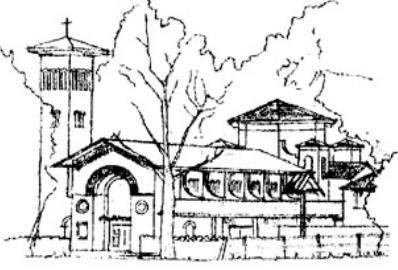
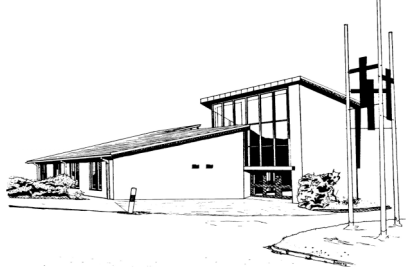


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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>

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

6/7 December 2008

It is the time of year when we visit our enormous lists of Christmas card recipients. Last Thursday, after Mass at St James' Church I went into the Repository where a few parishioners were buying Christmas cards, amongst other things. One of the ladies picked up two packets of Christmas cards – one she was going to send to her friends and family around the UK and the other she was going to send to friends abroad. I looked at a number of packets and then picked up one whose message I thought was particularly appropriate. The person standing right next to me was surprised that the reason I chose the card was the message rather than the design on it.

That encounter seemed to confirm something I have been mulling over in my mind for some time now. I think that for many people the sending out of Christmas cards has become something of a social obligation. Archbishop of Canterbury - Dr Rowan Williams and Bishop Stephen Cottrell of Reading have recently expressed their concern at the commercialism and high spending that go with Christmas. Dr. Cottrell actually made a plea for people to prune their Christmas card lists and, like Dr. Rowan Williams, urged people to reclaim Advent as a time of preparation and reflection. One would have thought that in the present economic climate people would be more likely to listen to their message. Not so. They came under intense criticism from both Christians and non-Christians for daring to suggest that they break from what is considered a long-standing tradition.

As someone from a culture where Christmas cards and expensive gift-giving are not the done thing (for economic reasons?), I sometimes have to ask advice of friends here about what to do at Christmas. As a priest, I receive quite a few Christmas cards from parishioners and friends. Should I not return this favour? How would you feel if your whole lounge was covered with Christmas cards when you did not send out any cards yourself?

The likelihood is that no matter how we feel about gift-giving and Christmas cards, we are going to give gifts and send out cards this year. This might be a way of showing love and concern for family and friends and connecting or reconnecting to them. In the process we would also be doing good to the charities that make some money from the sale of Christmas cards. But what is going to be the distinctively Christian thing in our preparation for Christmas this year? Are we stacking any spiritual gifts or is our concern only the material ones? Where does Christ fit in the whole picture?

Fr Joseph

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS			ST. JOSEPH'S
People of the Parish	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Joseph Baptiste RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Deceased Members of the McMahon Family
Mary Caheny's Intentions	11.30 am		10.30 am	Sr Mary O'Sullivan RIP
Deceased Members of the McGlynn Family	5.00 pm			
Malayalam Mass	6.30 pm			
Kevin McSharry RIP	9.30 am	Monday	9.00 am	Daniel Grant RIP
Nora Hynes RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm 1.00 pm	Michael Knowles RIP Funeral: Joseph D'Cruz RIP
Joy Eze's Intentions	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Martha & Patrick Munnely RIP
Hannah Sheehan RIP	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Paul Willis' Intentions
Michael Gaubert RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Peggy Benrey's Intentions
		Saturday	10.00 am	Catherine Hopes RIP
THE FEASTS FOR THE WEEK ARE:				
Monday – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary Tuesday St Juan Diego Cuatlatatzin Wednesday – St Swithun Wells Thursday – St Damasus I Friday – Our Lady of Guadalupe Saturday – St Lucy				
Thursday 7 – 8 pm	EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION			Tuesday – 7.30-8 pm
5.30-6.15 pm	CONFESSIONS – SATURDAY			10.30-11.00 am
Responsorial Psalm: "Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help."				

COLLECTIONS FOR 30TH NOVEMBER 2008

Gift Aid:	£392.60
Planned Giving:	£60.00
Loose Plate:	£205.94
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£0.00
Christmas Draw	£276.56
CAFOD (Congo Appeal)	£83.50
Advent Card Candles	£3.00
TOTAL	£1,021.60
Running Totals	
Fr Zvonko	£157.34
Christmas Draw	£792.56
CAFOD (Congo Appeal)	£95.50
Advent Card Candles	£17.60

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 14th December are Tom & Pat McKeown and Hugh Glover.

CAFOD – SPECIAL CONGO CRISIS APPEAL

All of us will have seen on TV recently, the desperate plight of the people in the Congo. In order to deal with this human crisis, CAFOD is organising a special crisis appeal to be held TODAY. Special envelopes for this appeal are available at the back of the Church. Please be as generous as possible – Fr Joseph.

JOSEPH D'CRUZ RIP

Most parishioners by now will have heard the sad news of the death of Joseph D'Cruz - a very active member of our parish community. In consultation with Joseph's family, arrangements are in hand for Joseph's Requiem Mass and Funeral to take place at 1 pm on Tuesday, 9th December here at St Joseph's followed by burial at Purley Burial Grounds, Beech Road, Purley. All parishioners are invited to attend the Requiem Mass and the burial. Joseph's family have invited everyone for refreshments in St Joseph's Church Hall after the burial ceremony has been completed. All are welcome.

Joseph's family have requested no flowers, but if anyone wishes to make a donation in his memory, it should be addressed to "D.O.V.E.", a charity run privately by the D'Cruz family for various Christian projects.

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).

LIFE

Coffee morning, Tuesday 9th December, at English Martyrs following the 9.30 am Mass. Sale of goods and gifts, home-made cakes and preserves. Raffle. Everyone welcome.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF CHURCH CLEANING

The Church will be cleaned for Christmas on the morning of Monday, 22nd December.

YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group session on Friday, 12th December will involve taking part in the Advent Service. For further details please contact *Nicola Ritchie* – 941 5636.

MASS READERS

The new rotas are available at the back of the Church. Readers: If you plan to attend the Vigil, Dawn or Day Mass of Christmas, could you please let me know – *Mike Tomas*: 941 2786.

CHRISTMAS ITEMS

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

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS CATALOGUE

Shopping from the CAFOD World Gifts Catalogue is a wonderful way to help so many people around the world. The catalogues are now available in the porch. Please help yourself. Thank you – *Margaret Chaplin*.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW OF SEASONAL HAMPERS

Tickets for the Grand Christmas Draw are now on sale after each Mass on Sundays. The actual draw will take place on Sunday, 14th December after 10.30 am Mass in the hall.

In order that we can raise as much money as possible, we are asking parishioners to donate luxury food items. Please leave these donations in the basket provided in the Church porch, where they will be regularly collected and stored in a safe place. A list of suggested luxury items is available for parishioners to tick their donation(s). Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

Monies and counterfoils for tickets sold may be placed in an envelope clearly marked Grand Christmas Draw and placed in the normal collection plate on Sundays.

UCM CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

This will be held on Tuesday, 16th December at Veronica's home - (Please note the change of date).

APF

The amount collected for the year ending 31st October was £568. Many thanks to all box-holders and promoters. 2009 calendars will be available on Sunday, 14th December – *Mike Tomas*, APF Secretary.

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.

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SERVICES

The details of Christmas and New Year services were printed last week, but it was found that there was a error in the dates. The leaflet has been re-printed and is available at the back of the Church today.

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 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.