
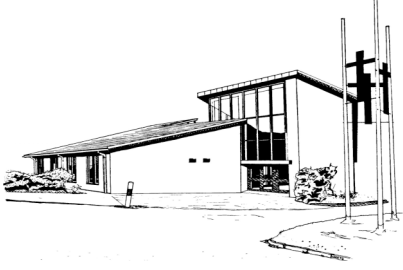


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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: englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.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>

Sixteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A

19/20 July 2008

World Youth Day - Sydney Australia

I write this on the day that Pope Benedict begins the official part of his visit to Sydney. He actually arrived from Rome a few days ago and has spent some time at a Retreat Centre on the outskirts of the city, recovering from the journey. Although it is mid-winter down here the temperatures are not too low and so far the weather has been ideal: bright blue skies and warm wintry sun. The welcome extended to those of us who have travelled from overseas has been tremendous and, despite a few hiccups in the organisation, the vast majority appear to be having the time of their lives meeting other young people from every continent.

On Tuesday afternoon Cardinal George Pell, the Archbishop of Sydney, celebrated the Opening Mass for World Youth Day with a crowd of Bishops and Cardinals and at least two thousand priests. This took place on the waterfront to accommodate almost 150,000 young people. With such a vast number it is always a worry that people will not be able to engage, join in and pray together but on Tuesday the atmosphere was reverent and prayerful. In his homily, Cardinal Pell challenged the young people not to sit on the fence in their lives but rather to commit themselves and then live out that commitment. I suspect the message from the Holy Father will run along similar lines.

On Thursday afternoon Pope Benedict will travel by boat (as part of what is being described as a 'boatcade') to the waterfront area on the harbour where he will be welcomed by the young people who have gathered from around the globe. On Friday the Stations of the Cross will be celebrated at various locations across the city. Each day there are opportunities for people to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. On Saturday there is a procession across Sydney Harbour Bridge to the Racecourse at Randwick where, on Sunday, the Pope will preside at an open-air Mass. It is anticipated that up to half a million people will take part. The emphasis of the whole week is spiritual as we pray for an openness in young people to the movement of God's Holy Spirit in their lives. There is a joyfulness and sense of excitement which is catching.

The young people from the Diocese of Portsmouth (including our five from Reading) spent a week in Melbourne before coming to Sydney. This gave them a chance to meet people in local parishes and the welcome they received was overwhelming. The group is staying just along the road from the hotel where I am staying with Bishop Crispian and Father Andrew, which is very central and within easy reach of the WYD events. As we take part in these days in Sydney, as we pray together for the world in which these young people will make their own unique contribution, we will remember to pray for all those people, family and friends, whose support has made it possible for so many young people from our Diocese to come to Sydney and be part of this World Youth Day. Without doubt, it will leave them changed.

Father John

MASS INTENTIONS

<u>ENGLISH MARTYRS</u>	<u>TIMINGS</u>		<u>ST. JOSEPH'S</u>
People of the Parish	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass	
Michael Conroy RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am Ellen Gerrity RIP
Edwin Grafton RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am Kathleen O'Kane RIP
Grace Kearney's Intentions	5.00 pm		
Mgr John Nelson's Intentions	9.30 am	Monday	8.30 am Margaret Bryant's Intentions
Edwiges Figueira RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm Deceased Members of Herbert Family RIP
Lilian's Thanksgiving for Prayers	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am Barney Clarke RIP
Mary Walsh RIP	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am Sheila & Paul's Special Intentions
Tony Doherty RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm Deceased Members of McDermott Family RIP
		Saturday	10.00 am Mgr John Nelson's Intentions

THE FEASTS FOR THE WEEK ARE:

Monday – St Laurence of Brindisi Tuesday – St Mary Magdalen Wednesday – St Bridget of Sweden
Thursday – St Charbel Makhlof Friday – St James Saturday – Ss Joachim & Anne

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: "O Lord, you are good and forgiving."

COLLECTIONS FOR 13TH JULY 2008

Gift Aid:	£450.50
Planned Giving:	£73.50
Loose Plate:	£199.35
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£404.00
Apostles of the Sea	£416.83
TOTAL	£1,544.18
Running Totals	
Fr Zvonko	£2,381.26
Apostles of the Sea	£416.83

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 27th July are Tony & Jill Flint.

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.

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 yellow slip which is available on the table at the back of the Church. 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.

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.

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*.

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.



ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Governors are seeking to employ a Teaching Assistant to support the needs of a child with a statement of special needs who is moving to our school. 17.5 hours a week in the first instance. For further details please contact *Ms J P Feeney on 9422003*.

TEA /COFFEE

This year we have collected £60.71 for CAFOD (first Sunday donations) and £216.13 for Fr Zvonko's Training Fund (all other Sundays); a significant increase on last year. Many thanks to all those who support this week by week.

KNITWITS

The next Knitwits meeting will be at Daphne Boughtwood's home: 22 Drayton Road on Monday, 4th August at 8 pm.