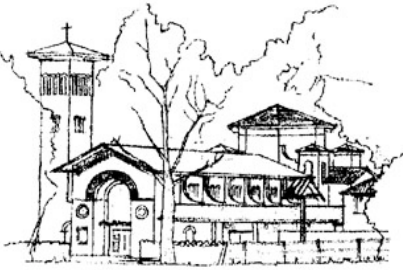
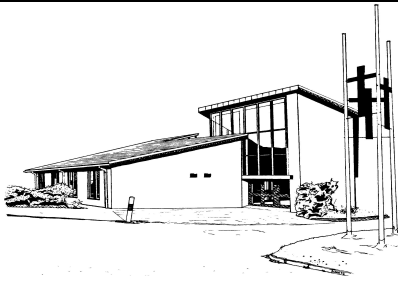


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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 322 7105) Fr Chris Whelan Fr Richard Maniak (Tel: 0118 958 6637)</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>

CHRISTMAS & THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY – YEAR A

25TH/26TH DECEMBER 2010

Because Christmas falls on a Saturday this year, we have a weekend of celebration! We contemplate with awe and wonder the baby lying in the manger, and then we widen our gaze to see Mary, his mother, and Joseph standing protectively close by. Jesus is born in time and place into a human family: the Son of God is also the Son of Man. All over the world this weekend people will be putting aside what normally occupies them, setting to one side tensions and problems with others, in the hope that Christmas will be different – and make a difference. Many people, and not just Christians, pin their hopes on this as a time of peace and goodwill.

At English Martyrs and at St Joseph's we welcome everyone who comes to celebrate Christmas. Many of those who gather come to our churches week in and week out. There are others who are here visiting family or friends and have come to celebrate what unites us – whichever part of the country, or world, we come from. There are also those who have come who live in this part of Reading but choose not to come along very often during the year. No one is here to judge anyone else – all are welcome. The Christmas story is, however, a beginning and not something that stands on its own. As we sing "and Christmas comes once more" we do have to consider where that leads us, what it requires of us. We cannot just celebrate Christmas without then coming to listen to the message Jesus came to bring. Sunday after Sunday we reflect on the Gospel, the Good News, and what it asks of us. Jesus being born was the start, not an event that existed all on its own. We celebrate Christ's birth in Bethlehem, we rejoice with Mary and Joseph, and then we commit ourselves to listening to Jesus as he begins to teach and preach – and when he challenges us to live our lives in the best possible way, his Way. **Fr John**

MASS INTENTIONS

ENGLISH MARTYRS		DAYS	ST JOSEPH'S	
Syro Malabar	3.00 pm	Christmas Eve – Nativity of the Lord	6.00 pm	Charles Newman RIP
D'Cruz & Price Family RIP	6.00 pm			
People of the Parish	11.15 pm	Carols and Readings followed by Midnight Mass	11.30 pm	Tim O'Leary RIP
Arch. Cornelius' Intentions	8.00 am	Christmas Day	9.00 am	Peter Jones RIP
Michael Conroy RIP	9.30 am		10.30 am	Brian & Bridget Ellen and son Barney Clarke RIP
Dolly Gorman RIP	11.30 am			
Mick McSoley's Intentions	8.00 am	The Holy Family - Sunday	8.30 am	Stephen McKenna RIP
Stanley Perera RIP	9.30 am		10.30 am	Bridget O'Loughlin RIP
Meredith Family's Intentions	11.30 am			
Michael Heneghan RIP	5.00 pm			
Louie Fearn's RIP	10.00 am	Monday	10.00 am	Patrick McMahon RIP
Bishop Hollis' Intentions	10.00 am	Tuesday	10.00 am	Zbysh Marek RIP
Bill O'Connor RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	John Condon RIP
Funeral - Jackie Cattigan RIP	10.00 am	Thursday	9.00 am	Ellen McCormack RIP
Funeral – James Hayes RIP	1.30 pm			
Fr Pennicott's Intentions	8.00 pm			
Decased McSharry Family RIP	9.30 am	Friday	8.00 pm	James & Kathleen O'Shea RIP
Thursday 7- 8 pm	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT		Saturday – 9.30 - 10 am	
SATURDAY, 1ST JANUARY 2011 – NO EXPOSITION - NO CONFESSIONS AT ST JOSEPH'S				
Responsorial Psalm: "O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways!"				

COLLECTIONS FOR 19TH DECEMBER 2010

Gift Aid	£397.94
Planned Giving	£23.00
Loose Plate	£258.79
TF3	£5.00
Candle Money	£25.10
Hall Hire	£82.00
TOTAL	£791.83
RUNNING TOTALS	
Fr Zvonko	£20.00

FATHERS JOHN, RICHARD, JOSEPH, ANDREW & JEREMY WISH YOU ALL A HAPPY, HOLY AND ABOVE ALL A PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS. WE HOPE THAT YOU ARE ABLE TO SPEND TIME WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS – AND ENJOY A BREAK FROM ALL THAT YOU NORMALLY HAVE TO DO.

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 2nd January will be Sean Murphy and Peter Chesworth.

CRIB OFFERINGS

Please note that all crib offerings will be in support of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

FATHER ANDREW

After many years based in London (as General Secretary to the Bishops' Conference and then organising the Papal Visit), Father Andrew returns to his home diocese of Leeds in January. He takes up a new appointment as Parish Priest of Skipton on 10th January. We wish him well.

BAPTISM COURSE

The next Baptism course at St Joseph's will be on Wednesdays 19th & 26th January from 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 Mary Phillip on 961 5905 or email: mphilip@westberks.org or alternatively email the Parish Office (details on the front of this newsletter).

GUILD OF ST STEPHEN

The Guild has requested that altar servers make their annual commitment on Monday, 27th December. Mass on that day will be at 10 am and all servers are expected to attend. Five year presentations will be made at this Mass to three of our servers – *Mike Tomas*.

REQUEST

Could the person who left the religious books in the Church porch please come and see Fr Joseph – *Thank you*.

THE SISTERS OF ST ANN - BAMENDA

The Sisters of St Ann in Bamenda (Cameroon) are seeking financial help to build a chapel and a room where they can receive and counsel victims of HIV/AIDS and abortions, single mothers who have had difficult experiences in life, and victims of occultism and superstitious beliefs. They spoke to me about this project recently when I was in Cameroon and I agreed to advertise it in the parish newsletter. If anyone would like to help with this project or to find out more about it, please contact *me or Sr Letitia D'Souza, Delegate of the Superior General, at srletitia51@yahoo.it*. - Fr Joseph.

NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY – 31ST DECEMBER 2010

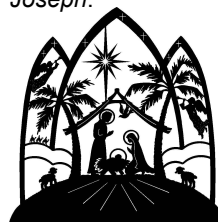
I would like to invite all parishioners to celebrate the coming of the New Year 2011 by coming to Mass at 8 pm followed by a party which will welcome the New Year in the hall. In order to make suitable arrangements for catering, parishioners are invited to complete the list at the back of the Church – *Fr Joseph*.

CHRISTMAS OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office will be open Wednesday 29th & Thursday 30th December, 9am – 12.30 pm. Any urgent messages (funerals and sick calls) will be continued to be dealt with Fr Joseph on the usual number (942 8632).

THANK YOU VERY MUCH . . .

to those who have prepared our Christmas celebration;
also to those who serve the parish throughout the year in many ways
the Sacristan and those who assist,
those who clean the Church and arrange flowers,
those who look after the Repository,
those who form the Choir and provide the Musical Accompaniment,
to those who read, as Ministers of the Word,
to the Ministers of the Eucharist and to the Altar Servers,
to those who provide Liturgies for the children,
to those who provide the Catechetical Instruction
to the Leaders of the Youth Groups; Nursery and Play Group
to the Safeguarding Officer,
to the Governors and Staff of the Catholic Schools,
to the members of the Area Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Working Group,
to those who get involved on our behalf in ecumenical work,
to those who care for families, the young, the elderly, the sick,
in the capacity of parent or relative or as a member of a Society,
or provide transport to Mass for those without cars,
to those who represent the parish at weekday Mass,
to those who type and print and file and help with administration,
to those who organise and support fundraising events,
to those who ensure the Health and Safety of our Church Property,
to those who administer the Church Hall lettings and provide refreshments and attend to the daily cleaning and maintenance,
to those who maintain the Church grounds, lighting & other equipment,
to those who attend to the finances of the Parish, including Gift Aid, Counting, Book-keeping and Banking.
And for the computer and servicing, provided free, (without which, none of this would be reaching you!)
and for the website.
Have I left anyone out? If so, I offer my sincere apologies.
Thank you all! Please do keep up your kind service to the Glory of God – *Father Joseph*.



CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Parishioners are reminded that the Christmas Offering is for the personal use of the clergy. This is one of their main sources of income for the year and you are asked to be as generous as possible.

An update from Father John

A few weeks ago I completed the main phase of pre-deployment training at Chilwell (in the freezing cold), on the outskirts of Nottingham. This involved lectures on the situation in Afghanistan; advanced First Aid (applying tourniquets for example); fitness tests (imagine!); medical and dental checks, kit issue and all the admin that going on a tour of duty requires. From the 4th – 7th January I need to complete something called OPTAG Training in Kent. I have been informed that I am then due to fly out from Brize Norton on the 8th January. Currently, my return date is "around Easter" but will become clearer as the weeks go by. But it does mean that, with effect from the 4th January I shall be away from Reading. This Christmas, please remember in your prayers all those service men and women in Afghanistan, far from their families and friends. They do need our prayers.