
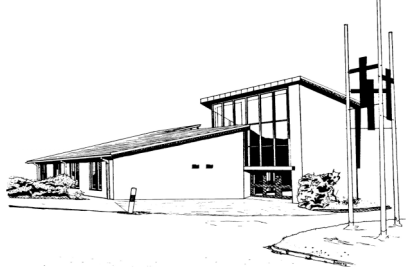


# NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<p><b>Parish Clergy:</b></p> <p><b>Mgr John Nelson</b> (Parish Priest &amp; Co-ordinating Pastor)</p> <p><b>Fr Joseph Awoh</b> (Resident at St Joseph's)</p> <p>Registered Charity Number: 246871</p>	
<p>64 Liebenrood Road Reading, Berkshire, RG30 2EB Tel: 0118 957 2149 <u>New e-mail:</u> englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk website: www.englishmartyrs.org.uk <b>Secretary: Gwen Price</b></p>	<p><b>RBH Chaplaincy -</b> (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: office@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk website: www.st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk <b>Parish Secretary: Sheila Jones</b></p>

## Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A

2/3 August 2008

Ken Dodd sang a very popular and catchy song "Happiness, happiness, the greatest gift that I possess. I thank the Lord that I've been blessed with more than my share of happiness." If you asked people what they want in life, most would say, "I just want to be happy." It is easy to be happy when everything is going the way you wanted. If you are happy when things are going fine then most of your life will be miserable. Scripture say, "The fruit of the Spirit is...joy (Gal. 5.22). We are also reminded by St Paul, "Rejoice in the Lord always, I will say it again, Rejoice!" Happiness depends on what happens in your life. It is from the word hap, which means "luck" or "circumstances". So my happiness today results from everything turning out the way I wanted!

Joy is different. It does not depend on circumstance. It is an attitude, or choice. It is an inside job. Do you know that you can choose to be joyful regardless of what is happening in your life. Joy is what makes life enjoyable. There are three reasons why we can be joyful. Firstly, *we have hope*. For a Christian there is no situation that is completely hopeless. We often ask the wrong questions and so fall into negativity. Such as "why has God allowed my illness?" instead of "what can I learn from this illness?" The hope we have in Christ is the first reason we can rejoice whatever the difficult situation. Secondly, *God has a purpose in every situation*. St Paul says, "we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance." Some people think that when they get rid of their problems they will then be happy. But we will never get rid of all our problems for as long as we live. So let's seriously consider this! Joy is learning to enjoy life in spite of problems. Joy is not the absence of suffering, but the presence of God. St Paul says, "we rejoice in our suffering." He is not saying we rejoice because of our suffering. He is not saying that we enjoy it, but that we rejoice because there is a purpose for it. But what does suffering produce. St Paul says, "perseverance (Rom. 5<sup>3</sup>)" and that perseverance produces character. Character means "proven reliable". This is why God wants to make you that kind of person and he uses suffering to do it. He uses problems in your life to produce perseverance and character. Hope in the Biblical sense does not mean "I wish" or "I want". It means confidence in Christ's power and confidence in God's promise. Instead of destroying our hope, problems our designed to increase our hope! The third reason for being joyful is that *God is with us*. Do you remember the words in the Footprints prayer, "When there was only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you." **Fr Richard**

<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>				
<b>ENGLISH MARTYRS</b>	<b>TIMINGS</b>			<b>ST. JOSEPH'S</b>
George Bennett RIP	6.30 pm	<b>Vigil Mass</b>		
Jacinta Baptiste RIP	9.30 am	<b>Sunday</b>	8.30 am	Jimmy Gardiner RIP
Rhona Clifton RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	Patricia Owen RIP
People of the Parish	5.00 pm	<b>Monday</b>		
John Doyle RIP	9.30 am			
Funeral – Bridget Tansey RIP	12.00 noon			
Maria & Peter Lagowski RIP	9.30 am	<b>Tuesday</b>	7.00 pm	Josie Hennessy's Intentions
Tony Doherty RIP	9.30 am	<b>Wednesday</b>	9.00 am	Vincent Murphy RIP
Vincent McGrath RIP	8.00 pm	<b>Thursday</b>	9.00 am	Mary Vittle RIP
Julia Feeney's Intentions	9.30 am	<b>Friday</b>	7.00 pm	Kathleen O'Kane RIP
		<b>Saturday</b>	10.00 am	Brigid O'Malley RIP
<b>THE FEASTS FOR THE WEEK ARE:</b>				
Monday – St John Vianney    Tuesday - Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary				
Wednesday - <b>THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD</b> Thursday - Ss Sixtus II & Companions, Cajetan				
Friday - St Dominic    Saturday - St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross				
Thursday 7-8 pm	<b>EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT/BENEDICTION</b>			No Exposition during August
5.30–6.15 pm	<b>CONFESSIONS – SATURDAY</b>			10.30-11.00 am
<b>Responsorial Psalm: "You open wide your hand, O Lord, you grant our desires."</b>				

## COLLECTIONS FOR 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2008

Gift Aid:	£362.90
Planned Giving:	£45.50
Loose Plate:	£230.13
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£224.43
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£862.96</b>
<b>Running Totals</b>	
Fr Zvonko	£2,605.69

### REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 10<sup>th</sup> August are Maurice O'Brien and Ryan Hawkins.

### 1<sup>ST</sup> HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2008 - 2009

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 contact the parish office to register for the programme as soon as possible. Please see the front of the newsletter for contact details. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept applications received after **Friday 19<sup>th</sup> September**, so please do not forget to register in plenty of time.

### CONFIRMATION 2009

The next Confirmation programme will start in November with a 'Come and See evening' and is open to anyone in Year 8 and above. To help us with planning, please register your interest by leaving your name, phone number and email address with the office. More details will follow in November.

### TUESDAY EVENING EXPOSITION – REMINDER

Please note that there will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during August. Exposition will start again on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

### BLOOD DONATION SESSIONS

If you are able to give blood to the NHS, a blood donation session will take place at the Calcot Community Centre on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> August. *Full details are available in the porch.*



### ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Governors are seeking to employ a Teaching Assistant to support the needs of a child with a statement of special needs who is moving to our school. 17.5 hours a week in the first instance. If interested please hand into the school office a letter of application listing any relevant qualifications and experience. Closing date for applications is Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August with interviews taking place on Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September. For further details please contact *Ms J P Feeney on 9422003.*

### KNITWITS

The next Knitwits meeting will be at Daphne Boughtwood's home: 22 Drayton Road on Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> August at 8 pm.

### A REMINDER FOR AUGUST

Please note that once again you are reminded that emergency calls, i.e. sick calls and funerals; to St Joseph's need to be referred to the English Martyrs Church (*Telephone No. 9572149*) during the August holiday period.

### OBERRAMMERGAU 2010 – PASSION PLAY

It has been suggested that arrangements might be made for a parish group from St Joseph's/English Martyrs to attend the Oberammergau Passion Play in 2010. Fr John has agreed that arrangements could be made to "test the water" amongst parishioners to ascertain support for the proposal. If any parishioner is interested, please contact *Theresa Bricker on 9426788.*

## CATHOLIC CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

### PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION – THEME OF 'THE CROSS'

The Catholic Children's Society has been in touch to ask us to remind you that if you are heading off on holiday this summer to keep in mind their Photography Competition. The Society is on the look out for interesting photographs depicting the theme of 'the cross' which they can print as greetings cards. It may be that you already have a possible photo tucked away in a box in the loft but perhaps there will be new opportunities when you are away on holiday this summer? The six winning entries will be printed in a series of limited edition cards which will be made available to purchase online to raise money for the Society. Entries close on 15<sup>th</sup> September 2008 so there is still plenty of time. Full details of how to apply are online at [www.cathchild.org](http://www.cathchild.org) or you can email or call *Ann Hoggan from the Supporter Care team: [ann.hoggan@cathchild.org](mailto:ann.hoggan@cathchild.org) 020 8668 2181* she will be pleased to post you an application form. Good luck, and happy snapping!

### HUMAN FERTILISATION AND EMBRYOLOGY BILL

The government has now postponed until autumn the final stages of the Bill, which will include debate on pro-abortion amendments. Amendments already tabled include:

- Making abortion available on the signature of only one doctor rather than two as at present.
- Allowing nurses and midwives to carry out abortions.
- Abolishing the need for any reason to be given for abortions.
- Extending locations where abortion drugs can be given out to include GP's surgeries, local health centres and school sick rooms.

We should use the next few weeks to write to our MP and the Prime Minister expressing opposition to these moves. Urge them to support any pro-life amendments instead, e.g. the entitlement of women to be given information on the possible physical and psychological effects of abortion.

During the summer recess Martin Salter, MP for Reading West, can be contacted at his constituency office, *413 Oxford Road, Reading, RG30 1HA. Email: [salterm@parliament.uk](mailto:salterm@parliament.uk).*

### FR ZVONKO – TRAINING FUND

Fr Zvonko will be commencing his third year of study in September and although he hopes to receive some financial assistance from the Church in Need he still has to financially support himself with the help of family and friends. In consultation with Fr John, it has been agreed that St Joseph's parishioners will continue, on a voluntary basis, to be invited to make a contribution to the Training Fund during the month of August 2008. Special envelopes are available for this purpose on the table at the rear of the Church. The envelopes may be placed in the Sunday Collection plates.

### WELCOME

A warm welcome to Evie Louise Grayling and Shannon Lily Neylan who are being baptised here at St Joseph's today.

### JOURNEY IN FAITH

Are you interested in finding out more about the Catholic Faith? Whether you are considering becoming a Catholic or would simply like to ask a few questions you are welcome to join the Journey in Faith group. Please phone *Brigid Parkes - 9427436* for more details.

### 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.