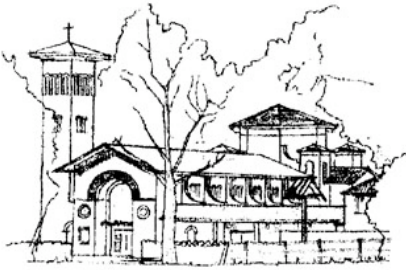
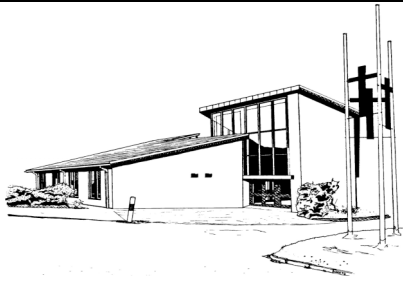


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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 e-mail: admin@englishmartyrs.org.uk website: www.englishmartyrs.org.uk Secretary: Gwen Price</p>	<p align="center">RBH Chaplaincy - (Tel. 0118 3227105)</p> <p align="center">Fr Chris Whelan Fr Richard Maniak</p>	<p>The Presbytery, Berkshire Drive Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG31 5JJ Tel: 0118 942 8632 e-mail: office@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk website: www.st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk Parish Secretary: Sheila Jones</p>

Fourth Sunday of Easter – Year A

12/13 April 2008

World Day of Prayer for Vocations to the Priesthood and Consecrated Life.

We are all concerned about the lack of Vocations to the Priesthood and the Religious life in our part of the Church. Where there were sometimes two or three priests in a parish, today there is one, and in some places none at all! Where are the Congregations of Religious Sisters and Brothers who used to run our Catholic Schools? And we all begin to moan and shake our heads and ask why we can't get priests from Overseas to come and help us.

When we think like this we give the impression that Vocation is someone else's responsibility, that someone else is called to serve God as a priest or Religious Brother or Sister. And when we think like that we lose sight of something that Rome said to us a decade ago, that Vocations spring from and flourish in a Community which sees itself called to holiness by God, in which all the individuals in that Community recognise that we are called individually and collectively by God – "You didn't choose me, I chose you", Our Lord says in St John's Gospel.

In Baptism we enter God's family, we put on Christ, we assume a share in the nature of God. St Paul talks about us becoming "adopted children". God has chosen this way to call us to serve him.

So the first and most important element in our reflections this weekend must be to renew our thinking of ourselves as called by God, whether married or single, young or old, sick or healthy, rich or poor, we are called into union with God, invited to an eternal and incorruptible inheritance.

As someone who was ordained a priest nearly five decades ago may I add that the priesthood is not just a job. God calls priests to serve him in the Church as it is at the moment, a Church in which celibacy is the rule and from which half of us are excluded by the God-given gift of our sexuality. We may not like those rules. The late Cardinal Hume once said, "Of course I'd like to be married", and very many priests would probably agree with him. Maybe in a generation or two (or three or four!) things will have changed. But for the moment this is the Church in which Almighty God calls us to serve him. It is a life of sharing in the sacrifice of Christ.

"Pray the Lord of the Harvest to send labourers into the harvest." (Matt 9:38)

Fr Terence

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS	ST. JOSEPH'S		
Little Tommy Burbidge Thanksgiving.	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
David Burbidge's Intentions	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Elizabeth Clifford & Marie Ward RIP
Alan Breccini RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	Margaret Gorman RIP
Mick Lavelle RIP	5.00 pm		No Mass	
Sr Maureen's Intentions	9.30 am	Monday		
Peter Lay RIP.	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Anicetus D'Souza RIP
Martin Tomás RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Eileen & Colin Ryall RIP
Michael Heneghan RIP	8.30 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Tom O'Brien RIP
Kathleen & Martin Gaynard & John Nevin RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Dorothy Bourdon RIP
		Saturday	10.00 am	Anne Marie Lawrence RIP
THE FEAST OF THE WEEK IS Saturday – St Alphege				
Thursday: 7 - 8.30 pm.	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT			Tuesday: 7.30 – 8 pm
5.30–6.15 pm	CONFESSIONS – SATURDAY			10.30-11 am
Responsorial Psalm: "The Lord is my Shepherd, there is nothing I shall want."				

COLLECTIONS FOR 6TH APRIL 2008

Gift Aid:	£295.00
Planned Giving:	£33.00
Loose Plate:	£146.02
Tf5 (Fr Zvonko)	£5.00
Easter Offering	£25.00
TOTAL	£504.02
Running Totals	
Fr Zvonko	£1,076.33
Easter Offering	£2,004.66

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 20th April are Maurice O'Brien & Ryan Hawkins.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

There will be a Special Collection TODAY for the Clergy Training Fund.

YOUTH GROUP

The next St Joseph's Youth Group session on Friday, 25th April will be a Welcome Back Equipment Night. For further details please contact *Nicola Ritchie 9415636*.

CAR BOOT SALE

There will be a car boot sale on Saturday, 26th April here in St Joseph's car park. 11 am: Sellers. 12 noon – 3 pm: Buyers. Cars: £5. Vans: £8. Tea and refreshments in the small hall. For more information please ring *Theresa Bricker on 9426788*.

ST JOSEPH'S CAR PARK

Please drive carefully in the car park, particularly at times when children may be in the area – *Thank you*.

Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School 50th Anniversary	
25 th April	Mass to celebrate the founding of the school in English Martyrs Church at 7 pm, followed by a Drinks Reception at the School . See notice board.
26 th April	Grand Reunion of Students 1958 – 1973 is being organised by Gabriele Scicluna. Tickets £7/pp. For information and tickets please ring <i>Mr Scicluna on 07527931803 or email gabrielscicluna@hotmail.co.uk</i> .

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE

To celebrate the 150th Anniversary of Lourdes, Bishop Declan Lang, Bishop of Clifton, will be leading the 2008 Portsmouth Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes under the umbrella of the Catholic Association. The dates are 22nd - 29th August 2008. Further details are available in the porch, or please contact either *Tina Foreman or Fr Vincent Harvey on 01252 621295 or email den.peter@ourladyfleet.org.uk*. If there are any young people, 17 years or older, who wish to volunteer their services by pushing wheelchairs, pulling voitures or assisting at the Accueil Notre Dame, and generally lending their support to the Youth Group, this would be greatly appreciated.

PILGRIMAGE TO ROME & ASSISI

Information and Booking Forms are now available for this trip to Italy from 14th – 23rd February 2009, under the leadership of Fathers John and Andrew. If you would like to take part please collect and complete the necessary form as, with limited space, we will take bookings on a first-come-first-served basis. The forms are available in the porch. If you have any questions please contact *Fr John by phone or at nelsonjohnf@aol.com*

DISABILITY DAY

God's Embrace for All - Making Parish Life Accessible for People with Learning Disabilities at Salesian College, Farnborough on Saturday, 26th April 2008. Further details are available in the porch or contact *Eileen Stephenson on 01329 835583*.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2008

One place has unexpectedly become available to join the Diocesan Group of 42 people travelling to this event in July. Departing from London Heathrow on 8th July and returning on 23rd July, the group will initially travel to Melbourne where they will spend time with host families, before joining the World Youth 2008 event in Sydney. The cost of this trip is £1,800 which includes flights, accommodation, entrance pass to World Youth 2008. Delegates must be aged between 18 and 30.

If you are interested please contact Dave Hill, Diocesan Youth Adviser on dhill@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or Eileen Stephenson: estephenson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk, as soon as possible. The place will be allocated on a first come basis.

THE FIDEI DONUM MASS

In the **Portsmouth Cathedral at 12 noon on Saturday, 19th April**. It is an inter-cultural celebration of ourselves as a Diocese of Mission. Fr Tony Chantry, Superior General of the Mill Hill Fathers, is the preacher and there will be a lot of African music during Mass. All welcome. *Bishop Crispian*.

CAFOD FOCUS AFRICA

Many thanks to everyone who contributed during March to the above, in total £18.60.

MEDJUGORJE – 2008

A pilgrimage to Medjugorje is being organised by St Joseph's Church, Christchurch and Corpus Christi Church, Boscombe from 19th – 26th September. Further details are available in the porch.

MRS RHONA CLIFTON RIP

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rhona Clifton who died on 8th April after a long battle with cancer. Rhona was a longstanding member of the English Martyrs parish and she leaves a husband and two teenage children. May she rest in peace.

ST JOSEPH'S CONVENT – OPEN MORNING

Open Morning for prospective parents and pupils on Thursday, 8th May 9.15 am – 12.15 pm for the Preparatory & Senior Departments and Sixth Form (ages 3 – 18). No appointment necessary – simply drop in. Further details are available in the porch.

PENTECOST SUNDAY - 11TH MAY

St Joseph's will be joining the English Martyrs Parish for an International Lunch on Pentecost Sunday in the English Martyrs Parish Centre at 12.30 pm. All are welcome to join in this celebration: please bring a plate of food with a national flavour and something to drink. If you would like to come traditionally dressed that would be good, and even better if you'd like to sing, dance or play music from your country.

WOODLEY JUMBULANCE GROUP

To raise funds for our trip to Lourdes in September we are having a social folk evening in Our Lady of Peace social club on 26th April - 7.45pm, featuring Cornucopia Appalachian clog dancers, The Sandy Grove String Band, and Pete Orton, Berkshire's own folk singer. A good evening of entertainment and craic is guaranteed. Tickets £7 from *John Gill 9694769 or Anne MacDonald 9585841*. Licensed Bar/refreshments.

DAY OF PRAYER-HUMAN FERTILISATION & EMBRYOLOGY BILL

In response to the call from the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to pro-actively respond in opposition to this draft Bill, Our Lady of The Assumption Church, 7 Bath Road, Thatcham, will be holding a day of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament TODAY, commencing after 10 am Mass and finishing with Benediction at 5 pm. All welcome.