



NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

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Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time – Year A

2/3 February 2008

A couple of weeks ago I was in Rome and was surprised to see that the crib was still in place in St Peter's Square. Someone was telling me that the tradition in other parts of the world is to keep the crib in place until 2 February. This is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord and forty days after Christmas. The Presentation of the Lord commemorates Mary presenting herself in the Temple in Jerusalem as required by the Law of Moses after the birth of her child.

It is also very symbolic that Jesus was seen for the first time in his Father's house. All the way through his ministry he would be at home in God's house. One of the few occasions when we see deep emotion from Jesus is when he throws out the merchants and moneychangers from the Temple: his Father's house.

This year, almost as soon as the forty days of Christmas come to an end, the forty days of Lent begin. It is Ash Wednesday this week. This is one of the earliest dates Easter can be: the last time was in 1913. Perhaps it would help us to think of Lent also as a time of purification and especially in trying to observe the three traditional disciplines: prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Let this be a time when we can be more open to God in prayer either alone or together. Let us look to become more aware of ourselves as created by God and dependant on God by not simply fulfilling our own desires but instead consciously denying ourselves in fasting and abstinence. And of course let us be more open to others and their needs by being charitable and generously giving more than we might usually do.

Fr Andrew

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS			ST. JOSEPH'S
People of the Parish	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Jocelyn Baptiste RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Patricia Loftus RIP
William Elliott RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	Bernard Sweeney RIP
Kathleen Callaghan RIP	5.00 pm			
Martin Ward RIP	9.30 am	Monday	8.30 am	A Special Intention
John Doyle RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Michael Knowles RIP
Kate Limes RIP	9.30 am	Ash Wednesday (Fasting & Abstinence)	9.00 am	Tom O'Brien RIP
Mass at the School	11.00 am		4.30 pm	Coffin of Martin Tomas RIP received into Church
Tom Ward RIP	7.30 pm	Thursday	7.30 pm	Margaret Crotty RIP
Maureen Murphy RIP	8.30 pm		10.30 am	Funeral of Martin Tomas RIP Private Intention
Cecilia's Intentions	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Patrick Munnely RIP
		Saturday	10.00 am	John Barry RIP
THE FEASTS FOR THIS WEEK ARE:				
Tuesday – St Agatha	Wednesday – ASH WEDNESDAY		SS Jerome Emiliani and Josephine Bakhita	
Thursday 7-8.30 pm	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT			Tuesday – 7.30 – 8 pm
5.30–6.15 pm	CONFESSIONS – SATURDAY			10.30-11.00 am
Responsorial Psalm: 'How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.'				

COLLECTIONS FOR 27TH JANUARY 2008

Gift Aid:	£329.90
Planned Giving:	£67.50
Loose Plate:	£249.17
Catholic Education	£16.00
TOTAL	£662.57
Running Totals	
TF5 (Fr Zvonko's Training Fund)	£1,036.03

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 10th February are Tony & Jill Flint.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

There will be a Special Collection TODAY for the Catholic Children's Society.

MR MARTIN TOMAS RIP

The Parish offers condolences to Mrs Martin Tomas and her family. Please pray for the repose of his soul. Martin's requiem Mass will be held here at St Joseph's at 10.30 am on Thursday, 7th February followed by burial at St Michael's Churchyard. His body will be received into the Church at 4.30 pm on Wednesday, 6th February. All are invited.

YOUTH GROUP

The next Youth Group session on Friday, 8th February will be a swimming trip to the Willink Leisure Centre. For further details please contact Nicola Ritchie 9415636.

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.

JUSTICE & PEACE DAY - 16TH FEBRUARY

The Department for Pastoral Formation is organising a Justice & Peace Day on 16th February 2008 at St Anne's Catholic School in Southampton from 10 am. Full details of this event together with booking forms are available at the back of the Church.

BOOK GROUP

If you would be interested in joining a group to read and discuss books by Catholic authors, old and modern, please contact Alan Shipway at 376 Tilehurst Road, Reading, RG30 2NG or call him on 957 6048.

NEWSLETTER

Copies of all St Joseph's Parish newsletters for the year starting from January can be found on the web site.

KNITWITS

The next Knitwits meeting will be on Monday, 4th February at Theresa Bricker's home: 23 Blitern Avenue, Tilehurst.

VALENTINE DISCO AT ST JOSEPH'S

There will be a Valentine's Disco on Saturday, 16th February held in the large hall from 6 pm - 7.45 pm: Years 3, 4 & 5 and 8.15 pm - 10 pm: Years 6, 7 & 8. Tickets: £3 - includes entry, fun/games & soft drinks, with prizes to be won! **Tickets are available Pre-Sale only.** NO tickets will be available on the door. If you wish to purchase tickets, please contact Theresa Bricker on 942 6788 or Jo Boase on 967 2605. Parents of children under 8 years old must stay due to Health & Safety. Proceeds from this event are to be split: 50% to Parish funds and 50% to LIFE.

HUMAN FERTILISATION AND EMBRYOLOGY BILL

There will be a speaker at both Masses today on the subject of Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill. Suggestions for letters to our MP will be available at the end of each Mass.



As you will remember Chris, Matt, Steph, Patrick and Zoe have been doing lots of fund raising events in order to help them go to the World Youth Day in July. Tickets are now on sale for one of the final events! Dinner dance at Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic School with live music by Richard Balding and his band on Saturday, 8th March 2008 at 7.30 pm until late. Tickets cost £17.50 per person including two course meal and wine. This promises to be a great night and the band come highly recommended. Tickets are limited so if you would like to attend please Judith on 0119 9453529 Or 07830 144 165.

2 OR 3 SEATER SOFA WANTED

Thank you to a member of the parish for the gift of a settee for the Presbytery. Another 2 or 3 seater sofa would still be welcome. If anyone is replacing their sofa and would like to donate their old one to help furnish a room in the Presbytery, please contact St Joseph's Parish Office on 9428632.

BEDA EXPERIENCE

The Beda College in Rome is offering men who might be considering the priesthood the opportunity of spending Easter in Rome from Wednesday, 19th - Friday, 28th March 2008. There is no charge for accommodation at the college, and it is open to all those eligible for formation, not just older men. Those participating will have the opportunity of attending the Chrism Mass in St Peter's, celebrating the Triduum in the college, and also seeing something of the city of Rome. It is also an opportunity for them to experience something of seminary life and priestly formation. If there is anyone you know who might benefit from this opportunity please contact our Diocesan Vocations Director, Gerard Flynn, whose contact details are in the Diocesan Directory and whose email address is gerarddominic@waitrose.com.

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).

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.

NOTE FOR DIARIES

- LENT AND EASTER LITURGIES PLANNING

Details of the Lent and Easter Liturgies are printed on the back of this week's reflection sheet.

WOODLEY JUMBULANCE GROUP

As it is the 150th anniversary of the apparitions, we have booked to go to Lourdes from September 26th - October 4th 2008, travel by Jumbulance and staying in a 4* hotel. We have vacancies for unable, volunteer nurses and helpers, preferably male. Anyone who is interested or who would like more information please ring John Gill 9694769, Marie O'Gorman 9691927 or Anne McDonald 9585841.

NOTE FOR DIARIES - LENT AND EASTER LITURGIES PLANNING

Wednesday, 6 th February:	Ash Wednesday Masses at 9.00 am and 7.30 pm.
Monday, 11 th February:	Our Lady of Lourdes Mass at 9.00am.
<p>Stations of the Cross to be held at 7.00 pm on Wednesdays (followed by Holy Communion, and Benediction), to be organised by various parish groups.</p> <p>Wednesday, 13th February Wednesday, 20th February Wednesday, 27th February Wednesday, 5th March Friday, 14th March: Followed by Mass at 7.30 pm Wednesday, 19th March</p>	
Saturday, 15 th March:	Sacrament of Reconciliation for First Holy Communion children at 4.00 pm
Sunday, 16 th March:	Palm Sunday At 8.30 am Mass, parishioners will not gather in the porch; blessing of the palms will take place in the Church. At 10.30 am Mass, parishioners will gather in the hall for blessing of the palms and then process into Church.
Monday, 17 th March:	St Joseph's Penitential Service at 7.30 pm.
Thursday, 20 th March:	Maundy Thursday Mass at 8.00 pm. Presentation of the Oils; Recommissioning of Eucharistic Ministers; Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament until midnight. Watching list at back of Church.
Friday, 21 st March:	Good Friday 9.30 am: Stations of the Cross, led by Fr Joseph 11 am: Walk of Witness in Reading Town Centre – <i>Provisional Date & Time</i> 3 pm: Solemn Liturgy. Children's Liturgy in the hall. Children to return for the Veneration of the Cross.
Saturday, 22 nd March:	Holy Saturday 10.00 am: Confessions 8.00pm: Easter Vigil
Sunday, 23 rd March:	Easter Sunday Masses at 8.30 am and 10.30 am. Children's Liturgy as usual; no tea and coffee

NOTE:

Please note that during Lent there will not be Exposition on Tuesday evenings. Benediction, however, will be held on Wednesday evenings after the Stations of the Cross.

