
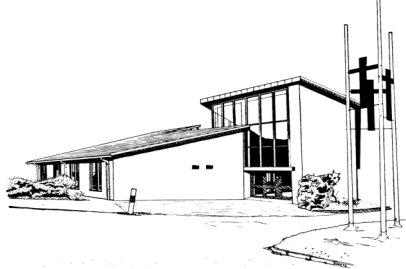


# NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S & THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

	<p align="center"><b>Parish Clergy:</b></p> <p align="center"><b>Mgr John Nelson</b> (Parish Priest &amp; Co-ordinating Pastor)</p> <p align="center"><b>Fr Joseph Awoh</b> (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><b>Secretary: Gwen Price</b></p>	<p 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>

## Twenty-Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year A

**20/21 September 2008**

Last Sunday I started the 5.00 pm Mass at the English Martyrs 5 minutes late. The reason was that none of the sacristans was around for that Mass. There were four altar servers but none of us knew exactly where to find the books and the key to the safe where the vessels are kept. It was only after a lot of trial and error that we managed to switch on the lights in Church and the sound system! Before that experience on Sunday I had known that the sacristan plays an important role in the community, but I had never really imagined it was as important as it turned out to be that day. We nearly would have gone without Mass just because the sacristan wasn't there!

It is not only the sacristan who plays a very important role in the life of our community. The celebration of the Mass would not be the same without servers, readers, musicians, choir, welcomers, collectors, etc. Each of these persons contributes to make our celebration warmer, more beautiful, and smoother. But we hardly notice their contribution, or maybe we just take it for granted. A good number of our community members come to Church on Sunday expecting a beautiful celebration but it never strikes them that they can do something to contribute to the beauty of the celebration. We sometimes pick and choose the churches we want to worship in or the particular Masses we want to attend on the basis of the beauty of the liturgy or the friendly atmosphere in the community, but what contribution do we make to the beauty of the liturgy or to the improvement of the atmosphere in our Church?

At St Joseph's one person has been taking care of the garden for a very long time – and I think it is too much to expect one person to do this for so long. At the English Martyrs appeals for volunteers to clean the church and arrange flowers have had no effect. Are we to believe that there are no capable people in these communities who can find time to respond to these appeals?

Maybe today, Home Mission Sunday is the right day to consider how we can each contribute to make our parish community warmer and more welcoming and our liturgical celebrations richer and more beautiful. What contribution is God asking you to make?

**Fr Joseph**

MASS INTENTIONS				
ENGLISH MARTYRS	TIMINGS		ST. JOSEPH'S	
George Bennett RIP	6.30 pm	<b>Vigil Mass</b>		
Dolly Gorman RIP	9.30 am	<b>Sunday</b>	8.30 am	Mrs Phyllis Ott's Intentions
Nicholas Godfrey Williams RIP	11.30 am		10.30 am	Martha Munnelly RIP
Noronha Family Thanksgiving	5.00 pm			
Margo's Intentions	9.30 am	<b>Monday</b>	<b>NO MASS</b>	
Rhona Clifton RIP	9.30 am	<b>Tuesday</b>	7.00 pm	Helen Coleman RIP
Robert, Hannah & Nick Clifton's Intentions	9.30 am	<b>Wednesday</b>	9.00 am	Paul Goodwin RIP
Lucy McGullion RIP	8.00 pm	<b>Thursday</b>	9.00 am	Joe Meredith RIP
Sr Bridie's Intentions	9.30 am	<b>Friday</b>	7.00 pm	Mr & Mrs Hickey
		<b>Saturday</b>	10.00 am	Steven Redden RIP
<b>THE FEASTS FOR THE WEEK ARE:</b>				
Tuesday – St Pio of Pietrelcina	Wednesday – <b>Our Lady of Walsingham</b>	Friday – Ss Cosmos & Damian		
Saturday – St Vincent de Paul				
Thursday 7 – 8 pm	<b>EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT/BENEDICTION</b>		Tuesday – 7.30-8 pm	
5.30–6.15 pm	<b>CONFESSIONS – SATURDAY</b>		10.30-11.00 am	
<b>Responsorial Psalm: "The Lord is close to all who call Him."</b>				

## **COLLECTIONS FOR 14<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008**

<b>Gift Aid:</b>	<b>£506.10</b>
<b>Planned Giving:</b>	<b>£59.30</b>
<b>Loose Plate:</b>	<b>£245.51</b>
<b>TF5 (Fr Zvonko)</b>	<b>£20.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£830.91</b>
<b>Running Totals</b>	
<b>Fr Zvonko</b>	<b>£44.34</b>

### **REMINDER**

The counters for Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> September are Tony Chaplin & John Macbeth.

### **SPECIAL COLLECTION**

There will be a Special Collection TODAY for CASE (Catholic Agency to Support Evangelisation). In addition to envelopes supplied under the Gift Aid/Planned Giving Scheme, special envelopes and leaflets are available for CASE donations at the back of the Church.

### **SPECIAL COLLECTION**

There will be a Special Collection next Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> September for the Cathedral.

### **YOUTH GROUP**

The next St Joseph's Youth Group session on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> September will be an Equipment Night. For further details please contact *Nicola Ritchie 9415636*.

### **CONFIRMATION 2009**

The next Confirmation programme will start in November with a 'Come and See evening' and is open to anyone in Year 8 and above. To help us with planning, please register your interest by leaving your name, phone number and email address with the office. More details will follow in November.

### **BAPTISM COURSE**

The next Baptism course at St Joseph's will be on Wednesday, 15th October and Wednesday, 22nd October 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).

### **CHURCHES TOGETHER IN TILEHURST**

The work of the Ecumenical Healing and Wholeness Group that meets at the Link Coffee Shop is growing. We are finding that some people are happy to receive prayer for healing on the street. We feel that this is the way that God wants us to go but if we are to expand by going into Tilehurst Village we urgently need more people on the team. It would be so good to have the support of more Churches. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month 2 – 4 pm. The commitment is just for one of the Saturdays. We also meet on the 1st and 3rd Monday evenings 7.30 – 9 pm for prayer and planning. Please contact *Pam Toon on 9429136* for further details.

### **FOUND – SUNDAY MISSAL**

Owner appears to be David Herbert, 212 Wensley Road, Reading. Please contact the office to retrieve the Missal.

### **WELCOME**

A warm welcome to Joseph Ethan Fitzsimons & Thomas Patrick Fitzsimons who are being baptised here at St Joseph's today.

### **CARD SALE**

Thank you to all who bought cards at the sale last weekend. The amount raised was £110 which will go towards Fr Zvonko's Training Fund – *Jenny Pearson*.

## **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.

## **STEWARDSHIP SCHEME – AFTERNOON OF PRAYER**

In preparation for the introduction of the stewardship scheme in the pastoral area, an afternoon of prayer has been arranged for Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> October. Full details were in last week's newsletter in Fr John's reflection.

However, as a reminder, the afternoon will begin at 12.30 pm with a bring and share lunch. Between 1.30 pm and 4.30 pm, there will be opportunities for prayer in a variety of ways including prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

The afternoon is open to everyone in the Central & West Reading Pastoral Area.

## **FR ZVONKO'S TRAINING FUND**

We have just received an email from Fr Zvonko thanking the Parish for its support in sending him a donation of £3,000 towards his training expenses for the academic year 2008/09. In particular, he sends his love and regards to Fr John and Fr Joseph and all the parishioners of St Joseph's. Please remember him in your prayers.

## **APPOINTMENT OF FIRST AIDERS**

The Parish recently asked for volunteers to be trained as First Aiders. I am pleased to say that three volunteers, Margaret McCreight, Clare McSoley and Jo Boase, have successfully completed a Red Cross First Aid Course. The three accredited First Aiders will, between themselves, provide a First Aid service at the two Sunday Masses at 8.30 am and 10.30 am. I am most grateful for the help provided by these parishioners – *Fr Joseph*.

## **ALTON DAY OF RENEWAL - SATURDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2008**

St. Lucy's Convent, Medstead Manor, Medstead. The theme for this year is THE LOVE OF THE FATHER. Starting with Rosary at 11 am - MASS at 11.30 am celebrated by Fr Nicholas Broadbridge OSB – Shared lunch at 1.00 pm – Praise & Worship 2.00 pm - Talk 2.30 pm – CHANGE TO SPEAKER, now Kristina Cooper speaking about AS WE FORGIVE – Finishing with tea & Prayer for healing - ending around 5pm. Collection to defray expenses. More information or directions, ring *Rev John Foley on 9333420* or see poster. Next meeting – Saturday, 25th October 2008.

## **CONFIRMATION 2008**

There will be another follow-on event in the English Martyrs Parish Centre for everyone who was confirmed this year: Quiz – Sunday, 23rd November at 6 pm - this will be after the 5 pm Mass. Please call *Roz on 07876 596758* if you would like to come.

## **ROOM AVAILABLE**

One large room available in a shared house on Foxhill Rd behind St William of York. £300 pcm + bills. Would suit serious student, postgraduate, or young, mature professional looking for a Catholic / Christian home. Please phone *Brian on 07748 797930* or *Chris on 07834 990919*.

## **BMS (BAPTIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY)**

WORLD MISSION JOB VACANCY: Supporter Services Team Member – Closing date Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> September. See back of Church for details.

## **UCM**

At our next meeting on Wednesday, 24th September, a speaker will be coming to tell us about Old Reading. We meet in the small hall at 7.30 pm and all ladies are welcome to join us.

*Continued on Meditation Sheet .....*

Continued from Newsletter .....

### **DEPUTY HEADTEACHER**

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Gipsy Lane, Bracknell, RG12 9AP. Group 2 School - NOR 210 (Age range 4-11). Salary Range L7 – L11. Closing Date: 13<sup>th</sup> October. Interviews: 20<sup>th</sup> October. Visits to the school welcome. Telephone No. 01344 425246.

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

In response to public demand, the next series of Life in the Spirit seminars will be held on Wednesday evenings commencing Wednesday, 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Wednesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> December excluding Wednesday, 29<sup>th</sup> October (Half term) and including Saturday, 22<sup>nd</sup> November. Venue: St John Bosco Parish, Woodley. *More details to follow - Ann-Marie Paterson.*

### **HUMAN FERTILISATION AND EMBRYOLOGY BILL**

The final stages of the Bill will take place in this autumn's session of Parliament, when various ways to slacken the abortion law will be debated. No Bill has ever attached the dignity and sacredness of human life as this Bill does. A final push in opposition to it, we are asked to send a pre-printed postcard to our MP, Martin Salter (MP for Reading West), and to write to the Prime Minister at 10 Downing Street, London, SW1A 2AA, asking them to vote against the proposals. It is known that they both justify the Bill. The postcards are available at the back of the Church.

### **LIFE**

LIFE will be holding a jumble sale on Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> October in the English Martyrs Parish Centre at 1 pm. Jumble may be left at English Martyrs from 11 am that morning. Please do not leave jumble at St Joseph's. Enquiries to *Kathie Hamilton – 9429245.*

### **THE MARIST SCHOOLS**

Senior Open Evening on Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2008 from 5 pm – 9 pm. Invitations and more information available in the Church porch.

Various staff vacancies also available. Further details are available in the Church porch.

### **CARE FOR THE FAMILY**

This voluntary organisation is holding a special meeting in the Reading Town Hall on Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> October from 7.30 pm – 10 pm on the subject: "Teenagers! What every parent has to know". It is open to all parents from Churches and communities throughout Reading and full details are on the notice board.

### **CAFOD**

What sounds like a good evening and the opportunity to help CAFOD at the same time?

On Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> September at 6 pm at Our Lady of Peace Church, 338 Wokingham Road. Gerry Coates – Catholic singer, songwriter and poet, will be giving a concert where admission is free with a collection in aid of CAFOD. An evening of foot-tapping songs and poems with witty thought-provoking messages about Life, Faith, Peace, Charity and most of all God!

### **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.

### **REMINDER**

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

### **CHURCHES IN READING**

Aid to the Church in Need Annual Westminster Event on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> September: Begins with Mass at 10.30 am. Concelebrants and Speakers – Arch. Jean Sleiman (Baghdad), and Bishop Joseph Coutts (Faisalabad). Tickets £5 via [www.acnuk.org](http://www.acnuk.org) or call 020 8642 8668.

### **SALE OF CHRISTMAS CARDS FOR ST JOSEPH'S PARISH FUNDS**

A group of parishioners have produced, from their own resources, Christmas Cards which will be on sale from Sunday, 28<sup>th</sup> September, at the Repository Stall at 8.30 am Mass and in the Church Hall after the 10.30 am Mass.

These attractive Christmas Cards are priced at 5 for £2.50 and all profit will go towards parish funds. It will be greatly appreciated if you will kindly support this initiative – *Fr Joseph.*