
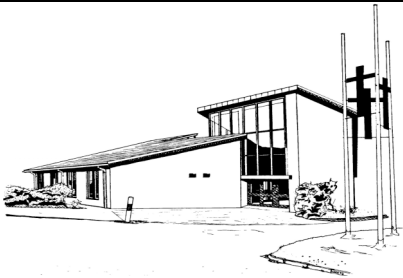


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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>

The Feast of the Most Holy Trinity – Year A

17/18 May 2008

Our television screens have been filled for the last ten days with images of indescribable suffering. Thousands have died in Burma and hundreds of thousands are now desperately struggling to survive. The rains continue and so far only a relatively small amount of aid is reaching those most in need. It is almost impossible for us to understand how the authorities in that country can behave as they do: restricting access for aid workers who only want to help and to save lives. For years we have heard little bits about life in Burma but now we witness the horror of a military regime apparently oblivious to the plight of so many of its people. Whilst many starve, the Generals continue to export rice to fulfil contracts with other countries.

Then this week we have seen devastation in China. Even a few years ago we would have heard little about this earthquake and its effects. Things are changing in that country and we have seen pictures of huge piles of rubble, under which hundreds of school children lie buried. It is awful and we can feel quite impotent whilst wondering if there is anything that people like us can do.

There is. This weekend we are asking you to support a collection that will be channelled towards the people of Burma. It may take time to relieve the suffering but when aid does begin to flow more freely agencies like CAFOD must have the resources to provide assistance.

Maybe it's me but there seems to be a gathering sense of gloom in our own country. Fuel prices and food prices continue to rise; there are warnings about gas and electricity increases and then there is always the good old Council Tax and the mortgage rate. A lot of people are already making adjustments to their lives, what they expect to do and can afford to do. Concerns are real - not imagined - and should not be underestimated because some people are really struggling to manage. But in all of this we must keep a proper sense of perspective and place our own concerns in the context of what is happening elsewhere in the world right now. We must look beyond ourselves and recognise the desperate needs of others.

Fr John

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS		ST. JOSEPH'S	
Eileen Herbert RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Michael Henneghan RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Vincent McGrath RIP
Sarah Walsh RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	Electa's deceased relatives and friends
Bridget Isaacs RIP	5.00 pm			
Luiza Fernandes RIP	9.30 am	Monday	No Mass	
Anne Wells RIP.	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Allison Malloy RIP
Sr Maureen's Intentions	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Vincent McGrath RIP
Christopher Hewitt RIP	8.30 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Edward Watts RIP
Canon Hetherington's Intentions	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Paul Duggan RIP
		Saturday	10.00 am	Special Intention in Thanksgiving
THE FEASTS FOR THIS WEEK ARE:				
Monday – Dedication of the Cathedral of St John, Portsmouth		Tuesday – St Bernardine of Siena		
Wednesday - St Christopher Magallanes & Companions		Thursday – St Rita of Cascia		
Thursday 7-8.30 pm	EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT/BENEDICTION		Wednesday – 7 pm Benediction	
5.30–6.15 pm	CONFESSIONS – SATURDAY		10.30-11.00 am	
Responsorial Psalm: "To you glory and praise for evermore."				

COLLECTIONS FOR 11TH MAY 2008

Gift Aid:	£308.65
Planned Giving:	£50.50
Loose Plate:	£309.87
World Communications	£19.00
TOTAL	£688.02
Running Totals	
Fr Zvonko	£1,278.48

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 25th May are Sean Murphy and Peter Chesworth.

YOUTH GROUP

The next St Joseph's Youth Group session on Friday, 23rd May will be Family Rounders in the park. For further details please contact *Nicola Ritchie 9415636*.

NIGHT VIGIL

On the occasion of the solemnity of the Sacred Heart, the Sacred Heart Guild (Moyo Musande Guild) of the Zimbabwean community will be organising the Night Vigil on Friday, 30th May 2008 starting at 8 pm and ending on Saturday, 31st May at 6.30 am at St James church. The programme is available in the porch. All are welcome.

THAMES WATER - WATERAID

Change lives: donate old phones. Thinking of getting a new mobile? Your old handset could help WaterAid save lives. Every three phones recycled could help one person in the developing world gain access to a lasting supply of water, sanitation and hygiene education. There is a box for collection of phones at the back of the church.

ST JOSEPH'S QUIZ NIGHT

There will be a Quiz Night on 7th June. 7 pm for 7.30 pm. Adults: £5. Children (up to 14 years old): £2.50. Ploughman's Supper plus one free drink. Licenced bar and raffle. Maximum number in a team: 8. Tickets are on sale this Sunday after both Masses.

FLOWER PETALS

Donations of flower petals for the Corpus Christi Procession on Sunday, 25th May, would be greatly appreciated. A box will be available to deposit the petals in the Church porch on Friday 23rd/Saturday 24th May.

ALTAR SERVERS' PRACTICE

There will be a practice on Thursday, 22nd May at 3.45 pm.

ALTON DAY OF RENEWAL – SATURDAY, 24TH MAY 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 – Shared lunch at 1.00 pm – Praise & Worship 2.00 pm - Talk 2.30 pm – Finishing with tea & Prayer for healing - ending around 5 pm. Collection to defray expenses. *More information or directions, ring Rev John Foley on 01189 333420 or see poster displayed in the porch.* Next meeting – Saturday, 28th June 2008.

THANK YOU

I have just received, through the Finance Committee, a cheque for £2,074.66, which is the total paid in to the Easter Offerings Account. As parishioners will know, this is a personal gift to me as Resident Priest. May I take this opportunity of sincerely thanking all of you for this most generous offering. With every blessing and good wish to all – *Fr Joseph*.

IRISH CLUB

Brendan Shine – Dance Thursday, 22nd May, from 9 pm until late. Tickets £10 from Dan Daly at the Club.

Senior Citizens lunches £2.50 every Monday and Friday at 1.30 pm followed by BINGO!

THE FEAST OF CORPUS CHRISTI

St Joseph's parish will be having its Corpus Christi procession immediately after the 10.30 am Mass on Sunday, 25th May. In addition, we have just received an invitation from the Parish Priest of the Polish Sacred Heart Church inviting all parishioners to join the Polish community in their Corpus Christi procession on Sunday, 25th May. Mass will commence at 2 pm followed by the procession to the Reading Abbey Ruins. After the celebration, free refreshments will be served in the Sacred Heart Church Hall, Watlington Street.

OBERAMMERGAU 2010

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*.

THE DEC (DISASTERS AND EMERGENCIES COMMITTEE) MYANMAR (BURMA) CYCLONE APPEAL

Margaret Chaplin, the parish CAFOD Representative has written to thank members of the parish for the sum of £43.19 which was donated to CAFOD during April. She has reminded us that CAFOD works in over 60 countries across the world funding and developing programmes which help to lift people out of poverty. We all know now of the cyclone disaster in Burma and the Parish Pastoral Council has decided to make a special appeal for CAFOD to help its relief work in that country. The English Martyrs parish is making its appeal today and St Joseph's will be making its appeal through a specific second collection on Sunday, 25th May. **MAY I ASK ALL OF YOU TO BE AS GENEROUS AS YOU POSSIBLY CAN TO HELP THE THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE SUFFERING IN BURMA TODAY.** – *Fr Joseph*

UCM

The next UCM meeting will be on Wednesday, 21st May at 7.30 pm. There will be a talk and repartee by Rosina Marsh relating to Joyce Grenfell. All ladies are welcome.

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.

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.

LIFE

We thank everyone who supported our sale last Sunday. We made £290 which ensures that we can continue our life saving work in Reading.

The answers to our recent quiz together with a list of prizewinners are on the noticeboard. – *Christine Wall*.