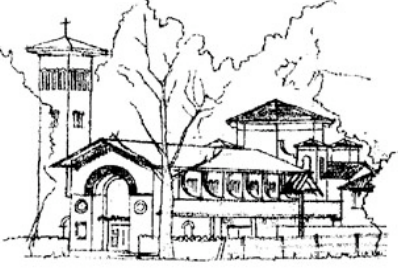
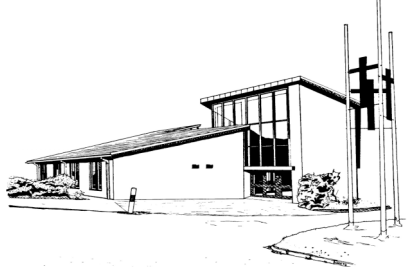


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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>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>

Second Sunday of Lent – Year A

16/17 February 2008

Life seen from close to is a tragedy. Life seen from a distance is a comedy.

I saw this notice recently and it gave me something to reflect on. Is it not true that tragedy and comedy play an important part in our lives. Sometimes swinging from one to another – tragedy to comedy and comedy to tragedy.

But this can be seen as our human lot! Making us, building us or breaking us and rebuilding us – our reality. I suppose that at the end of our earthly life we will value these two aspects, in so far as we lived them in the moment and did not fight, run away, ignore but surrender with the same response as Mary, from “How can this be.” to “Let it be done to me, according to your word.”

Living in the moment is living in the present and the present is a Gift.

The Season of Lent is our present moment experience. These are some of the images we may take on board:

1. Desert – surrender, stripped, removal of securities, vulnerable.
2. Cinderella experience – Cinder (ashes), puella (young girl) - sit in ashes, emptiness, powerlessness, deprivation, humiliation.
3. Child of Saturn – Saturn as a planet that evokes sadness. Enter into areas of life that trigger chaos, sadness, heaviness, despondency.
4. Our tears – these are salt water and enable us to connect to our origin and grounding.

Fr Richard

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS			ST. JOSEPH'S
Phyllis MacNamara's Intentions	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Cathy Hennessy RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Terry Hadland's Intentions
People of the Parish	11.30 am		10.30 am	Mary Williams' Intentions
Eugene Herbert's Intentions	5.00 pm			
Funeral – Florrie Ballard RIP	9.30 am	Monday	8.30 am	Breda Dwan's Intentions
Funeral – Elizabeth Clifford RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Anne Moran RIP
Martin Mullins RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	John McDonnell RIP
Sr Rose Joseph RIP	8.30 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	John McDonnell RIP
Stations of the Cross during Lent	9.00 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Betty Vogel's Intentions
Anne Wells RIP	9.30 am			
		Saturday	10.00 am	Fred & Mary Burgess RIP
THE FEASTS FOR THIS WEEK ARE:				
Thursday – St Peter Damian	Friday - The Chair of St Peter			Saturday – St Polycarp
Thursday 7-8.30 pm	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT/BENEDICTION			Wednesday – 7 pm Benediction after Stations of the Cross
5.30–6.15 pm	CONFESSIONS – SATURDAY			10.30-11.00 am
Responsorial Psalm:	'May your love be upon us, O Lord, as we place all our hope in you.'			

COLLECTIONS FOR 10TH FEBRUARY 2008

Gift Aid:	£379.40
Planned Giving:	£53.00
Loose Plate:	£260.50
Tf5 (Fr Zvonko)	£0.00
Catholic Children's Society	£39.00
TOTAL	£731.90

Running Totals

Fr Zvonko	£1,036.03
Catholic Children's Society	£533.57

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 24th February are Maurice O'Brien & Harry McSoley.

YOUTH GROUP

The next St Joseph's Youth Group session on Friday, 29th February will be a Laser Quest & Bowling trip. For further details please contact *Nicola Ritchie 9415636*.

ROTAS

Could the people who generate rotas please send a copy to: sean@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk, so that he can keep the website up-to-date?

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Two services are being held in Reading on Friday, 7th March. The first will take place at St James', Forbury Road at 10.30 am. The second will be held at St Joseph's, Tilehurst at 7.30 pm. Please join us at either of these services for this "Mexican Wave" of prayer – all are welcome, men, women and young people.

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.

FREE FAIRTRADE SAMPLES – 2ND FEBRUARY

Fairtrade goods can be sampled for free after 10.30 am Mass here at St Joseph's on 2nd February. There will be a Fairtrade children's area provided with snacks and a video to keep them entertained.

WYD/SYD 2008

Tickets are now on sale for the dinner dance at Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School on Saturday, 8th March 2008 at 7.30 pm until late. Tickets cost £17.50 per person including two course meal and wine. If you would like to attend, please *Judith on 0118 9453529 Or 07830 144 165*.

Chris, Matt, Patrick, Steph and Zoe would like to thank St Joseph's Youth Group and their leaders for all their help in organising a film night recently to raise money to help them go to the World Youth Day. £205 was raised and they are very grateful.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to Kyle Laley who is being baptised here at St Joseph's today.

BAPTISM

The next Baptism course at St Joseph's will be on Wednesday, 23rd April and Wednesday, 30th April from 8 pm - 9.30 pm in the main church hall. If you are considering Baptism for your child, whatever their age, please register for the course by contacting *Brigid Parkes on 942 7436* or alternatively email the parish office (details on the front of this newsletter).

CAFOD FOCUS AFRICA

Many thanks to everyone who has given so generously during 2007 - a total of £1,465.32 to Focus Africa. This includes £117.50 from December/January. Since Focus Africa started (in the middle of 2006), St Joseph's Parish has sent £2,818.22. They plan to keep this particular project going until Spring 2009, so having our figures in mind, do you think we can make it £4,000? With your help, I'm sure we can!

The current total is now £1,000,000 – of this, £38,000 has come from our own diocese. There are 511 parishes in England & Wales who have signed up for this scheme and St Joseph's has had a special mention in CAFOD's Newsletter. Please see the notice board.

So a very warm thank you to everyone who has contributed and if you would like to help, please use one of the small envelopes in the porch and put in to the normal collection basket – *Margaret Chaplin*.

ALTON DAY OF RENEWAL ON SATURDAY, 23RD FEBRUARY

St Lucy's Convent, Medstead Manor, Medstead. The theme for this year is THE LOVE OF THE FATHER - Looking at the phrase "Who art in heaven". Starting with Mass at 11.30 am – Shared lunch at 1 pm – Speaker: Fr Mike Gwinnell – Prayer for healing – ending around 4 pm. Collection to defray expenses. More information or directions, ring *Rev John Foley on 9333420* or see poster. Next meeting – Saturday, 29th March.

READING HALF MARATHON ROAD CLOSURES

Details of road closures in the Tilehurst area on Sunday, 2nd March, to accommodate the Reading Half Marathon, are available at the back of the Church.

PASSOVER MEAL

There will be a Pastoral Area Passover Meal with the parishes of St James & William of York, St Joseph's & English Martyrs on Wednesday, 19th of March. This will take place at Hugh Faringdon School 7 pm for 7.30 pm. Tickets £5.00 (Age 14 plus) £2.50 (Age 5 - 13) Available after Mass on 24th February and 2nd & 9th March, numbers are limited, so do book early.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

The Eucharistic Ministers will be leading Stations of the Cross on Wednesday, 27th February. Could any Eucharistic Ministers who are able to take part please be at the Church by 6.45 pm on that evening. Many thanks, Ann.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Next Sunday, parishioners will be asked to complete a questionnaire concerning the singing of Latin at the 10.30 am Mass on Sundays, at the request of the Parish Liturgy Group.

MARTIN TOMAS RIP

Mrs Mary Tomas and family would like to thank everyone who sent them messages of sympathy and had Masses said for Martin. Mass will be offered for your intentions.

ALTAR SERVERS

There will be a practice for all servers at primary school on Thursday, 28th in the Church immediately after school. Senior servers are asked to attend a meeting in the Marian Room on Friday, 29th February at 6.30 pm. Please let me know if you are unable to attend this meeting – *Mike Tomas 0770 8032743*.

READERS

The new rota is available at the back of the Church. Please take your copy.