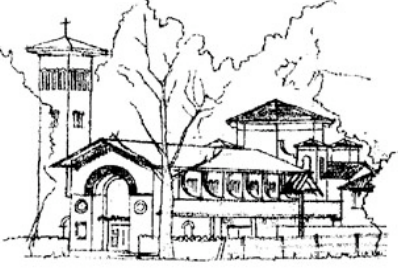
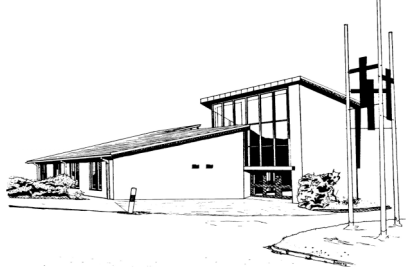


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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)</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>

Fourth Sunday of Lent – Year A

1/2 March 2008

It really is good to be back. I left from Iraq over a week ago and took a few days off before returning to Reading. I'm glad to be here in time for the second part of Lent, and then the celebrations of Holy Week.

In a strange way, it has only been since I came back from Basra that I have found myself reflecting more deeply on the experience of the last few months. As you know, I was also out there in 2004 but this was different from then. There are many signs that give rise to genuine hope for the future of Iraq that can be summarised as the Iraqi politicians, military, police and judiciary taking back responsibility for their own future. The role of British troops in southern Iraq is now very clearly one of *supporting* the Iraqi authorities, rather than being *supported by* them. But it is happening slowly and the road ahead is a long one that will bring further challenges.

The opportunity to serve again in Iraq has opened my eyes to many things that I simply could not have seen from the relative comfort of a Presbytery in Reading – about the country of Iraq, its people and the men and women I worked alongside. Many of the nursing staff in the Military Hospital were recently qualified and so we had a lot of younger soldiers there for whom this was their first Operational Tour. They were an impressive bunch.

Just as the man in today's Gospel receives the gift of seeing the world around him, so we are called to open our eyes to what is happening in our own time. Obviously it is impossible for most of us to experience these situations first-hand and we find ourselves hearing through others. [I hope I do not become an 'Iraq bore' by referring too often to the last few months! But I will inevitably refer to some of those experiences in the weeks ahead]. I want to thank you for your support in prayer, through cards and messages (especially at Christmas). You have made it possible for me to be away since October to engage in a different experience as a priest, and I am grateful. I also want to record my thanks to Father Richard and Father Joseph who, supported by Father Terence and Father Andrew, have carried an extra workload in my absence. I know that you have appreciated their ministry in your midst. I am glad to be back.

Fr John

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS			ST. JOSEPH'S
People of the Parish	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Fr Dominic Golding's Intentions	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Martin Tomas RIP
Sheila Martin RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	John Thornton's Intentions
Ann Wells RIP	5.00 pm			
Funeral– Catherine Viner RIP	9.30 am	Monday	8.30 am	Edgar Welch RIP
Paddy McCoy & Family Intents.	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Martin Tomas RIP
Gilda Evans RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Margaret Crotty RIP
Rose Kearnen Intentions	8.30 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Martin Tomas RIP
Stations of the Cross	9.00 am	Friday	9.00 am	Martin Tomas RIP
Steven, Paul & Martin's Intents.	9.30 am			
		Saturday	10.00 am	Martin Tomas RIP
THE FEASTS FOR THIS WEEK ARE:				
Monday – St Vignal	Tuesday – St Casimir	Friday – Ss Perpetua & Felicity		Saturday – St John of God
Thursday 7-8.30 pm	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT/BENEDICTION			Wednesday – 7 pm Benediction after Stations of the Cross
5.30–6.15 pm	CONFESSIONS – SATURDAY			10.30-11.00 am
Responsorial Psalm: “The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.”				

COLLECTIONS FOR 24TH FEBRUARY 2008

Gift Aid:	£306.90
Planned Giving:	£90.50
Loose Plate:	£229.55
Tf5 (Fr Zvonko)	£0.00
Catholic Children's Society	£5.00
Family Fast (CAFOD)	£94.56
TOTAL	£726.51
<hr/>	
<u>Running Totals</u>	
Fr Zvonko	£1,051.03
Family Fast (CAFOD)	224.93

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 9th March are Tom & Pat McKeown and Hugh Glover.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

There will be a special collection TODAY for the Clergy Assistance Fund.

FRIDAY MASS TIME CHANGE

Please note that Mass on Friday, 7th March will be at 9 am to accommodate the prayer service organised by the Women's World Day of Prayer that evening here at St Joseph's.

YOUTH GROUP

The next St Joseph's Youth Group session on Friday, 7th March will be providing hospitality for Women's World Day of Prayer. For further details please contact *Nicola Ritchie* 9415636.

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.

BAPTISM

The next Baptism course at St Joseph's will be on Wednesday, 23rd April and Wednesday, 30th April from 8 pm - 9.30 pm in the main church hall. 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).

PASSOVER MEAL

There will be a Pastoral Area Passover Meal with the parishes of St James & William of York, St Joseph's & English Martyrs on Wednesday, 19th of March. This will take place at Hugh Faringdon School 7 pm for 7.30 pm. Tickets £5.00 (Age 14 plus) £2.50 (Age 5 - 13) - Available after Mass this week and next.

ROYAL BERKSHIRE HOSPITAL – CHAPLAINCY DEPT

The Chaplaincy Department at the RBH is seeking volunteers to train as Chaplaincy Visitors and Chapel Escorts. If you are interested, full details are available in the porch at the back of the Church.

WALK OF WITNESS – GOOD FRIDAY 2008

The parish has recently been advised that the Walk of Witness on Good Friday, 21st March will commence with a service at 9.45 am in the Forbury Gardens, Reading. At 10.30 am, participants will walk from the Forbury Gardens, down Broad Street, finishing at St Mary's Church, St Mary's Butts. Please wear red, as last year.

Because of this early start, the Stations of the Cross will be held at 9 am in St Joseph's Church. Father Joseph and Father John are anxious to encourage all parishioners to participate in the Walk of Witness on this special occasion.

Stewards are required for this event, so please contact the Parish Office if you are able to help.

LIFE

LIFE will be having a jumble sale in English Martyrs Community Centre on Saturday, 8th March at 1 pm. Jumble can be left at the centre from 11 am.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Two services are being held in Reading on Friday, 7th March. The first will take place at St James', Forbury Road at 10.30 am. The second will be held at St Joseph's, Tilehurst at 7.30 pm.

Please join us at either of these services for this "Mexican Wave" of prayer – all are welcome, men, women and young people.

PENITENTIAL SERVICES- STARTING AT 7.30 PM

English Martyrs, Tilehurst.	13 th March
St Joseph, Tilehurst.	17 th March
St Anne's, Caversham	
Christ the King, Reading.	18 th March
Our Lady of Peace & Blessed Dominic Barberi, Earley	19 th March

KNITWITS

The next meeting will be on Monday, 3rd March at Colleen Collins' home: 40 Blewbury Drive at 8 pm.

EASTER CARDS

Easter Cards are now for sale in the Repository here at St Joseph's.

FREE COFFEE & FILM EVENING

To celebrate Fairtrade Fortnight, you are invited to a free coffee & film evening on Friday, 7th March at 7.30 pm at St William of York Church, Upper Redlands Road, Reading, RG1 5JT.

DAY OF RENEWAL AT ST JOSEPH'S

There will be a Day of Renewal led by Father Joseph for Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and all those involved in parish ministries on Saturday, 5th April after 10 am Mass until 4 pm. Please bring a packed lunch.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Many thanks to all parishioners for completing the questionnaire to ascertain support for occasional singing in Latin of some parts of the 10.30 am Mass on Sunday. The results are set out below:

	Support	Not Support
8.30 am Mass	65	21
10.30 am Mass	63	11
	128	32

These results will be considered by the Liturgy Group at its next meeting – *Father Joseph*.

MOZART REQUIEM

Thames Vale Singers will perform Mozart Requiem on Friday, 14th March at St Catherine of Siena, Wittenham Avenue, Tilehurst at 8 pm. Tickets available from *Jo Day* on 9421481.

KNITWITS

As well helping vulnerable and destitute children all over the world, Feed The Children have been re-building and decorating many schools in Africa, they have also sent lorries of donated educational aid.

They have asked The Knitwits if we can help by knitting school cardigans and jumpers for 6 – 14 year olds to enable them to return to school.

Has anyone spare royal blue, maroon, navy or bottle green wool that they could spare (or donate!)? The first sizes use about 200 gr. Thank you so much in advance for your help to enable other children to benefit from an education that we do tend to take for granted in this country – *Margaret Chaplin*.