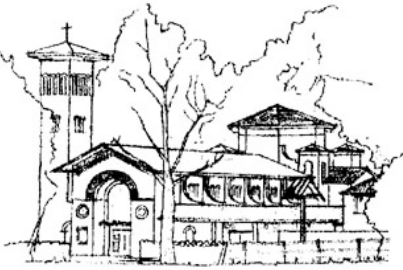
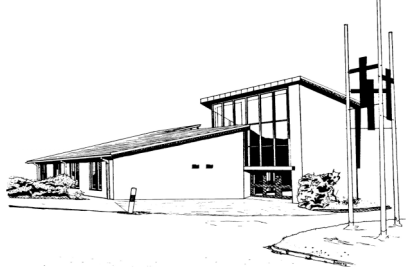


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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 englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk website: www.englishmartyrs.org.uk</p> <p>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</p> <p>Secretary: Sheila Jones</p>

OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, UNIVERSAL KING

22/23 November 2008

Recently, Prince Charles celebrated his 60th birthday. A milestone for anyone, but in his case one that prompted comment about what it must be like to reach that age and still be waiting to do the job for which you have been preparing. Indeed it must be strange living with the fact that you must wait to be King until your mother dies. But to be fair to Prince Charles, he has not sat around and waited. Certainly he can come out with things that sound slightly eccentric but the bulk of his work and the majority of his time is spent in service of others. Like his mother, he carries a huge commitment of visits where he encourages others. Nowhere is this seen more clearly than through the work of his Prince's Trust which has helped thousands of young people make a start in life with training and the basic tools to begin work. He has certainly made his mark and made a difference.

The old model of kingship, where an individual lived in a gilded cage and lorded it over others, would be hard to sustain in the modern world. Which is not to say that earthly kings do not have amazing privileges and wealth – they often do. But it was this model of being a king that Jesus sought to turn on its head. He came as the Servant King and was prepared to kneel on the floor in front of his disciples to wash their feet. He commanded that those who bear his name must do the same.

Following our own way and living for ourselves has the effect of thickening our skins and dulling our sensitivity to others. Gradually we find that we can shrug off the suffering of the malnourished as a problem for their own governments to solve; it is no concern of ours. Prisoners deserve to be severely punished – what is the point of showing them kindness? The homeless have usually brought about their own problems by squandering their money and making trouble, and, in any case, I need my money to look after my own family. So it goes on, a daily hardening and toughening which is justified conveniently every time.

The Gospel today [Matthew 25:31-46] on this Feast of Christ the King tells us that this approach is dangerous and is one that we must avoid at all costs. The person we ignore or write off is Christ himself: he is the hungry person, the prisoner, the housebound, the sick, the lonely. Whatever we do – or don't do - we do to him.

Fr John

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS		ST. JOSEPH'S	
Josephine Quilty RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Mary O'Donoghue RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Martin Ward RIP
Susan Sweeney RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	Dec'd Members of the Parish
Hannah Sheehan RIP	5.00 pm			
Susan Sweeney RIP	9.30 am	Monday	No Mass	
Funeral: Vincent Monaghan	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Dec'd Members of the Parish
Hannah Sheehan RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Dec'd Members of the Flattery Family
Maureen Burke RIP	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Dec'd Members of the Parish
Bishop Hollis' Intentions	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Dan Falkiner RIP
		Saturday	10.00 am	John Francis Pickering RIP
THE FEASTS FOR THE WEEK ARE:				
Monday – SS Andrew Dung-Lac & Companion		Tuesday – St Catherine of Alexandria		
Thursday 7 – 8 pm	EXPOSITION AND BENEDICTION		Tuesday – 7.30-8 pm	
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 16TH NOVEMBER 2008

Gift Aid:	£519.79
Planned Giving:	£69.50
Loose Plate:	£277.91
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£0.00
Medical Missionaries of Mary	£648.74
Parish Christmas Cards	£20.00
Raffle Tickets	£169.00
TOTAL	£1,704.94
Running Totals	
Fr Zvonko	£154.34
Parish Christmas Cards	£404.80
Raffle Tickets	£169.00

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 23rd November are Tony Chaplin & John Macbeth.

CONFIRMATION

The Confirmation program will commence on Wednesday, 26th November at 7.30 pm with a 'Come and See' evening in St Joseph's Hall. If you are in Year 8 or above and have not yet registered, please send your name and contact details into the office, or ring me for more information: *Sue Collier - 9412458*.

BAPTISM COURSE

The next Baptism course at St Joseph's will be on Wednesday, 14th January and Wednesday, 21st January 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)*.

CARDBOARD ADVENT PRAYER CANDLES

These are quite attractive and a novel way for families to say a simple prayer each day of Advent. These prayer cards (£1.50 each) are now available for sale at the back of the Church.

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, 14th 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.

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES

The annual blessing of the graves at St Michael's Churchyard will be held **TODAY** at 2 pm. *All are welcome.*

CHRISTMAS ITEMS

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

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 - 17TH DECEMBER AT 7.30 PM

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

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS CATALOGUE

Shopping from the CAFOD World Gifts Catalogue is 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.*

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 942 2003*.

KNITWITS

The next meeting will be at the home of Ruth Lewis: 30 Calder Close on Monday, 1st December at 8 pm.

LIFE

LIFE will be having a stall at the Mayor's Christmas Charity Market at the Hexagon, Reading, next Thursday, 27th November from 10 am – 3 pm. Many types of Christmas gifts will be on sale. We hope to see you there. Further details from *Christine Wall on 9411605*.

CAFOD - SPECIAL CONGO CRISIS APPEAL

All of us will have seen on TV recently, the desperate plight of the people in the Congo. In order to deal with this human crisis, CAFOD is organising a special crisis appeal to be held on SUNDAY, 7TH DECEMBER. Special envelopes for this appeal are available at the back of the Church. Please be as generous as possible - Fr Joseph.