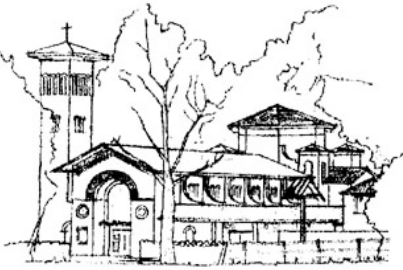
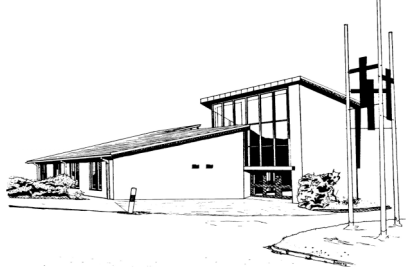


# NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Parish Clergy:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Mgr John Nelson</b><br/>(Parish Priest &amp; Co-ordinating Pastor)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Fr Joseph Awoh</b><br/>(Resident at St Joseph's)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Registered Charity Number:<br/>246871</p> |    |
| <p>64 Liebenrood Road<br/>Reading, Berkshire, RG30 2EB<br/>Tel: 0118 957 2149<br/>englishmartyrs@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk<br/>website: www.englishmartyrs.org.uk</p> <p><b>Secretary: Gwen Price</b></p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>RBH Chaplaincy -</b><br/>(Tel. 0118 3227105)<br/>Fr Chris Whelan<br/>Fr Richard Maniak<br/>(0118 9586637)</p>   | <p>The Presbytery, Berkshire Drive<br/>Tilehurst, Reading, Berkshire, RG31 5JJ<br/>Tel: 0118 942 8632<br/>e-mail: office@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk<br/>website: www.st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk</p> <p><b>Secretary: Sheila Jones</b></p> |

## FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR B

**29/30 November 2008**

This coming week sees the beginning of December and so it's naturally a time when thoughts and preparations begin to turn to Christmas. I must admit I tend to do things much more at the last minute - like many men I suspect! However, the other day I came across a very brief reflection given by Pope John Paul II on the Christmas tree. He was speaking at the Angelus from his window in St Peter's Square on the Sunday before Christmas, the year before he died.

I thought it could be something you might like to use when you are putting up your tree for Christmas, either on your own or with your family and friends. Pope John Paul said:

“The Christmas tree is an ancient tradition that speaks to us of the value of life. In the winter season the evergreen fir becomes a sign of undying life.

Christmas gifts are usually placed on the tree or arranged around it. And so this very natural symbol becomes eloquent in a Christian sense. It calls to mind the "tree of life" in the book of Genesis, and the person of Jesus Christ, God's supreme gift to humanity.

The message of the Christmas tree is then that life stays "evergreen" if we make a gift of it. We are not so much talking about material things, but of life itself. We give the gift of life in friendship and sincere affection, in helping each other and forgiveness, in time shared and listening to each other.

So with the help of Mary our Mother, let us live Christmas as an occasion to appreciate the joy of giving ourselves to our brothers and sisters, especially those in the greatest need.”

**Fr Andrew**

| <b>MASS INTENTIONS</b>   |                |                                   |                        |                                |
|--|----------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>ENGLISH MARTYRS</b>   | <b>TIMINGS</b> |                                   |                        | <b>ST. JOSEPH'S</b>            |
| Agnes Dudgeon's Intentions   | 6.30 pm        | <b>Vigil Mass</b>                 |                        |                                |
| Paddy Donoghue RIP   | 9.30 am        | <b>Sunday</b>                     | 8.30 am                | Maria Raleigh's Intentions     |
| Laura Griffith RIP   | 11.30 am       |                                   | 10.30 am               | Deceased Members of the Parish |
| Dec'd Members of the Parish  | 5.00 pm        |                                   |                        |                                |
| Hannah Sheehan RIP   | 9.30 am        | <b>Monday</b>                     | 8.30 am                | Fr Kelleher's Intentions       |
| Frank Sweeney RIP  | 9.30 am        | <b>Tuesday</b>                    | 7.00 pm                | Mary Donaghy RIP               |
| Agnes & Mick Kelly RIP   | 9.30 am        | <b>Wednesday</b>                  | 9.00 am                | Michael Knowles RIP            |
| Catherine Murphy-O'Connor RIP  | 8.00 pm        | <b>Thursday</b>                   | 9.00 am                | Mariano Ybañez RIP             |
| Sue Sweeney RIP  | 9.30 am        | <b>Friday</b>                     | 7.00 pm                | Michael Knowles RIP            |
|  |                | <b>Saturday</b>                   | 10.00 am               | Mary Donaghy RIP               |
| <b>THE FEASTS FOR THE WEEK ARE:</b>  |                |                                   |                        |                                |
| Monday – St Edmund Campion   |                | Wednesday – St Francis Xavier     |                        | Thursday – St John Damascene   |
| Friday – SS Birinus & Hedda  |                |                                   | Saturday – St Nicholas |                                |
| 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: “God of Hosts, bring us back; let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.”</b> |                |                                   |                        |                                |

## COLLECTIONS FOR 23<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 2008

## PASTORAL LETTER FROM BISHOP CRISPIAN

|                        |                  |
|------------------------|------------------|
| Gift Aid:              | £520.85          |
| Planned Giving:        | £59.00           |
| Loose Plate:           | £256.04          |
| TF5 (Fr Zvonko)        | £0.00            |
| CAFOD Congo Appeal     | £12.00           |
| Parish Christmas Cards | £32.60           |
| Raffle Tickets         | £347.00          |
| Advent Candles         | £14.60           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>           | <b>£1,242.09</b> |
| <b>Running Totals</b>  |                  |
| Fr Zvonko              | £157.34          |
| Parish Christmas Cards | £437.40          |
| Raffle Tickets         | £516.00          |
| Advent Candles         | £14.60           |

Bishop Crispian has written a pastoral letter for Advent 2008 to be read and made available to all parishes in the diocese for **TODAY** - the First Sunday in Advent. A copy is attached to this newsletter.

### WELCOME

A warm welcome to Matthew Joseph Heenan who is being baptised here at St Joseph's today.

### 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.**

### REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> December are Harry & Liz McSoley.

### 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, 7<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER. Special envelopes for this appeal are available at the back of the Church. Please be as generous as possible – Fr Joseph.**

### 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.

### CHRISTMAS ITEMS

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

### KNITWITS

The next meeting will be at the home of Ruth Lewis: 30 Calder Close on Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> December at 8 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 **TODAY** 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.*

### FR COLM KELLEHER

The parish has recently heard that Fr Colm Kelleher is rather poorly and his name has been added to the parish sick list. Fr Joseph has decided to offer a Mass for Fr Kelleher's intentions which will be held at **8.30 am** on **Monday, 1st December.** *All are welcome.*

### GOAN MASS

Mass in Konkani to celebrate the feast of St Francis Xavier will be at St James on Saturday, 6<sup>th</sup> December at 11 am.

... Continued on Meditation Sheet ...

... Continued from Newsletter ...

### **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 1 pm, 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*.

### **UCM CHRISTMAS SOCIAL**

This will be held on Tuesday, 16<sup>th</sup> December at Veronica's home - (Please note the change of date).

### **UCM**

On Wednesday, 3rd December, Fr Joseph will be joining us at our meeting to share some thoughts on Advent. We meet in the small hall at 7.30 pm and all ladies are welcome to join us.

### **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 - 942 2003.

### **ENGLISH MARTYRS CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL DEE ROAD, TILEHURST, READING, RG30 4BE**

Requires an Administrative/Finance Assistant and four Support Staff. *Full details of the vacancies are displayed on the notice board in the porch.*

### **ADVANCE NOTICE OF CHURCH CLEANING**

The Church will be cleaned for Christmas on the morning of Monday, 22<sup>nd</sup> December.

### **YOUTH GROUP**

The next Youth Group session on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> December will consist of Advent Service preparation. For further details please contact *Nicola Ritchie – 941 5636*.

### **MASS READERS**

The new rotas are available at the back of the Church. Readers, if you plan to attend the Vigil, Dawn or Day Mass of Christmas, could you please let me know – *Mike Tomas: 941 2786*.

### **APF**

The amount collected for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> October was £568. Many thanks to all box-holders and promoters. 2009 calendars will be available on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> December – *Mike Tomas, APF Secretary*.

### **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 967 2605*, 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 – 942 7436* for more details.

### **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.

### **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.*

