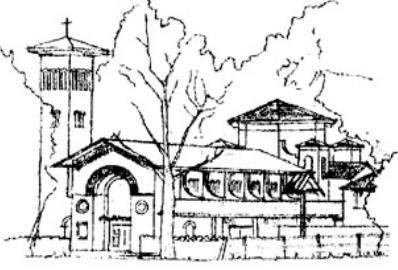
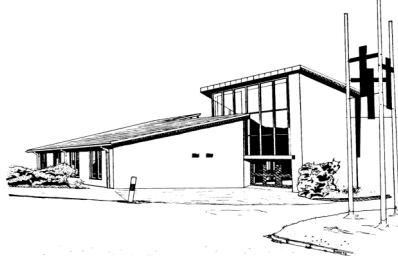


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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: office@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk website: www.st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk</p> <p>Secretary: Sheila Jones</p>

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

13/14 December 2008

I wonder if any of you have a favourite column when you read your daily, or Catholic weekly paper. I tend to flick to the back page of *The Catholic Herald*, not for the football results, but for the article by Fr Ronald Rolheiser. His recent article on 'Struggling with Terrorism' opened a window on to the state of our world today. For Fr Ronald the eventual outcome will be achieved not by military might and guns but with the acquisition of a new imagination, new poetry and morality that has not figured in any attempt so far in seeking a solution to the problem.

After so many years spent employing military might and so much money exhausting our resources we are facing an enemy we cannot kill, because it has become an anger leading to hatred which is spreading uncontrollably. Every time we threaten this hatred it grows, it spreads like a poison and courses through our veins. Killing leaders makes them martyrs inspiring the young to follow in their shoes. An alternative approach is desperately needed. The enemy is not a person, country, or a religion but hatred itself. It is hatred that brings about the sickness which leads to indiscriminate murder in the name of God.

Fr Ronald began his article by saying that the strength of the people lies not in military power but in its faith, moral fibre, imagination and the vision of its poets, artists, philosophers and priests. I would also like to add music to this as it is said that music "soothes the savage breast" and can restore human dignity to the individual – as could be seen in the film *The Shawshank Redemption*. Could these be important traits in our world leaders that would give hope in the years to come? War does not prove who is right, but who is left.

This hatred cannot be beaten with guns because it isn't like fighting an army; rather it is like fighting a plague. Many die, but the disease is infectious and spreads. So what can be a positive way forward? Accepting the fact that military power can contain to a certain extent but not ultimately subdue it. It requires something which goes beyond guns and bombs. To win – or rather to win over – will require poetry, imagination and a vision drawn from genuine religion. As Fr Ronald says, could this be a truly genuine and lasting way of winning over minds and hearts?

Fr Richard

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS			ST. JOSEPH'S
Hannah Sheehan RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Richard Head RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Les Hopper RIP
Commins Family Deceased	11.30 am		10.30 am	Mairin Hayes RIP
People of the Parish	5.00 pm			
Caroline Burrett RIP	9.30 am	Monday	No Mass	
			7.00 pm	St Paul's School Advent Service
Hannah Sheehan RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Dominic Kelly RIP
Thanksgiving for the People of the Parish	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Indira Thomas' Intentions
Agnes Dudgeon's Intentions	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Ann Hitchin's Intentions
Funeral - Bernard Naish RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	John Kavanagh RIP
		Saturday	10.00 am	Bridie McGlynn RIP
Thursday - 7-8 pm	EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION			Tuesday – 7.30-8 pm
Penitential Service at 11am	CONFESSIONS – SATURDAY			10.30-11.00 am
Responsorial Psalm: "My soul rejoices in my God."				

COLLECTIONS FOR 7TH DECEMBER 2008

Gift Aid:	£332.15
Planned Giving:	£58.00
Loose Plate:	£202.66
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£0.00
Christmas Offering	£12.00
CAFOD Congo Crisis Appeal	£940.15
Repository	£274.00
Candle Money	£35.28
Hall Hire	£1,620.75
Christmas Cards	£15.50
Christmas Draw	£225.00
Advent Candles	£1.50
Youth Group	£62.00
Car Park Fee	£50.00
TOTAL	£3828.99
Running Totals	
Fr Zvonko	£157.34
Christmas Draw	£1,017.56
CAFOD Congo Crisis Appeal	£1,035.65
Advent Candles	£19.10

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 21st December are Pat Toner and Angela Barry.

BAPTISM COURSE

The next Baptism course at St Joseph's will be on Wednesday, 14th January and Wednesday, 21st 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 *Brigid Parkes* on 9427436 or alternatively email the Parish Office (details on the front of this newsletter).

CHURCH CLEANING

Church cleaning for Christmas will be on Monday, 22nd December after the morning Mass. Please come along and lend a hand.

YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group session on Friday, 19th December will be a Christmas Party. For further details please contact *Nicola Ritchie* – 941 5636.

CHRISTMAS ITEMS

Christmas Cards, Cribbs, Advent Calendars and other Christmas items are for sale in the Repository.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS CATALOGUE

Last date for ordering from the CAFOD World Gifts Catalogue will be Thursday, 18th December, so you only have a few more days to make your choice. *Thank you – Margaret Chaplin.*

CAROLS AT THE TRIANGLE

The community of St Michael's have invited local Churches to sing a few carols at the Triangle on Thursday, 18th December at 7 pm. It will just be an informal gathering, nothing to do but turn up and sing! - *Jan Rogers, St Michael's Rectory.*

ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICES

7.30 pm	16 th December	Christ the King, Reading.
	17 th December	St Joseph's, Tilehurst.
	18 th December	St John Bosco, Woodley.
	19 th December	Our Lady of Peace, Earley. St Anne's, Caversham.
11 am	20 th December	English Martyrs, Reading.

CELEBRATING MARRIAGE 2009

On 25th April 2009, there will be a special Mass at St Bede's, Basingstoke for couples in our diocese celebrating significant wedding anniversaries during 2009. If you are celebrating your 25th, 40th, 50th anniversary during 2009, or any anniversary over 60 years, please let your parish priest know as soon as possible so that Bishop Crispian can send you an invitation. Attendance will be by invitation only and numbers are limited.

For more information contact: *Keith Chappell, Advisor for Marriage and Family Life, Park Place. kchappell@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Tel: 01329 835583.*

ADVENT SERVICE

St Paul's School Advent Service will be held on Monday, 15th December at 7 pm here at St Joseph's.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN READING

If any parishioner has any unwanted beds or mattresses, please contact the Churches Together in Reading on 9512338.

UCM

The UCM Christmas Social will be at Veronica's home, 9 Orkney Close, Calcot, starting at 7pm on Tuesday evening, 16th December. If you need transport please contact *Veronica* on 941 8783.

PARENT/CARER AND TODDLER GROUP

Our last session this term will be on Thursday, 18th December and we look forward to welcoming you again on Thursday, 14th January 2009. The timing will be as usual, between 9.30 am – 11 am.

ALTAR SERVERS' PRACTICE

There will be a servers practice for all those who wish to serve at Midnight Mass on Monday, 22nd December at 11.00 am. If you cannot make the practice then please let me know.

On St Stephen's Day, altar servers are encouraged to attend the 11.00 am Mass to celebrate their patron saint. Servers will receive a special blessing and medals and cords will be awarded to those entitled.

A servers' treat will be arranged in the New Year – *details to follow – Mike Tomas: 941 2786.*

APF

2009 calendars are available **TODAY** – *Mike Tomas, APF Secretary.*

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SERVICES

The details of Christmas and New Year services are available at the back of the Church **TODAY.**

CONGO APPEAL - MANY CONGRATULATIONS!

The parish response to CAFOD's special appeal to help the people suffering in the Congo has been magnificent. You will see from the details on the collection figures for last week that the total so far is £1,035.65, and there may well be some late donations today. I am most grateful for the very generous support you have given to this important request – *Fr Joseph.*

PRAYING FOR THE SICK

If you know of anyone who is unwell and would like to be prayed for at Mass, please let St Joseph's Parish Office know. Their names will then be included in the bidding prayers. Please make sure the person is happy for their name to be mentioned beforehand.

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.