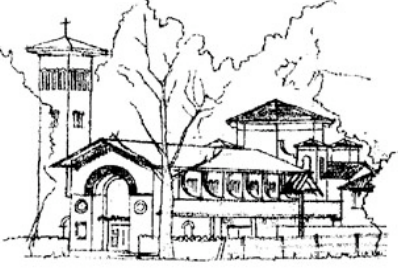
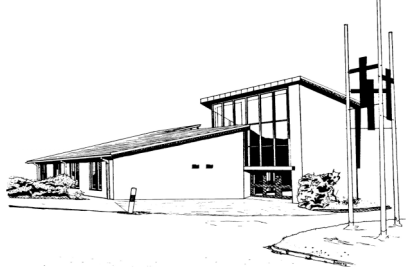


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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>

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A

14/15th June 2008

I think that this is my favourite time of the year. Not because the mornings are light and there is a chance of some sun (welcome though those are), but because it is about now that we celebrate the culmination of much of what we do at English Martyrs during the year. What do I mean? Well, in September and October things get underway: we plan marriage preparation for couples celebrating their weddings in these months; the First Communion Programme is put together and organised; names are gathered for Confirmation. Much of that comes to a head in May and June. All the work and prayer and preparation are brought to our celebrations of the Sacraments and of life in our community.

Last weekend was a great weekend. Children and their families came together on Saturday for First Communion and there was a true sense of occasion – and of God's presence in the Masses that morning and afternoon. On Sunday we were able to celebrate the Sacrament of Anointing for the Sick with many parishioners who cannot come to church due to illness or frailty. In a couple of weeks time, Bishop Crispian will confer the Sacrament of Confirmation on twenty-eight young people from St Joseph's and English Martyrs. All of this is the result of what we have been doing since last autumn. In addition, couples who have been planning their weddings for many months come to our church about now and commit themselves to each other, in love, for the rest of their lives.

This weekend, Paul Leonard (whose family are very much part of our community) was ordained as a Deacon. This took place at Oscott College in Birmingham where he has been studying and I was able to be present and concelebrate. Paul will spend much of the next year back at Oscott and some time working at the Cathedral in Portsmouth. Paul should be ordained as a priest sometime next year, so do continue to keep him in your prayers.

So many signs that God is alive and active in our midst. So many reasons to give thanks.

Fr John

MASS INTENTIONS				
<u>ENGLISH MARTYRS</u>	<u>TIMINGS</u>			<u>ST. JOSEPH'S</u>
Lorna Cullen RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Mick & Liz McSoley's Intentions	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Charles & Edith Boase RIP
Christina O'Shea RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	Daniel Grant RIP
People of the Parish	5.00 pm			
Maureen Kelly RIP	9.30 am	Monday	No Mass	
Eddie Quinlan RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Special Intention
Donald James Lovegrove RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Hugh Fenny RIP
Marilyn Harvey's Intentions	8.30 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Molly & John Walshe RIP
The Feely Family's Intentions	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Clark Family's Intentions
Funeral: Lolita Ismay Meyers RIP	11.00 am			
		Saturday	10.00 am	Annie Duffy & May Tasker RIP
THE FEASTS FOR THIS WEEK ARE:				
Monday – St Richard of Chichester		Thursday – St Romuald		Friday – St Alban
Saturday – St Aloysius Gonzaga				
Thursday 7-8.30 pm	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT/BENEDICTION			Tuesday – 7pm Exposition
5.30–6.15 pm	CONFESSIONS – SATURDAY			10.30-11.00 am
Responsorial Psalm: "We are his people: the sheep of his flock."				

COLLECTIONS FOR 8TH JUNE 2008

Gift Aid:	£465.10
Planned Giving:	£59.50
Loose Plate:	£197.06
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£0.00
TOTAL	£721.66
<u>Running Totals</u>	
Fr Zvonko	£1,278.48

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 22nd June are Clare McSoley & Sean Murphy.

YOUTH GROUP

The next St Joseph's Youth Group session on Friday, 20th June will be a Cinema Night. For further details please contact *Nicola Ritchie 9415636*.

OBERRAMMERGAU 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*.

BAPTISM COURSE

The next Baptism course at St Joseph's will be on Wednesday, 2nd July and Wednesday, 9th July 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 9427436* or alternatively email the parish office (details on the front of this newsletter).

WOODLEY JUMBULANCE GROUP

We have vacancies for one unable and three helpers for our trip to Lourdes, in celebration of the 150th anniversary of the apparitions, next September. Anyone who would like to volunteer or who would like more information please contact *John Gill on 9694769, Marie O'Gorman on 9691927 or Anne McDonald on 9585841*.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH OFFICE

Please note that the office will be closed on Thursday, 26th June, but will be open on Friday, 27th June instead.

MISSION - PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETIES (RED BOXES)

The Pontifical Mission Societies have organised a series of annual mission Masses in the Portsmouth Diocese, details of which are in the porch.

ST JOSEPH'S SOCIAL/QUIZ NIGHT

We would like to thank the few people who came to support this event. It was a superb evening and we raised £80 for parish funds. We would also like to thank Jackie Hopper for the two paintings which were auctioned, the Social Committee for all their hard work and Eileen Hopkins for the quiz questions – *Theresa Bricker, Social Committee*.

ASSISTANCE NEEDED

We have a parishioner who lives in the "Knowsley Road" area who would like a lift to 10:30 am Mass, on Sundays, at St Joseph's Church. If you can help please contact *Eileen Kerrigan on 9412757, or the Parish Office on 9428632*.

CAFOD – FOCUS AFRICA

Monies donated during May amounted to £108.15, this included a very generous donation from a parishioner. Very many thanks to all who contributed.

With the Burma appeal also producing such a wonderful response it is good to feel we can in some small way help our brothers and sisters who are living in such terrible conditions. Thank you again – *Margaret Chaplin*.

CAKE SALE FOR LESOTHO

Many thanks to those who contributed to last Sunday's sale for the church in Lesotho. Sales of cakes and cards, together with donations, raised over £130 which will be sent to Bishop Sebastian of Lesotho to help with the extension of his church.

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.

GIFT AID

Will those parishioners who recently completed a new Gift Aid Declaration Form kindly note that their gift aid envelope boxes are now available for them to collect in the church porch.

CONFIRMATION CANDIDATES

On Friday, 27th June at 7 pm, Bishop Crispian will be at English Martyrs Church to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation. A group of twenty-eight young people have been preparing for this step on their journey of faith, so please keep them all in your prayers.

The final step of preparation is this Sunday at the 5 pm Mass, at English Martyrs Church, when they will make a statement of their readiness to receive the gifts of God's Holy Spirit, celebrated in Confirmation.

Next weekend, we will be asking for your help in arranging refreshments for after the Confirmation Mass in the same way that we did last year – when you responded with great generosity.

UCM

The Union of Catholic Mothers is a national organisation. Despite its name, you don't have to be a mother to join – most women who read this notice could be a member. We meet fortnightly in school term-time and we have a varied programme of talks – some serious, some fun – together with social events and evenings with a spiritual theme. Our discussions keep us informed of national and social issues. You may already be aware of us through our varied work in the parish. Our events for the rest of this term will be Wednesday, 18th June: A Bring and Buy Sale to raise urgently needed funds for Electa's home diocese in Lesotho. Wednesday, 2nd July: A collection of 'Weekenders' fashions presented by Rosie Mortimer of Goring. There will be no obligation to buy, though this is a versatile range of easy care mix and match clothes, so it would be wise to come along with a cheque book or credit card, just in case! Wednesday, 16th July: The annual summer barbecue, hosted by Veronica Williams in her garden. Regular meetings are held in the small hall at 7.30 pm. Why not give us a try? Bring a friend! You'll be very welcome.