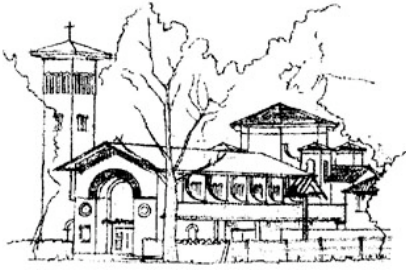
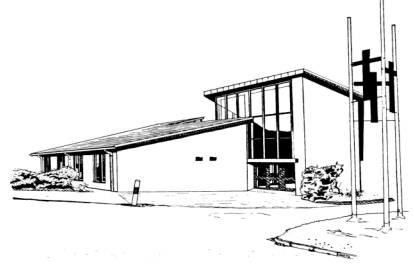


# NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<p><b>Parish Clergy:</b></p> <p><b>Mgr John Nelson</b> (Parish Priest &amp; Co-ordinating Pastor)</p> <p><b>Fr Joseph Awoh</b> (Resident at St Joseph's)</p> <p>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><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 Epiphany of the Lord – Year A

5/6 January 2008

This weekend we are celebrating the Feast of the Epiphany: the showing of the child Jesus to the whole of humanity in the figures of the three wise men who had followed the star from the East. I would not have immediately associated the city of Cologne in Germany with the three wise men, but in the massive Cathedral on the banks of the River Rhine there is a shrine to them. Tradition has it that the gold casket contains their relics. They were brought to Cologne from Constantinople in the twelfth century, having been venerated in Constantinople since the middle of the fourth century.

Cologne became one of the great places of pilgrimage in Western Europe, and even today you can process underneath the shrine which is behind the main altar in the Cathedral and so complete the pilgrimage. The idea is to bow as you go underneath and so show a gesture of humility and worship as did the three wise men to the child Jesus. This was one of the features of the last World Youth Day which was held in Cologne in 2005.

This year, 2008, sees the World Youth Day being held in Sydney, Australia, where the Church is much younger and its history is much more recent. The first time Mass was celebrated in public in Australia after the Reformation was only in 1803. Young people from around the world, including five from Reading, will gather with Pope Benedict in what is another kind of epiphany (which is a Greek word meaning manifestation). They will be showing to the world that their faith in Jesus Christ is important and is a guide to them for the way in which they live. The Feast of the Epiphany brings Christmas to a close and so perhaps we can all look to the way in which we can show Christ to those around us during 2008.

Can I add the thanks of Fr Joseph, Fr Richard, Fr Terence and myself to those of Fr John from Basra. You have been most generous with your cards, gifts and greetings and we are very grateful to you. Every blessing for the coming year.

*Fr Andrew*

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS		ST. JOSEPH'S	
Fintan Carvalho RIP	6.30 pm	<b>Vigil Mass</b>		
Dennis Kravesslar RIP	9.30 am			
Mary Munnelly's Intentions	11.30 am	<b>Sunday</b>	8.30 am	Sabino Rato RIP
People of the Parish	5.00 pm		10.30 am	Michael Knowles RIP
Domingo Rodrigues RIP	9.30 am	<b>Monday</b>	NO MASS	
Tony & Maureen's Intentions	9.30 am	<b>Tuesday</b>	7.00 pm	Michael Knowles RIP
Maureen Doherty's Intentions	9.30 am	<b>Wednesday</b>	9.00 am	Margaret Jones RIP
Anne O'Connor's Intentions	8.30 pm	<b>Thursday</b>	9.00 am	Tim O'Leary RIP
Ann Wells RIP	9.30 am	<b>Friday</b>	7.00 pm	Shaun Connors RIP
			<b>Saturday</b>	10.00 am
<b>THE FEASTS FOR THIS WEEK ARE:</b>				
		Monday – <b>St Raymond of Peñafort</b>		Saturday – <b>St Aelred</b>
Thursday 7-8.30 pm	<b>EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT</b>			Tuesday - 7.30 – 8 pm
5.30–6.15 pm	<b>CONFESSIONS - SATURDAY</b>			10.30-11.00 am

## COLLECTIONS FOR 30TH DECEMBER 2007

Gift Aid:	£314.85
Planned Giving:	£43.10
Loose Plate:	£216.90
TF5 (Fr Zvonko's Training Fund)	£0.00
Christmas Offering	£30.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£604.85</b>
<hr/>	
<b>Running Totals</b>	
TF5 (Fr Zvonko's Training Fund)	£1,026.03
Christmas Offering	£2,125.65

### REMINDER

The counters for 13<sup>th</sup> January are Tom & Pat McKeown.

### MICHAEL KNOWLES RIP

Pat Knowles and family would like to thank everyone who sent them messages of sympathy and had Masses said for Michael.

### BAPTISM

The next Baptism course at St Joseph's will be on Wednesday, 9<sup>th</sup> January and Wednesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 942 7436 or alternatively email the parish office (details on the front of this newsletter).

### KNITWITS

KNITWITS will next meet on Monday, 7<sup>th</sup> January at 8 pm at Maureen English's home: 94 Blewbury Drive. Thank you for all your help and support through another year – we have now been going for nearly 18 years! We would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas – Margaret Chaplin.

### 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.

## MESSAGE FROM FATHER JOHN

"Thank you to everyone for their cards and greetings over Christmas. I'm sure that the volume of post addressed to me was far greater than anyone else's at the Hospital!! Your words and the thoughts behind them meant a lot to me, especially this year separated by a few thousand miles. The soldiers here had a good Christmas with Midnight Mass by candlelight and we also managed the traditional turkey dinner in the evening. As you can imagine, many did miss being with their family and friends, especially those with young children, but I saw a lot of examples where people looked out for each other and make sure that, in the circumstances, it was a good day. I wish you all a happy and peaceful 2008 - and look forward to being back with you at the very beginning of March." - *Father John*.

### THANK YOU

Thank you all most sincerely for the very generous Christmas offering – *Father Joseph*.

### THANK YOU VERY MUCH . . .

to those who have prepared our Christmas celebration;  
also to those who serve the parish throughout the year in many ways:  
the Sacristan and those who assist Terry,  
those who clean the Church and arrange flowers,  
those who look after the Repository,  
those who form the Choir and provide the Musical Accompaniment.  
to those who read, as Ministers of the Word,  
to the Ministers of the Eucharist and to the Altar Servers,  
to those who provide Liturgies for the children,  
to those who provide the Catechetical Instruction  
to the Leaders of the Youth Groups; Nursery and Play Group  
to the Child Protection Officer;  
to the Governors and Staff of the Catholic Schools;  
to the members of the Parish Pastoral Council and the Parish Working Group;  
to those who get involved on our behalf in ecumenical work;  
to those who care for families, the young, the elderly, the sick,  
in the capacity of parent or relative or as a member of a Society,  
or provide transport to Mass for those without cars;  
to those who represent the parish at weekday Mass;  
to those who type and print and file and help with administration,  
to those who organise and support fundraising events,  
to those who ensure the Health and Safety of our Church Property;  
to those who administer the Church Hall lettings and provide refreshments and attend to the daily cleaning and maintenance;  
to those who maintain the Church grounds, lighting & other equipment  
to those who attend to the finances of the Parish, including Gift Aid, Counting, Book-keeping and Banking.  
And for the computer and servicing, provided free, ( without which, none of this would be reaching you!) and for the website.  
Have I left anyone out? If so, I offer my sincere apologies.  
Thank you all! Please do keep up your kind service to the Glory of God – *Father Joseph*.

### PRAYER TRAINING DAY

There will be a prayer training day on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> January at Reading Community Church in The Meadway. It starts with lunch, and consists of worship, prayer sessions and talks on the theme of spreading Christianity in Berkshire. There will be a light supper at 6 pm. The cost of the day is £2.50. Anyone interested, call 0118 941 5557, or email [admin@bfoc.org](mailto:admin@bfoc.org).

