
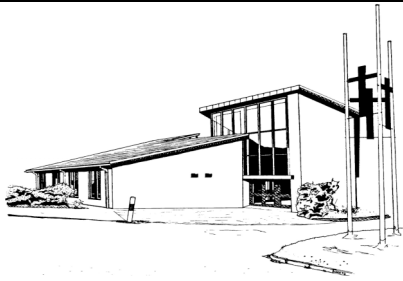


NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<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 322 7105) Fr Chris Whelan Fr Richard Maniak (0118 958 6637)</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>

THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY –

8/9 November 2008

Last week two parishioners came to me to express concern about the level of chatter in the Church before and after Mass. One of them told me that they usually come in some time before Mass begins to say a prayer and gather their thoughts in preparation for the Mass but the noise level makes this impossible. Some people want to do their thanksgiving after Mass, but as soon as Mass ends the chatter resumes.

I understand that parishioners are excited to see each other when they come to Church on Sunday, and sometimes it is the only time in the week they meet each other. It is also an opportunity to chat to some of the elderly parishioners who live alone and have no one to talk to. Some of these people treasure a few moments of conversation with parishioners whom they know. They tell them about their health, their families, and their experiences during the week. It is good for them to be able to talk to other people, not least because it shows them that the community treasures their membership and cares about how they are getting on.

After some Masses, we have an opportunity to go into the hall and share a cup of tea/coffee, which is an excellent opportunity to chat to people who need to be listened to, people who need to be reassured of the community's concern for them, even if it is expressed through one member who is willing to offer a listening ear. Unfortunately this opportunity is not accorded us in all the Masses and people want to seize every opportunity to show love, care, and concern for fellow parishioners which is a good thing.

Because of the complexity of the situation, I wouldn't want to lay down rules as to what should or should not happen. I would rather like to propose two principles which I think should guide our behaviour in Church. First, the Church is not just a hall where we come for a social gathering. All Catholics are expected to show the greatest reverence for the Church and for Christ's presence in that Church. Second, we are expected to show consideration for other parishioners/worshippers who have set aside this time to pray. For some of them, this is the only time they can give to God and they want to make optimal use of it. It is Christian charity to ensure that our actions do not affect others adversely. As St Paul tells the Corinthians: "Let everything you do be done in love." (1 Cor. 16:7).

Fr Joseph

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS			ST. JOSEPH'S
Josephine Quilty RIP	6.30 pm	Vigil Mass		
Leonilda Figueira RIP	9.30 am	Sunday	8.30 am	Annie Kate Walshe RIP
Josephine May RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	For Electa's Relatives – living and dead
Elizabeth Schulz RIP	5.00 pm			
Joan Hobbs RIP	9.30 am	Monday	No Mass	
Henry & Esther Cox RIP	9.30 am	Tuesday	7.00 pm	Deceased Members of Parish
Kate Knollys RIP	9.30 am	Wednesday	9.00 am	Bernadette Winstanley RIP
Marilyn Harvey's Intentions	8.00 pm	Thursday	9.00 am	Deceased Members of Parish
Kathy Anderson RIP	9.30 am	Friday	7.00 pm	Deceased Members of Parish
		Saturday	10.00 am	John Connell RIP
THE FEASTS FOR THE WEEK ARE:				
Monday – St Leo the Great Tuesday – St Martin of Tours Wednesday – St Josaphat Friday – Bl Hugh Cook Faringdon, John Eynon & John Ruge Saturday – St Albert the Great				
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 waters of a river give joy to God's city, the holy place where the Most High dwells”				

COLLECTIONS FOR 2ND NOVEMBER 2008

Gift Aid:	£365.00
Planned Giving:	£55.50
Loose Plate:	£206.45
TF5 (Fr Zvonko)	£0.00
Mission Sunday	£5.00
Bamenda	£476.91
Christmas Cards	£25.00
TOTAL	£1,133.86
Running Totals	
Fr Zvonko	£157.34
Bamenda	£556.19
Christmas Cards	£378.30

REMINDER

The counters for Sunday, 16th November are Tony & Jill Flint .

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING DANCE

Annual Fund Raising Dance for the Poor and Homeless on 15th November, at the Reading Irish Centre. Music by P J Murrhy. Tickets £3.

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

The parish is organising a Grand Christmas Draw in aid of Church funds. The actual draw will take place on Sunday, 14th December after 10.30 am Mass in the hall. Tickets will be on sale from TODAY. 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.*

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.*

FAIRE IS THE HEAVEN

A musical evening at Douai Abbey on Saturday, 22nd November 2008 commencing at 7.45 pm. *See notice board in Church porch for further details.*

VOTIVE CANDLES – CHILDREN'S SAFETY

As announced recently, in the interest of safety, will parents/guardians kindly ensure that they accompany children, under the age of 7, when placing votive candles before the statues of Our Lady and St Joseph.

EQUITABLE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

The above company closed to new business on 8th December 2000 and members of its staff experienced severe cuts in their pension facilities. If any member of the parish was employed by this company, you may like to know that a public meeting with Martin Salter MP will be held in the old Town Hall, Reading at 11 am on 15th November. *Further details are on the notice board.*

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.

YOUTH SUNDAY – 23RD 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 practise 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.

NEWS FROM FR ZVONKO

The parish has recently received a short email from Fr Zvonko telling us that he has now submitted his thesis for his Masters Degree to his university professor in Rome and he is awaiting results. To prepare for his doctorate, he will be moving to Vienna in early November and will be assisting the clergy in the cathedral of St Stephen. He sends his love and best wishes to everyone in the parish.

HUMAN FERTILISATION & EMBRYOLOGY BILL

The Bill was finally passed on 29th 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.

BLESSING OF THE GRAVES

The annual blessing of the graves at Henley Road Cemetery will take place at 2 pm on Sunday, 16th November. The blessing of the graves at St Michael's Churchyard will be held on Sunday, 23rd November at 2 pm. *All are welcome.*

OFFICE HOURS

Will you kindly note that for next week only, the office will be open on Tuesday, 11th November for the usual hours of 9 am – 12.30 pm. The office, however, will be CLOSED on Thursday, 13th November, but will be open from 9 am – 12.30 pm on Friday, 14th November.

CHARITY SCREENING OF THE NATIVITY STORY

Prospects, a Christian national charity that supports people with learning disabilities in the UK, invites you to an exclusive, once-only screening of the most beautiful of all stories: "The Nativity Story", on Tuesday, 25th November, at 10 am at the Vue Cinema, The Oracle, Reading.

Tickets only £3 and are available by calling Coral at Prospects on 9516965.

ENGLISH MARTYRS PRIMARY SCHOOL

There will be an Open Morning for prospective parents next Tuesday, 11th November, from 9.30 am until 12.15 pm. Prospective parents are warmly invited to tour the school and meet the pupils and teachers. Please just turn up or call 901 5466 for further information.