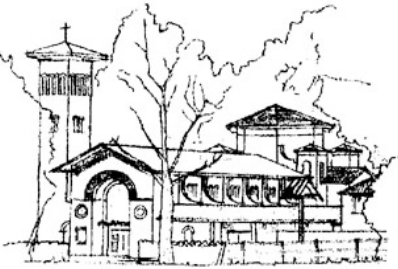
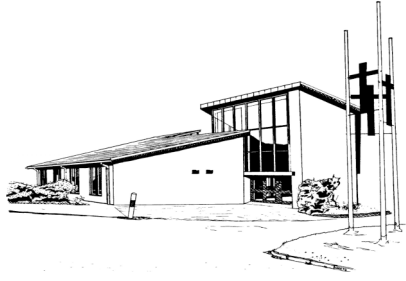


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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 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 Parish Secretary: Sheila Jones</p>

First Sunday of Lent – Year A

9/10 February 2008

Some time ago I met a young lady who had recently been diagnosed of cancer. She had just had her first baby. We met because she came to Church to say a prayer (even though she wasn't a church-going person) and stopped over at the presbytery to have a chat with the priest. I can't remember the details of the conversation we had, but I remember her asking the familiar question: Why me? She thought it wasn't fair for God to let her die of cancer and leave her little baby to be brought up by someone else. Then she made an abrupt and completely unexpected turnaround in her questioning. She said: Well, why not me? It happens to other people all the time. So why them and not me? The only thing I did was promise her my prayers. I don't know where she is now and have no means of contacting her, but I have tried to remember my promise to pray for her and her little baby.

During Lent, the Church invites us to give priority to prayer, to try to find time to raise our minds and hearts to God in order to draw closer to Him and to our brothers and sisters. In addition, we are invited to open our hearts to those in need and offer them generous help from what God has given us.

It might be helpful to focus on definite situations in our life that we want God to shine his light on and help us to change; definite people we want to improve our relationship with; definite people we know to be in need and who we would like to help. St. Paul asks us to seize the moment: **Now is the favourable time; this is the day of salvation** (2 Cor. 6:2). In other words, don't keep putting off for tomorrow what you can do today.

Can I suggest that, as part of our Lenten observance this year, we abandon our difficulties and inconveniences to God in prayer; that we stop complaining about what we have to suffer and think about and pray for those brothers and sisters in the parish and elsewhere who carry the same or bigger burdens than we do. This would be a commendable act of charity for Lent.

Fr Joseph

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS		ST. JOSEPH'S	
Nora Davis RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Sydney Barrett RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Antonia Mastrocola RIP
People of the Parish	11.30 am		10.30 am	Patrick & Dora Flattery RIP
Mary & Willie Lee Family Int.	5.00 pm			
J.H. King RIP	9.30 am	Monday	9.00 am	Bernadette Pinkard RIP
Jim Campbell RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Michael Knowles RIP
Jenevieve Hickey RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Mary Cunningham's Intentions
Coll Family Intentions	8.30 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Antonia Mastrocola RIP
Ethelreda Davis RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Boleslaw Stepien RIP
		Saturday	10.00 am	Nora Fleming's Intentions
THE FEASTS FOR THIS WEEK ARE:				
Monday–Our Lady of Lourdes		Thursday – Ss Cyril & Methodius		
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: 'Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.'				

COLLECTIONS FOR 3RD FEBRUARY 2008

Gift Aid:	£364.35
Planned Giving:	£53.50
Loose Plate:	£243.77
Catholic Education	£10.50
Catholic Children's Society	£343.88
TOTAL	£1,016.00
<hr/>	
<u>Running Totals</u>	
Fr Zvonko	£1,036.03
Catholic Children's Society	£473.98

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 17th February are Tony Chaplin & John Macbeth.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION MASS – ST JOSEPH'S

Please note that next Sunday, 17th February there will be a special Mass at 10.30 am for the First Holy Communion children and it may run on longer than normal.

YOUTH GROUP

The next St Joseph's Youth Group session on Friday, 15th February will be a practice session for Youth-led Stations of the Cross and Women's World Day of Prayer. For further details please contact *Nicola Ritchie* 9415636.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

From its early origins in 1887 and 1891, the Women's World Day of Prayer came into being in 1919. Women, appalled by the problems of new immigrants in America and deprivation of women in many other countries, called for a day of prayer. After the second World War, the Movement grew dramatically. Today, more than 170 countries and islands take part following the same Order of Service all over the world. The shared Order of Service is translated into more than 60 languages and 1,000 dialects.

The day of prayer begins on the International Dateline. The first service is held at dawn in Queen Salote's Girls School in Tonga. Then, as the earth rotates, a great "Mexican Wave" of prayer rises in the Pacific reaching countries like Fiji and New Zealand. It continues through Asia and rolls on to Africa including Egypt and the Middle East. It moves on to Europe, across the Atlantic and on to the Caribbean, Latin, Central and North Americas and on to the Pacific again, until the last service of the day is held on the island of Samoa.

Each year, the Order of Service is compiled by a different nation. This year's Women's World Day of Prayer Service has been written by the Christian Women of Guyana.

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.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to Nathan Michael McCaugherty and Kayleigh Ann McCaugherty who are being baptised here at St Joseph's today.

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.

FREE FAIRTRADE SAMPLES – 17TH & 24TH FEBRUARY

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

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.



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 0118 9453529 Or 07830 144 165.

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).

LENT FAST DAY – 15TH FEBRUARY 2008

CAFOD's Lent Fast Day is next Friday, 15th February 2008 and the people of the parish are asked to support this event as generously as possible. Envelopes for offerings are at the back of the Church in a box and you are asked to take one and place any offerings in the next Sunday's normal collections. Parishioners who gift aid are asked to print their gift aid number on the envelope or their name. The parish can then collect the tax refund and pass this on to CAFOD in due course.

(Continued on Meditation Sheet)

(Continued from Newsletter)

SVP

THE UNIVERSITY OF READING CHAPLAINCY

The University of Reading Chaplaincy is running The Forgiveness Project exhibition from Monday, 11th February - Sunday, 24th February from 8.30 am – 6.30 pm. All Church groups and individuals are welcome. All events are free. For further information, please telephone 0118 378 8797.

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.

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 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.

RBH CHAPLAINCY

At its meeting on Monday, 4th February, the Area Pastoral Council was advised that Fr John Creagh, Catholic Chaplain at the Royal Berkshire Hospital had moved to take up another Chaplaincy post in Oxford. Bishop Crispian is in the process of replacing Fr John as soon as possible. In the meantime, parishioners are advised, when seeking help for sick relatives from a Catholic Priest at the RBH, to telephone the Chaplaincy Office on 0118 322 7105. The Chaplaincy Office would then contact an "on call" Catholic Priest. This telephone number is also printed on the front of the weekly newsletter.

MISSION – BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON SCHOOL

The Cross Purposes Mission Team will be presenting a special evening event on the Thursday, 13th March of the Mission week. A dynamic team of young people from **Sion Community** will be presenting the Gospel and creating space for people to reflect and respond, whether it be for the first time or the hundredth time! A great chance to be refreshed in your faith and also to invite others to come and hear the Good News in a relaxed atmosphere. For further information, please contact the school on 957 4730 or email: admin.hughfaringdon@reading.gov.uk.

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.

In the last quarter, members of St Joseph's SVP made over 120 visits to people in their homes, in hospital and in care homes. We have been assisted by your continuing support, both financially and by prayer. Just before Christmas we took guests to the party at English Martyrs, which was much enjoyed by all. We now have a second "twinned" SVP conference, whom we support financially. This one is in Sudan and assists people displaced by the civil war there.

Please tell the SVP collector after mass if you are aware of anyone who might benefit from us visiting them.

UCM

On Wednesday, 13th February we will start by leading the parish Stations of the Cross in St Joseph's Church at 7 pm. This will be followed by our regular meeting in the small hall at which we will discuss the forthcoming Human Fertility and Embriology Bill.

PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE

The February edition is out now and available for free at the back of the church.

WELCOME

If you are a visitor to the parish, we want you to know how welcome you are – whether you have come from another part of the country, from across the world, or simply from another local parish.

HUMAN FERTILISATION & EMBRIOLOGY BILL

Guidelines for letters to our MP together with a supply of pre-printed postcards, for those who would find this way easier, are available in the porch.

URGENT JOB VACANCY

Diocese of Portsmouth has a vacancy for a P/T Parish Admin. Sec. for Fr. Bruce Barnes at Christ the King Church, Reading. Successful applicant will be located in CTK Parish Office. For further information please contact *Fr. Bruce* on 931 4469 or email ctk.pariah@btopenworld.com

