre.

CARMEN

Carmen will be celebrating her 25th Anniversary of entering the Servite Secular Institute on Saturday, 5th December. A Thanksgiving Mass will be celebrated at 3 pm at St Joseph's Church and all parishioners are invited. Refreshments will be available in the hall afterwards.

Carmen has indicated that she really does not want any gifts, but would encourage donations to the drop-in-centre, if people wish. There will be a basket at the back of the Church after the Celebration Mass for any such donations.

CHRISTMAS CARDS AND REPOSITORY

A selection of cards, cribs, calendars, candles and other seasonal items for Advent and Christmas will be on sale after Masses in the small hall during November.

AN ADVENT CELEBRATION

Ever wondered how to make an Advent Wreath or heard of the 'Empty Crib'? Ever worried that in Advent, Jesus so often gets squeezed into the space left over from the demands of family and food? Then join us at St Joseph's, Tilehurst on Sunday 29th November, the first Sunday of Advent. From 12 noon, home-made soup and fresh bread will be available and at 1 pm, a short time of communal prayer and reflection. Then children of school age will enjoy separate, supervised creative activities, leaving adults free to make their own Advent wreaths and/or to experience different ways of guided or private prayer.

There is no charge and booking is not essential. However, an indication of numbers would be helpful, so if you plan to come please inform English Martyrs Parish Office. Tel. 957 2149. englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

At 3.30 pm, we will move from the hall to St Joseph's Church, where we hope others will join us in our annual Pastoral Area Advent Service. This is a 45 minute service of scripture, prayer and music based around the Advent Wreaths, which are then blessed before being taken home. Refreshments will be available after the service.

UNION OF CATHOLIC MOTHERS

The next UCM meeting will be on Wednesday, 18th November. Cynthia Beard, a former Reading Mayor, will be coming to talk about her year in office. The meeting is at 7.30 pm in the small hall.

LIFE ISSUES COURSE

A 3 day course open to anyone who is interested in the charity Life and the work that they do to support women and men facing problems before, during and after pregnancy. The course will take place on Tuesdays, 24th November, 1st & 8th December from 9.30 am – 2.30 pm at St Joseph's Church Hall in Tilehurst. Contact Sarah Finch on 945 6546 or email sarahfinch@lifecharity.org.uk.

JACK CUMMINS RIP

The parish offers condolences to the family of Jack Cummins who died recently. Jack's body will be received into the Church at 5 pm on Monday, 16th November, followed by a Funeral Mass on Tuesday, 17th November at 11 am. All are welcome – *Fr Joseph.*