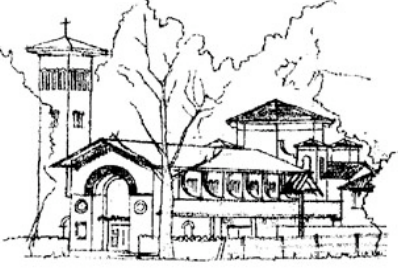
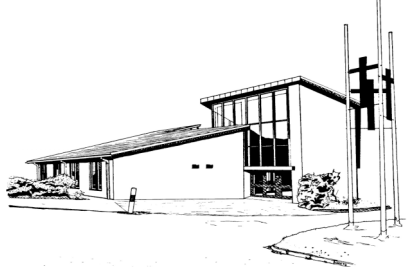


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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>

Fifth Sunday of Lent – Year A

8/9 March 2008

We began the Season of Lent by having our foreheads marked with ashes. As this happened you may have heard the priest say: "Turn away from sin, and be faithful to the Gospel". This has been the focus of these weeks as we examined our lives and looked for ways to let go of sinful ways and embrace anew the teaching of Jesus contained in the Gospels. Now we have just one week left before beginning the journey of Holy Week when we enter into those earth-shattering events of the Lord's suffering, death and resurrection.

This is also a time when we are invited to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. This captures that command from Ash Wednesday to "turn away from sin". In Lent, perhaps more than at any other time of the year, we should feel drawn to place before the Lord our human frailty and faults and to hear once more the reassuring words of absolution. This is an intensely personal experience but also a moment when we must acknowledge that our actions do not just affect our relationship with God. They also damage the relationships we have with other people. This is why one way of celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation is during a Penitential Service. There we combine the sense of community with individual confession and absolution. [Which is also why the Church does not allow the use of General Absolution except in very particular circumstances].

On the reverse of this Newsletter you will find a list of where the Penitential Services are being celebrated across Reading before Easter. Please make a note of when they are taking place and try to come along because at English Martyrs and again at St Joseph's we will have five or six priests available. This aspect of our Lenten journey is too important to be left until the last minute so do make use of the dates we have arranged.

Also on the Newsletter you will see a notice about a proposed Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi. Father Andrew and I have organised a number of these in the past – last year we took a group from Abingdon and East Hendred. Making a pilgrimage with others is all about undertaking a journey and this is what we are doing during Lent. It is a journey with a goal and purpose – and because we make that journey we do change. So we hear those words again: "turn away from sin, and be faithful to the Gospel."

Fr John

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS			ST. JOSEPH'S
Lena Zammit RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
People of the Parish	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Teresa Connolly's Intentions
Ina Flood RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	Martin Tomas RIP
Michael Heneghan RIP	5.00 pm			
Mary Byrne's Intentions	9.30 am	Monday	8.30 am	Jim Toner RIP
John & Betty McCoy's Intents.	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Una Margaret Quinn RIP
Tom Dudgeon RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Martin Tomas RIP
Sean Hearty RIP	9.30 am	Thursday	9.00 am	Martin Tomas RIP
Stations of the Cross	9.00 am	Friday	7.30 pm	Angela Macbeth RIP
Kathleen Brown RIP	9.30 am			
		Saturday	10.00 am	Martin Tomas RIP
THE FEAST FOR THIS WEEK IS:				
Saturday – St Joseph				
No Exposition due to the Penitential Service	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT/BENEDICTION			Friday – 7 pm Stations of the Cross followed by Mass
5.30–6.15 pm	CONFESSIONS – SATURDAY			10.30-11.00 am
Responsorial Psalm: "With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption."				

COLLECTIONS FOR 2ND MARCH 2008

Gift Aid:	£505.10
Planned Giving:	£56.50
Loose Plate:	£293.23
Tf5 (Fr Zvonko)	£0.00
Clergy Assistance	£428.22
Family Fast (CAFOD)	£41.53
TOTAL	£1,324.58

Running Totals

Fr Zvonko	£1,051.03
Family Fast (CAFOD)	£266.46

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 16th March are Joe D'Cruz & Pat Toner.

YOUTH GROUP

The next St Joseph's Youth Group session on Friday, 14th March will be participating in the Youth led Stations of the Cross. 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.

READING IRISH CENTRE

St Patrick's Night Dance and Buffet on Saturday, 15th March, from 8 pm. Music by Bros Walsh Band. Tickets £10 (members) and £12.50 (non-members) – can be obtained from *Dan Daly* at the Irish Centre or tel. 07888 997293.

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

EASTER CARDS

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

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.

UCM

This Wednesday, 12th March, Fr Joseph will be joining us to tell us about life in Cameroon. All ladies all welcome to join us. We meet in the small hall at 7.30 pm.

VISIT TO ROME & ASSISI – 2009

Father John and Father Andrew are planning to lead a 10 Day Pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi next year. The exact dates will be Saturday, 14th to Monday, 23rd February 2009 which coincides with the school half-term break. At this stage we are testing the water for potential numbers as a booking on accommodation needs to be made by the end of March. We cannot yet be definite on price but experience tells us that it would probably be around £700 per person to include:

- Transfers to and from airport in the UK
- Return flights to Rome
- All coach travel in Italy
- Six nights accommodation in Rome
- Three nights accommodation in Assisi
- Four or five meals (plus all breakfasts)
- Entrance fees and tips

The idea of not tying people down to half-board is to leave individuals free without having to return early every evening to where we are staying. This has worked well in the past. If you are interested then let one of us know, with no commitment, giving a note of your name and contact details so that we can send you the full information as soon as it is ready.

ST PATRICK'S DAY DANCE

St Paul's School Association is having a St Patrick's Day Dance at the school on 14th March with dancing from 8 pm until midnight. Music by Bartley Coyne with a bar and light refreshments. There will be an Irish Dancing display during the evening by children in our parish community. Adults only (due to health and safety). Tickets on sale from the school office at £5 each. Any problems call 07747 868417.

PALM SUNDAY – SUNDAY, 16TH MARCH

At 8.30 am Mass, parishioners will not gather in the porch; blessing of the palms will take place in the Church. At 10.30 am Mass, parishioners will gather in the hall for blessing of the palms and then process into Church.

ALTAR SERVERS PRACTICE

Altar Servers practice will be held on Friday, 14th March at 3.45 pm and Tuesday, 18th March after evening Mass – *Mike Tomas* 9412786.

EASTER GREETINGS FROM FR WOJCIECH

The Parish has recently received Easter Greetings from Father Wojciech and he wishes all parishioners every blessing and joy for the Easter Season.