
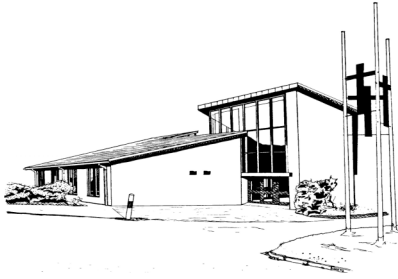


# NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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 e-mail: admin@englishmartyrs.org.uk <b>Secretary: Gwen Price</b></p>	<p align="center"><b>Hospital Chaplain for the RBH - Fr John Creagh</b> (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 <b>Parish Secretary: Sheila Jones</b></p>

## The Baptism of the Lord – Year A

12/13 January 2008

I am full of admiration for those people who serve our parishes in whatever capacity throughout the year. It is good for them to know that we all appreciate what they do for the Church. Last week, at St. Joseph's we tried to draw up a detailed list of people who have served the parish in various ways in 2007, to thank them and let them know that their contribution means so much to us. However, I am aware that we left out so many people from our list whose services keeps the parish going. For instance, I just noticed we left out the family who put up the crib for us at Christmas, and I am sure we left out so many other people who provide important one-off services to the Church. Can I now use this opportunity to thank all those who are rarely mentioned and those whose services go unnoticed?

In one of my reflections for the newsletter I talked about people whose services to the community are not always noticed, and others who prefer to contribute in an unobtrusive manner. Today, I would like to thank especially those whose prayers keep our parishes going. Thank you for supporting the work of the Church and her leaders with your prayers. The psalmist tells us that "unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain" (Psalm 127:1). Your contribution is vital to the work of the Church.

I consider this an opportune time for us all to reflect on the words of St. Paul: "*Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.*" (1 Corinthians 12:4-7).

Maybe these questions could help us in our reflection: What gifts has God gifted me with? What service can I offer my community for the common good? If I am already offering a service, is it truly for the welfare of others I am working or can I purify the intentions of my service? Do I give others space to make their own contribution or does it always have to be me?

As we begin a new year, let us ask God for the generosity to put our gifts and talents at the service of our brothers and sisters. Let us ask for the grace to be able to work with others no matter how different they may be and no matter how small their contribution, because it is the same Lord we serve. This is what we are called to do as Christians.

*Fr Joseph*

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS		ST. JOSEPH'S	
Nora Davis RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
People of the Parish	9.30 am			
Ned Cross RIP	11.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Bridget Jones RIP
Joe Dinelli RIP	5.00 pm		10.30 am	Ted Harrington's Intentions
Nan McGrath's Intentions	9.30 am	Monday	NO MASS	
Tony Doherty's Intentions	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Michael Knowles RIP
Funeral - Vina Morgan RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Joe & Mary Ginty's Intentions
David Conry RIP	8.30 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Tom Hicky RIP
Mary Hartnett RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Michael Knowles RIP
		Saturday	10.00 am	Violet Wickens RIP
<b>THE FEASTS FOR THIS WEEK ARE:</b>				
Thursday - <b>St Anthony of Egypt</b>		Saturday - <b>St Wulstan</b>		
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	

## COLLECTIONS FOR 6TH JANUARY 2008

Gift Aid:	£581.70
Planned Giving:	£41.00
Loose Plate:	£7.80
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£630.50</b>
<b>Running Totals</b>	
TF5 (Fr Zvonko's Training Fund)	£1,026.03

### REMINDER

The counters for 20<sup>th</sup> January are Joe D'Cruz & Pat Toner.

### SPECIAL COLLECTION

There will be a special collection next Sunday, 20<sup>th</sup> January for the Catholic Education Service.

### LITURGY GROUP

The Diocesan Pastoral Plan encourages all parishes to establish a Liturgy Group. The existing Liturgy Group at St Joseph's is very small and has been largely only responsible for the Penitential Services and the Corpus Christi Procession. We now need to expand this to include all aspects of our Liturgy and the group needs to comprise representatives of all Liturgical Ministries within the Parish. A meeting has been therefore arranged for Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> January 2008 after 7 pm Mass in the Presbytery. The following groups need to be represented: Readers, Choir, Eucharistic Ministers, Welcomers, Collectors, Catechists, Childrens' Liturgy, Servers, Youth Group. This is an important aspect of Parish life and I do hope that you will make every effort to ensure that your group is represented at the meeting – **Father Joseph**.

### 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 will be made very welcome. We meet on Thursdays in term time between 8 pm and 9.30 pm in the small hall here at St Joseph's. Please phone *Brigid Parkes* – 9427436 for more details.

### HUMAN FERTILISATION AND EMBRYOLOGY BILL

This Bill is currently going through Parliament and cannot be ignored. The Bishops have sent us information which we will act on in the next two weeks. The Bill, if passed, would

- allow the creation of half human, half animal embryos for research purposes,
- allow infertility clinics to ignore a child's need for a father,
- possibly make changes to the Abortion Act by allowing the signature of only one doctor instead of two as at present,
- possibly permit abortion up to 12/14 weeks to be carried out by nurses or midwives in doctors' surgeries or in patients' own homes.

These are just some of the proposals. We'll soon be hearing about them in more detail and will be asked to write to our MP before the Bill reaches the House of Commons. Meanwhile, pro-life MP, and patron of LIFE, Ann Widdecombe, is addressing a series of rallies nationwide to educate and inform on life issues and the proposed Bill. Details are on the notice board. Anyone wanting to hear her at Central Hall, Westminster, on 6<sup>th</sup> February, please speak to Christine Wall on 9411605, after 19<sup>th</sup> January.

### 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.

## UCM

At this week's meeting on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a talk about herbalism. We meet in the small hall at 7.30 pm and all ladies are welcome to attend.

### CHURCHES TOGETHER IN TILEHURST

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday prayer meeting for West Reading is next week at 10.30 am on Tuesday, 15th January at Norcot Mission, Brockley Close, Tilehurst. We would welcome you and members of your churches to join us as we pray for this part of Reading, local concerns and communities. If you have any specific items for praise and prayer in which we can share and rejoice, please pass them on to Fingland: [fingland.dent@ntlworld.com](mailto:fingland.dent@ntlworld.com) - *Tony Bartlett, Cornwell Community Church*.

### SPEAKING UP FOR CAFOD

If you would like to make a real difference to people living in the developing world, why not volunteer to speak on behalf of CAFOD in your parish or neighbouring parishes? CAFOD Portsmouth is running a special workshop to train volunteers to speak confidently and effectively about the work of CAFOD on Saturday, 26th January 2008 from 10.30 am - 4.30 pm at St Joseph's Parish Hall, 105 London Road, Newbury. There is plenty of parking space and the venue is 0.6 miles from the station. Come along and see if speaking up for CAFOD is for you! Lunch will be provided and all reasonable travel expenses will be reimbursed. Please book your place by 20th January at the absolute latest with *Laura or Lynda at CAFOD Portsmouth* on 01252 329385 or [portsmouth@cafod.org.uk](mailto:portsmouth@cafod.org.uk).

### MISSION – BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON SCHOOL

The Cross Purposes Mission Team will be presenting a special evening event on the Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:admin.hughfaringdon@reading.gov.uk).

### DOUAI ABBEY PASTORAL PROGRAMME

Ministry of Healing Workshops on Saturdays, 26th January & 26th April (10 am – 5 pm). A practical workshop which will explore the issues involved in Christian healing with emphasis on the importance of mutual forgiving, prayer for healing and for deliverance, and blessing of oil for use by the laity. There will be two follow-up workshops later in the year. Cost for the waged £15 per workshop. Please bring food to share at lunch-time. Beverages will be provided. Please refer to the notice board in the porch for further details.

### JUSTICE & PEACE DAY – 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

The Department for Pastoral Formation is organising a Justice & Peace Day on 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

### Courses in Portsmouth Diocese

Date	Course	Venue
16/1 & 30/1 7.30-9.30 pm	Leadership Course A – Sessions 2 & 3	Our Lady of Help of Christians, Queen's Road, Farnborough.
24/1 7.30-9.15 pm	Rite of Election Evening	

To book a place on the course contact the Dept. for Pastoral Formation on 01329 835583/834677 or email [estephenon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:estephenon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

