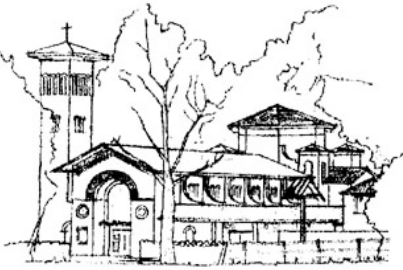
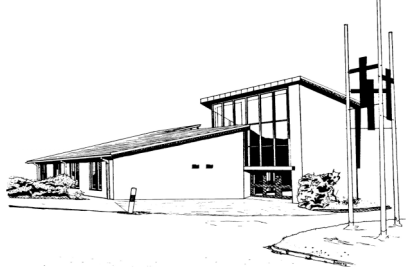


# NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<p align="center"><b>Parish Clergy:</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Mgr John Nelson</b> (Parish Priest &amp; Co-ordinating Pastor)</p> <p align="center"><b>Fr Joseph Awoh</b> (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><b>Secretary: Gwen Price</b></p>	<p align="center"><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</p> <p><b>Secretary: Sheila Jones</b></p>

**FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH – YEAR B**

**27/28 December 2008**



In today's Gospel we hear of that encounter between the family of Jesus and Simeon and Anna. Both Simeon and Anna must have been in constant touch with God, dressed for action spiritually and therefore ready to recognise, among the daily routines of the Temple, the coming of the promised Saviour – even though he was only a baby.

Their insight was that the words of the ancient prophets would be fulfilled through this small child – the pain as well as the victory. Joseph and Mary had the incredible task of nurturing God's Son. God chose a home which was not over-privileged materially; the family was not famous, wealthy or well connected. The best upbringing for God's Son was a home where he was loved and cherished, teased and laughed with, had local children as friends, and trained in his father's craft. So we need not worry about how our children might be losing out if we cannot afford all the latest toys or clothes. If we concentrate on the values God chose for his own Son we shall be giving our children the best possible start in life.

A New Year begins on Thursday. If we only listened to the news then we could be forgiven for facing 2009 with a certain amount of trepidation. What will happen this year? What will happen to my family and to me? How might I be affected by everything that is going with finance, mortgages and jobs? But because of the Christmas event, because God has demonstrated his desire to be with us in every detail of our lives, we have no need to fear. We should be careful, and thoughtful, and sensible, but not fearful. We are a people of hope and a people, which has received the light of Christ. 2009 is not a year to dread – it will be a year filled with different opportunities.

*Fr John*

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS		ST. JOSEPH'S	
Deceased Carvalho & Bennett Family members RIP	6.30 pm	<b>Vigil Mass</b>		
Dolly Gorman RIP	9.30 am	<b>Sunday</b>	8.30 am	Jim Ward RIP
People of the Parish	11.30 am		10.30 am	Charles Newman RIP
Sr Hedwig's Intentions	5.00 pm			
Michael Heneghan RIP	9.30 am	<b>Monday</b>	8.30 am	Thomas & Helen Pryce RIP
Funeral - Denis Quinn RIP	9.30 am	<b>Tuesday</b>	7.00 pm	Ellen McCormack RIP
Funeral – Rosamund Reid RIP	9.30 am	<b>Wednesday</b>	9.00 am	Special Intention
Funeral – Stella Weber RIP	12 noon			
Penny Street's Intentions	<b>10.00 am</b>	<b>Thursday</b>	<b>10.00 am</b>	Patricia Soares RIP
Hancey Gill RIP	9.30 am	<b>Friday</b>	7.00 pm	Mrs Williams RIP
		<b>Saturday</b>	10.00 am	Annie Kate Walshe RIP
<b>THE FEASTS FOR THIS WEEK ARE:</b>				
Monday – St Thomas of Canterbury		Wednesday – St Sylvester I		Thursday – <b>Mary Mother of God</b>
Friday – SS Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen		Saturday – <b>The Holy Name of Jesus</b>		
NO EXPOSITION	<b>EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT</b>		Tuesday 7.30-8 pm	
5.30–6.15 pm	<b>CONFESSIONS - SATURDAY</b>		10.30-11 am	
<b>Responsorial Psalm: "He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever."</b>				

## COLLECTIONS FOR 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2008

Gift Aid:	£424.44
Planned Giving:	£51.00
Loose Plate:	£256.78
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£0.00
CAFOD Congo Crisis Appeal	£21.62
Christmas Offerings	£50.00
Donations	£23.50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£827.34</b>
<b><u>Running Totals</u></b>	
Fr Zvonko	£157.34
Christmas Offerings	£65.00
CAFOD Congo Crisis Appeal	£1,125.59

### REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 4<sup>th</sup> January are Sean Murphy & Peter Chesworth.

### 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.*

### PARENT/CARER AND TODDLER GROUP

We look forward to welcoming you back again on Thursday, 14<sup>th</sup> January 2009. The timing will be as usual from 9.30 am – 11 am.

### STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

Christ the King is having a 'Stewardship of Creation' day on 14th February 2009 as part of their 50th Jubilee year. *Further details are available in the Church porch.*

### OFFICE HOURS OVER CHRISTMAS

Please note that St Joseph's Parish Office will be open on Tuesday, 30<sup>th</sup> December from 9 am – 12.30 pm. The office will re-open on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> & Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2009 from 9 am – 12.30 pm.

### KNITWITS

Our next meeting will be at Colleen Collins' home: 40 Blewbury Drive, on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2009 at 8 pm – *Margaret Chaplin.*

### PASTORAL LETTER – THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

A Pastoral Letter from Bishop Crispian on The Feast of the Holy Family will be read out today and a few copies will be available for parishioners at the back of the Church.

### CHRISTMAS GREETINGS & BLESSINGS

We have recently received in the Parish Office Christmas Greetings & Blessings from our friends Fr Zvonko and Fr Wojciech. They wish all parishioners at St Joseph's a Holy & Happy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year 2009.

### CHRIST THE KING CHURCH

Service of Healing and Forgiveness (with anointing) on Thursday, 1st January 2009 at 12 noon. A personal invitation for a new beginning – a chance to start again? Looking for wholeness and healing?

## 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).*

### 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 967 2605*, so that visits can be arranged.

### 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 – 942 7436* for more details.

### GENE STOLTZFUS – INTERNATIONAL PEACE WORKER

On Tuesday 20th January, 2009, at 7.30 pm at Quaker Meeting House, Church Street. Does non-violence work in this century? Call *Marian on 0118 947 3647 or email readingpeaceworks@yahoo.co.uk.*

### BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON SCHOOL

Mr John Casey has been appointed as Head Teacher in succession to Mr Paul Barras who is due to retire.

Mr Casey will take up his appointment at Easter or in September. We continue to keep the school in our prayers at this time of significant change.

### CHURCH LIGHTING

During the last few weeks, the Church funds have been enhanced by your generous contributions in supporting both the sale of Christmas cards and in buying tickets and making contributions to the Grand Christmas Draw.

The Finance Committee and our maintenance advisors felt the need to improve lighting throughout the Church complex. You will have noticed the improved lighting on the Sanctuary and energy-saving bulbs will be gradually introduced in the bowl lights throughout the Church.

Improvements have also been made to the floodlighting of the car park and the Emergency Exit lights. Your contributions have helped enormously in making these improvements possible – *Fr Joseph.*