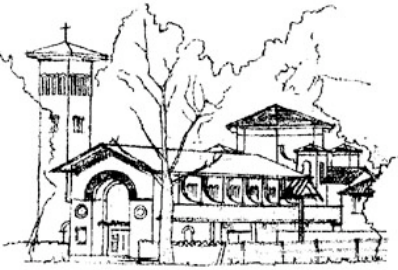
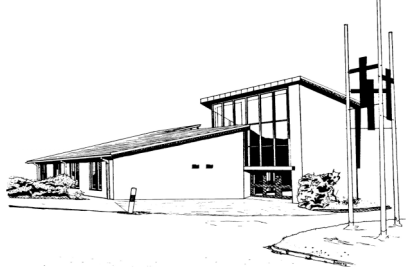


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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) Fr Chris Whelan Fr Richard Maniak (0118 9586637)</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>

Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A

12/13 July 2008

I seem to have been doing a lot of moving around recently and within the space of a week earlier this month I was in Spain, Ireland and Poland.

Firstly, I went to Covadonga in northern Spain for a meeting of the Secretaries of the Bishops' Conferences in Europe. It's a beautiful shrine to Our Lady in the mountains and was about the only place in Spain to stay Christian during the time when that part of Europe was occupied by the Moors. It was from there in 770 that the re-Christianising of Spain and Portugal began. Following that I went to Belfast to the ordination of the new Bishop of Down and Connor. For many years he has been one of the Church's representatives to the European Union. Then two days later I went to Warsaw for a meeting of a group of Polish and English Bishops who are trying to work out the best system of providing for the pastoral care for Polish people who are settling here or are here for a reasonably long period of time.

One of the common themes of those experiences is Europe. In Spain many of my colleagues from Eastern Europe talked about both the difficulties and the benefits of their new membership of the European Union or preparing to join it. In Ireland the new Bishop spoke quite passionately about the recent vote not to accept the Lisbon Treaty and in Poland migration throughout Europe was the background to our discussions.

I have to admit, I don't very often think about the reason why what has now become the European Union, was first created. It was to try to prevent further war in Europe by making coal and steel in France and Germany common resources, rather than something to be fought over. Of course opinion is strongly divided over where we are now and big questions about how far it should go, or whether we have already gone too far. However in its founding ideal, Europe could be said to be moving towards success. War between European states is almost inconceivable and within Europe we can move freely around meeting each other, going on holiday and doing business. We can easily get to know different peoples and cultures so much better than before. I'm sure there must be something basically Christian about that if it helps us to better know our neighbour.

Fr Andrew

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS			ST. JOSEPH'S
Sidney Carvalho RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Jessie Tanner & Patricia Bottomley RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	For a Special Intention
Vincent McGrath RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	Lizzie & Greg's Special Ints
People of the Parish	5.00 pm			
Bridget Fitzpatrick RIP	9.30 am	Monday	No Mass	
Margaret Ryan RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Paddy Gaynard RIP
Carmelite Sisters Reading int.	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Kate Knollys RIP
Patrick Kearns RIP	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Fr Kelleher's Intentions
Tony Doherty RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Ita Hardy RIP
		Saturday	10.00 am	Michael Conroy RIP
THE FEASTS FOR THE WEEK ARE:				
Monday – St Camillus of Lellis Tuesday – St Swithun Wednesday – Our Lady of Mount Carmel Thursday – St Bonaventure Saturday – Our Lady on Saturday				
Thursday 7-8 pm	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT/BENEDICTION			Tuesday – 7pm Exposition
5.30-6.15 pm	CONFESSIONS – SATURDAY			10.30-11.00 am
Responsorial Psalm: "Some seed fell into rich soil, and produced its crop."				

COLLECTIONS FOR 6TH JULY 2008

Gift Aid:	£340.24
Planned Giving:	£43.20
Loose Plate:	£134.32
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£10.00
Peter's Pence	£38.71
TOTAL	£566.47
Running Totals	
Fr Zvonko	£1,967.26
	(Inc. tax refund)

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 20th July June are Sean Murphy & Peter Chesworth.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

There will be a special collection **TODAY** for The Apostleship of the Sea.

YOUTH GROUP

The next St Joseph's Youth Group session on Friday, 18th July will be a summer barbecue party. For further details please contact *Nicola Ritchie 9415636*.

OBERRAMMERSGAU 2010 – PASSION PLAY

It has been suggested that arrangements might be made for a parish group from St Joseph's/English Martyrs to attend the Oberammergau Passion Play in 2010. Fr John has agreed that arrangements could be made to "test the water" amongst parishioners to ascertain support for the proposal. If any parishioner is interested, please contact *Theresa Bricker on 9426788*.

1ST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2008 - 2009

St Joseph's Parish Programme will begin next term in preparation for reception of the sacrament next May. If your child will be in Year 3 or above in September, you are invited to contact the parish office to register for the programme as soon as possible. Please see the front of the newsletter for contact details. Unfortunately, we will not be able to accept applications received after **Friday 19th September**, so please do not forget to register in plenty of time.

THURSDAY EVENING MASS AT ENGLISH MARTYRS

For a number of years, Mass on Thursday has been at 8.30 pm, following Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament from 7 – 8.30 pm. Following requests from people who attend, the Mass will be moved to 8 pm beginning on Thursday, 17th July. Exposition will still begin at 7 pm, for one hour before Mass.

EXPLORE

Explore is a local charity looking for married couples to assist in its work with young people in schools and young offenders institutions. The commitment is only for a few hours once or twice a year. For further details please contact *Tonia Elliott 0787 1047490 or email Antonia_Elliott@btinternet.com*.

FR JOSEPH'S GRADUATION CELEBRATION

On Wednesday, 23rd July, Fr Joseph will be receiving his M.A. Degree at the graduation ceremony at Southampton University. He wishes to celebrate this occasion with the parishioners of St Joseph's and arrangements have therefore been made to have a Celebration Mass at 7 pm on 23rd July. This will be followed by a social gathering in the Church Hall at which drinks and light refreshments will be provided by the parish. All are welcome to attend both events. In order to assist with catering arrangements, you are asked to complete and return the attached yellow slip.

In order to offset parish expenses, a raffle will be held at the gathering. Items for the raffle will be gratefully received – please leave these in the box at the back of the Church.

APOSTLESHIP OF THE SEA

Today is Sea Sunday, when the Church remembers all those who live and work at sea.

Many people have never stopped to consider how important Seafarers are to our standard of living. Without them we would not have most of the items we use in our everyday lives. Many of these seafarers do not have the quality of life on board that every human has the right to.

The Apostleship of the Sea (AOS) is the official maritime welfare agency of the Catholic Church in Great Britain. The Apostleship of the Sea reaches out to seafarers who visit our ports each year, offering pastoral and practical support and care. AOS is wholly dependent on voluntary donations to continue its work; it takes the love of Christ to seafarers in the name of the Church, recognising them as our brothers and sisters in need.

Sea Sunday is the principal fundraising and awareness-raising event of the year for AOS. Today's second collection will be taken at Masses throughout the country. This annual event is absolutely vital for the AOS to continue their work. Please give generously and remember seafarers in your prayers. *Thank you.*

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.

CALLING ALL PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS

Home-Start Reading is looking for volunteers to make a weekly visit to young families who are going through a difficult time and who have asked for help. Volunteers get free training, all their expenses paid and an opportunity to make a difference to the next generation.

Home-Start volunteers have said, "Home-Start has been a positively life-changing experience for me" and "It is sometimes difficult to see who benefits most – myself or the family!"

A family who received visits from volunteer said, "Knowing that someone cares is wonderful. The feeling of loneliness and despair disappears entirely."

For more information contact *0118 942 9518, e-mail: hsreading@ic24.net or check the website: www.home-start.org.uk*.

ALTON DAY OF RENEWAL - SATURDAY 26TH JULY 2008

St. Lucy's Convent, Medstead Manor, Medstead. The theme for this year is THE LOVE OF THE FATHER. Starting with Rosary at 11am - MASS at 11.30 am concelebrated by Fr Andrew McMahon and Fr Nicholas Broadbridge OSB – Shared lunch at 1.00 pm – Praise & Worship 2.00 pm - Talk 2.30 pm – Fr Andrew McMahon OFM speaking on the topic FORGIVE US – Finishing with tea & Prayer for healing - ending around 5pm. Collection to defray expenses. More information or directions, ring *Rev John Foley on 9333420* or see poster. **NO MEETING IN AUGUST.** Next meeting – Saturday, 27th September 2008.

CONFIRMATION 2009

The next Confirmation programme will start in November with a 'Come and See evening' and is open to anyone in Year 8 and above. To help us with planning, please register your interest by leaving your name, phone number and email address with the office. More details will follow in November.

TUESDAY EVENING EXPOSITION – REMINDER

Please note that there will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during August. Exposition will start again on Tuesday, 2nd September.

CAFOD – FOCUS AFRICA

During June, £84.17 was donated to the above. Since this particular project was started by CAFOD two years ago, St Joseph's has contributed £3,072.33.

Many thanks on behalf of CAFOD to everyone who has given so generously – *Margaret Chaplin*.

FIRST AIDERS – TRAINING ARRANGEMENTS

At its meeting on 7th July 2008, the St Joseph's and English Martyrs Pastoral Council received a report that arrangements had been made, together with the parish of St James & St William of York, for a First Aid training course to be held on Saturday, 13th September from 9 am – 5 pm at the English Martyrs parish centre.

The aim is to have a qualified First Aider available at each Mass throughout the Central & West Reading Pastoral Area and is in conformity with good Health & Safety practice.

Ideally, parishioners who are qualified nurses would be very suitable candidates for this training course. There is no charge for the training course.

There are 12 places available and it is hoped that 3 or 4 from each of our communities will be able to attend.

If anyone is willing to undertake the day's training, please contact *Sheila Jones in the Parish Office*.

LECTIO DIVINA

Lectio Divina - Breaking Open the Word - St James Church at 7.30 pm on Monday, 14th July.

Fr Gervase Holdaway OSB of Douai Abbey will be speaking about Lectio Divina in the Barberi Room at St James at 7.30 pm. Fr Gervase will explain the history and tradition of Lectio Divina, and how we can practise this ancient prayer method in groups or in our own private prayer. All are very welcome.

THANK YOU

Lizzie & Greg Cunningham would like to thank all parishioners for their kind thoughts in arranging for a Parish Mass to be said at 10.30 am today, in celebration of their recent marriage.

BLOOD DONATION SESSIONS

If you are able to give blood to the NHS, a blood donation session will take place at the Calcot Community Centre on Friday, 8th August. Full details are available in the porch.

AUGUST HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

For parishioners' information, Father Joseph will be on holiday for the month of August and there will be no Resident Priest available. Father John Nelson has already made arrangements for Father Richard and Father Robert (visiting Priest from Romania) to cover the Masses during the holiday period.

Sheila Jones is also away during this period and for emergency calls, i.e. sick calls and funerals, parishioners are advised to contact the English Martyrs Parish on 0118 957 2149.

It is anticipated that a newsletter will continue to be published during this period, but it may be a shorter version.

TEA/COFFEE

Today will be the last tea and coffee session before the summer break. Many thanks to all those who support this venture through the year and also to the Youth Group who are now responsible for the first Sunday of the month. It is good to see more people joining us after 10.30 am Mass and this is reflected in the increased money raised this year – over £50 for CAFOD (first Sunday) and over £200 for Fr Zvonko's Training Fund (all other Sundays); the final figures will be published next week. We will resume on Sunday, 7th September and hope you all have an enjoyable break.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Today will be the last session before the summer break and we hope you all have good holidays. We will resume on Sunday, 7th September.

NEWS FROM ST JOSEPH'S SVP

In addition to our usual work of visiting people in their homes, care home or in hospital, we recently had the pleasure of escorting about 20 guests to St Gabriel's Convent at Cold Ash. Everyone enjoyed the gardens and the tea that the nuns kindly provided. You can see some photos of the visit at the back of the Church.

Thank you to everyone whose support made the visit possible, especially the parishioners who drove for us.

PRAYER FOR WEST READING

The 3rd Tuesday prayer meeting for West Reading is next week. 10.30 am Tuesday, 15th July at Norcot Mission, Brockley Close, Tilehurst.

We welcome members of your Church 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 - Tony Bartlett, Cornwell Community Church*.

HUMAN FERTILISATION & EMBRYOLOGY BILL

The Report Stage and Final Reading of the Bill are still to come – probably this month. The Bill could be made even more horrendous by amendments tabled at Report Stage. Pro-abortion MPs want easier access to early abortion and have already tabled amendments:

1. to make abortion available on the signature of only one doctor rather than two as at present.
2. to permit early abortions to be carried out by nurses and midwives.

Women need more opportunity for counselling the care, not fast-track abortions. We should once again write to our MP and the Prime Minister expressing opposition to these moves. Urge them to support any pro-life amendments instead, e.g. the entitlement of women to be given information on the possible effects of abortion.

Martin Salter, MP for Reading West, can be contacted at the House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA.

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.