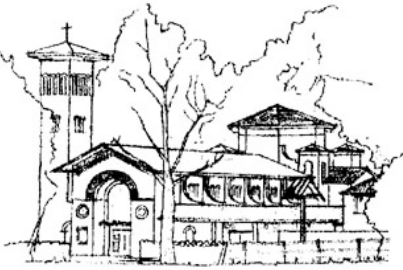
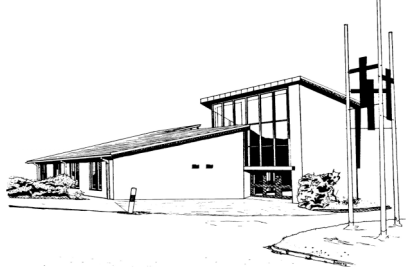


# NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Parish Clergy:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mgr John Nelson</b> (Parish Priest &amp; Co-ordinating Pastor)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fr Joseph Awoh</b> (Resident at St Joseph's)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Registered Charity Number: 246871</p>	
<p>64 Liebenrood Road Reading, Berkshire, RG30 2EB Tel: 0118 957 2149 englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk website: www.englishmartyrs.org.uk</p> <p><b>Secretary: Gwen Price</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>RBH Chaplaincy -</b> (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</p> <p><b>Secretary: Sheila Jones</b></p>

## ST EDMUND OF ABINGDON

**15/16 November 2008**

In His teaching Jesus often stressed the call to "love one another". He was also seen as a threat to the establishment both political and ecclesiastical, but one writer does not see those as the main reasons which got Him into trouble. She says it was "forgiveness". Jesus' simple yet demanding call to tolerance and reconciliation would not be accepted by the authorities.

In a culture where the social order was clear, good and bad sharply defined, and right and wrong were religiously delineated, these strange messages to turn the other cheek, to stop by the wayside to help the very enemy of our class, and to pray to God to forgive our sins as we forgive others could not be allowed to carry on.

In the end it was Jesus' teaching on forgiveness and reconciliation that led Him back to the Father. Even as he hung on the cross, He continued to bear witness to the power of forgiveness. "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do. (Luke 23<sup>34</sup>) Having preached the Gospel of tolerance, established right order in the world and suffered persecution for His teaching, Jesus heeded the call to go home to His God.

It is by forgiving that we, too return to our God. In the end our ability to enter the kingdom may hinge on our willingness to hang on our own cross and plead with our God to 'forgive them, for they do not know what they have done. Forgive me for my own failures.'

*Fr Richard*

<b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>				
<b>ENGLISH MARTYRS</b>	<b>TIMINGS</b>			<b>ST. JOSEPH'S</b>
Carvalho & Bennett Families RIP	6.30 pm	<b>Vigil Mass</b>		
Rosaleen McDaid RIP	9.30 am	<b>Sunday</b>	8.30 am	Michael Kelly RIP
Sr Bridie's Intentions	11.30 am		10.30 am	Martin Tomas RIP
Ann McMahan RIP	5.00 pm			
Bishop Hollis' Intentions	9.30 am	<b>Monday</b>	No Mass	
Esther Cordon RIP	9.30 am	<b>Tuesday</b>	7.00 pm	John Lewis Hadland RIP
Maureen Burke RIP	9.30 am	<b>Wednesday</b>	9.00 am	Kathleen Pearl's Intentions Deceased Members of St Joseph's SVP
Laura Griffiths RIP	8.00 pm	<b>Thursday</b>	9.00 am	Irene Ybañez RIP
Mary Caheny's Intentions	9.30 am	<b>Friday</b>	7.00 pm	Martin Burke RIP
		<b>Saturday</b>	10.00 am	John Connell RIP
<b>THE FEASTS FOR THE WEEK ARE:</b>				
Monday – SS Elizabeth of Hungary, Hilda and Hugh of Lincoln & Paul in Rome		Tuesday – Dedication of the Basilicas of SS Peter & Paul in Rome		Friday – The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Saturday – St Cecilia				
Thursday 7 – 8 pm	<b>EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION</b>			Tuesday – 7.30-8 pm
5.30–6.15 pm	<b>CONFESSIONS – SATURDAY</b>			10.30-11.00 am
<b>Responsorial Psalm: "Proclaim the wonders of the Lord among all the peoples."</b>				

## COLLECTIONS FOR 9<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2008

<b>Gift Aid:</b>	<b>£410.49</b>
<b>Planned Giving:</b>	<b>£45.00</b>
<b>Loose Plate:</b>	<b>£245.12</b>
<b>TF5 (Fr Zvonko)</b>	<b>£0.00</b>
<b>Bamenda</b>	<b>£31.00</b>
<b>Christmas Cards</b>	<b>£6.50</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£738.11</b>
<b>Running Totals</b>	
<b>Fr Zvonko</b>	<b>£157.34</b>
<b>Bamenda</b>	<b>£587.19</b>
<b>Christmas Cards</b>	<b>£384.80</b>

### REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 23<sup>RD</sup> November are Tony Chaplin & John Macbeth.

### MEDICAL MISSIONARIES OF MARY APPEAL

With the approval of Bishop Crispian, a representative from the Medical Missionaries of Mary will be making a special appeal at today's Masses in order to help with the work undertaken by the order. Please support the appeal and be as generous as possible – *Fr Joseph*.

### CARDBOARD ADVENT PRAYER CANDLES

St Joseph's Parish has received advice from the Archdiocese of Liverpool regarding the availability of cardboard Advent Prayer Candles. These are quite attractive and a novel way for families to say a simple prayer each day of Advent. The Parish has ordered 50 of these prayer cards (£1.50 each) which will be available for sale at the back of the Church before the First Sunday of Advent.

### ST JOSEPH'S PARISH GRAND CHRISTMAS DRAW OF SEASONAL HAMPERS

Tickets for the Grand Christmas Draw are now on sale after each Mass on Sundays. The actual draw will take place on Sunday, 14<sup>TH</sup> December after 10.30 am Mass in the hall.

In order that we can raise as much money as possible, we are asking parishioners to donate luxury food items. Please leave these donations in the basket provided in the Church porch, where they will be regularly collected and stored in a safe place. A list of suggested luxury items is available for parishioners to tick their donation(s). *Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.*

**Monies and counterfoils for tickets sold may be placed in an envelope clearly marked Grand Christmas Draw and placed in the normal collection plate on Sundays.**

### YOUTH SUNDAY – 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER – 10.30 AM MASS

St Pauls School, our Youth Group and young people will be helping in many ways with this special Mass to mark Youth Sunday. If any young people would like to sing in the choir at this Mass, please come to choir practice on Monday, 17th November from 7.30 pm to 8.30 pm in the Church. For more information, please ring: *Sue Collier 9412458* or email: *sue\_collier@mentor.com*.

### BLESSING OF THE GRAVES

The annual blessing of the graves at Henley Road Cemetery will take place at 2 pm **TODAY**. The blessing of the graves at St Michael's Churchyard will be held on Sunday, 23<sup>RD</sup> November at 2 pm. *All are welcome.*

### BLESSED HUGH FARINGDON COMPREHENSIVE CATHOLIC SCHOOL VACANCY – HEAD TEACHER

Required for April 2009. *Further details available in the Church porch.*

### HUMAN FERTILISATION & EMBRYOLOGY BILL

The Bill was finally passed on 29<sup>th</sup> October, but without the proposed abortion amendments we feared. Thanks to the massive bombardment of MPs with telephone calls, letters, emails and postcards, the Government became really worried and prevented any abortion legislation being debated. However, after the next General Election, the Labour party, whether in government or opposition, will introduce a review of the abortion law which will aim for "no holds barred" legislation. The Bill, which now concentrated on embryos and clones, remains a monstrous piece of legislation and passed its Final Reading with a large majority. Basically, it allows the production of human clones and animal/human embryos as disposable guinea pigs. It provides for taking tissue from incapacitated adults and children without their consent for the purpose of creating embryos for research. The human embryo is, therefore, no more than disposable research material, to be killed off at 14 days.

Martin Salter, MP for Reading West, voted for the Bill. Rob Wilson, MP for Reading East, voted against it. Mr Wilson should be thanked by those living in his constituency, and Mr Salter should be warned that our fight is not over. The full list of votes is on the notice board.

### CAFOD - FAMILY FAST DAY

We have received a letter from CAFOD thanking us most sincerely for the Harvest Fast Day donation of £913.68. Many thanks for your generous donations – *Fr Joseph*.

### THANK YOU

The recent Cake and Preserve Sale raised £160 for the Duchess of Kent Hospice. Many thanks to those who supported the event, particularly those who donated items for sale.

### CHRISTMAS ITEMS

There will be Christmas Cards, Cribs, Advent Calendars and other Christmas items for sale in the small hall after Masses during November.

### UCM

At our meeting on Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> November we will have a talk about the local area. All ladies are welcome to join us. We meet in the small hall at 7.30 pm.

### CENTRAL AND WEST READING PASTORAL AREA ADVENT SERVICE

A 45 minute service of hymns and reflections on the meaning of the Advent Wreath will take place at 3 pm on Sunday, 30th November (First Sunday of Advent) at St James Church, followed by seasonal refreshments and a chance to buy Christmas cards, Advent candles etc. All your family and friends will be welcome at this first Advent celebration to be shared with all the parishes in our Pastoral Area.

You are invited to bring along your own family Advent Wreath to be blessed at the service. If you would like to have a go at making your own wreath, bring some materials to St James between 10 am and 12 noon on Saturday, 29th November. Some candle sets will be available.

Free Parking for the Advent Service has been arranged at the retail park across the road from St James. *For further information, or to offer help, call your Parish Office.*

### DATE FOR YOUR DIARY ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE – 17<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER AT 7.30 PM

Parishioners are reminded that the Advent Penitential Service will be taking place on Wednesday, 17<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30 pm. As usual, several priests will be available for individual confessions. The Penitential Service itself will last for one hour.

Continued on Meditation Sheet . . .

. . . Continued from Newsletter . . .

### **RE-INTRODUCTION OF PORTSMOUTH PEOPLE**

Portsmouth People, the publication (A4 magazine) of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, invites contributions relevant and of interest to its readership.

Contributions of any type – e.g., anecdotes, comments, reviews, features, observations, reports etc. - are invited in electronic format.

Feature articles should not be in excess of five hundred words. All copy should be submitted as attachments in regular Word format (Verdana 10pt), single-line spacing, standard line length (70 strikes per line), in b&w and with as few effects as possible. Titles and main straps should be in bold title casing 20pt and 14pt respectively with conjunctions, prepositions, definite and indefinite articles in lower case. Quotations to appear in single marks.

Contributors are invited to submit head/head & shoulders photographs and a biographical note not exceeding 15 words.

Photographs (ideally jpeg) of sufficiently high quality complementing any copy submitted for publication are similarly welcome.

Rate card in electronic format for display advertising available on request.

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Portsmouth People is the diocesan publication for the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth. It is distributed free of charge to parishes and other groups in the Diocese which covers Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, the Channel Isles and parts of Berkshire, Dorset and Oxfordshire. The Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocesan Trust is a registered charity (number 246871) with its address at *Diocesan Office, St Edmund House, Edinburgh Road, Portsmouth PO1 3QA - www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.*

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### **SHOP EARLY FOR CHRISTMAS!**

Not as daunting as it sounds, if you shop from the CAFOD World Gifts Catalogue. At the same time, of course, a wonderful way to help so many people around the world. The catalogues are now available in the porch. Please help yourself. *Thank you – Margaret Chaplin.*

### **ST EDMUND OF ABINGDON**

As 16th November falls on a Sunday this year, the Feast of St Edmund of Abingdon, is celebrated rather than the normal Sunday liturgy. So who was he? Edmund Rich was born at Abingdon in 1180. He studied at Oxford and Paris, became a Professor of Philosophy, then Treasurer of Salisbury Cathedral, and finally Archbishop of Canterbury in 1233. He was an effective reforming Bishop but his work aroused opposition and when he was travelling to Rome in an appeal against the King he died at Soissy on 16th November 1240. He was buried at Pontigny and canonised in 1246. He is the Joint-Principal Patron of the Diocese of Portsmouth.

### **SVP SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY**

This year our party is to be held at the Reading Irish Centre on 13th December, consisting of a 3 course lunch at 1pm, followed by entertainment. Invitations will be available on Sundays 23rd and 30th November. All senior parishioners are invited to attend. Anyone who wishes to come must complete the invitation form and return it by 7th December so that we have accurate numbers for the lunch. Further details, or requests for help with transport, etc. can be made to *Stephen Hogg on 9427646.*

### **ST PAULS SCHOOL, CITY ROAD VACANCY FOR AFTER SCHOOL CLUB PLAY WORKER 3 PM TO 6 PM – 2 TO 5 DAYS/WEEK**

Ideally qualified to (or working towards) NVQ Level 2 in childcare, play work or equivalent, you will put your knowledge and experience to use in providing a play environment. You will be required to interact sensitively with children throughout their play opportunities whilst acting as a positive role model. Up to £6.70/hour depending on qualifications and experience.

Please request an application form or more information from the school office: *0118 9422003.*

### **PARENT/CARER AND TODDLER GROUP**

Held in the Church hall each Thursday between 9.30 am – 11 am during term-time. Here, your children can play and socialise in a safe environment and you can enjoy a coffee and a chat. Please do come and join us.

### **REMINDER**

St Joseph's Office hours are on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 9 am until 12.30 pm.

### **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.