

NEWSLETTER FOR ST JOSEPH'S, TILEHURST



St Joseph's Presbytery, Berkshire Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, RG31 5JJ

☎ 0118 942 8632 ✉ stjtilehurst@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

🌐 www.st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk

Registered Charity No. 246871

Parish Priest: Fr Peter Glas

Parish Secretary: Sheila Jones

Parish Office: 0118 942 8632

Tuesday, Thursday & Friday: 9 am – 12.30 pm

Safeguarding Representative:

Miriam da Cruz Fernandes

☎ 0118 943 3524.

✉ miriam@st-josephs-tilehurst.org.uk

Royal Berkshire Hospital Chaplain:

Fr John Paul Lyttle ☎ 0118 322 5111 (RBH) ☎ 0118 957 2149 (Parish) ☎ 0739 189 6559 (Mobile)



Gaudete Sunday - Rejoice!

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT - (YEAR B) – 17TH DECEMBER 2017

The mysterious figure of John the Baptist, introduced in last week's readings, comes into sharper focus on the 3rd Sunday of Advent. Who he is, we see in this Sunday's Gospel, is best understood by who he isn't. John prepares the way for the Lord. His baptism is symbolic, not sacramental. It is a sign given to stir our hearts to repentance. John comes to us in the Advent readings to show us the light, that we might believe in the One who comes at Christmas.

Fr Peter

MASS INTENTIONS: SUNDAY, 17TH DECEMBER – SUNDAY, 24TH DECEMBER

Sunday, 17th December	8.30am	The Bricker family's Intentions
	10.30 am	Mr & Mrs Leszek Wlasak's Intentions (Golden Wedding Anniversary)
	6.30 pm	Syro Malabar
Monday, 18th December	NO MASS	
Tuesday, 19th December	12 noon	Mary & Joe Meredith RIP
Wednesday, 20th December	12noon	Mary Gouge RIP
Thursday, 21st December	9.30 am	Michael Heneghan RIP
Friday, 22nd December	7 pm	Christina Page
Saturday, 23rd December	10 am	Sister Mary St Anthony & the community
FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT		
Sunday, 24th December	8.30 am	Eily Collins' Intentions
	10.30 am	Michael Heneghan RIP
CHRISTMAS EVE		
Sunday, 24th December	2 – 4.45 pm	Syro Malabar Christmas Vigil
	6 pm Vigil	People of the parish
	Midnight	People of the parish
CHRISTMAS DAY		
Monday, 25th December	9.30 am	People of the parish
EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT		Saturday: 9.20 am followed by 10am Mass
ROSARY & CONFESSIONS		Saturday: Following 10am Mass
Responsorial Psalm: "My soul rejoices in my God".		

COLLECTIONS FOR 10TH DECEMBER 2017

Gift Aid	£201.74
Planned Giving	£24.00
Loose Plate	£210.33
Bamenda	£5.00
TF3 CAFOD	£35.00
Candles	£39.02
Christmas Offering	£10.00
Mass Stole Fees	£90.00
TOTAL	£615.09
<u>RUNNING TOTALS</u>	
TF3 (CAFOD)	£105.00
Donations (Altar carpet)	£60.00
TF9 ("On Fire!")	£1,089.43
Harvest Fast Day (CAFOD)	£30.00
First Holy Communion Programme	£775.00
Christmas Offering	£10.00

REMINDER

The Eucharistic Minister for Oakwood Ward next Sunday, 24th December will be Eileen Wooller.

If you do swap with another Eucharistic Minister, please remember to notify the Parish Office, so that we can publicise the correct information in the newsletter. Thank you.

CRIB OFFERINGS

This year, with the encouragement of Bishop Philip, this parish will be donating crib offerings to Friends of the Holy Land. Every penny will help the poorest Christian families, especially in and around Bethlehem, the West Bank, Gaza and Israel, with education, employment, health and housing costs and initiatives. FHL is non-political and ecumenical. For further information, please visit their web site: www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk and keep our brothers and sisters in the Holy Land in your prayers at this time, and please be generous.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

Traditionally, your offerings at Christmas are for the personal use of the priest serving the parish and form the major part of his annual income. *Please be as generous as you can.*

Please note that there is only one Mass on Christmas Day morning at 9.30 am.

WEDNESDAY PRAYER GROUP

The next Prayer Group meeting will be held at St Catherine's on 20th December at 9.30 am. *All are welcome.*

GOING INTO HOSPITAL?

On admission to hospital, all Catholics must inform the hospital staff that they are Roman Catholic and if they wish to receive Holy Communion or see a priest they must request this themselves as all arrangements in RBH must be 'patient led'. You can also telephone the *RBH Chaplaincy* on 0118 322 7105.

SUNDAY MASS IN HOSPITAL

Every Sunday in the RBH Chapel at 4 pm. *Patients, staff and visitors are all welcome.*

PRAYER REQUESTS

There is now a Prayer Request box in the church porch into which you are invited to place any intentions that you may have, and each week during one of the Masses Fr Peter will pray especially for those intentions. Please **DO NOT PUT ANY MONEY IN THE BOX.**

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND:

Nora Colley, Richard O'Brien, Sheila Robinson, Ellen Knox, Pamela Humphries, Pat Togher, Richard Owens, Bernadette Smeesters, Gerard Tomas, Jackie Hopper, Lya Turner, Charles Livingston, Barbara Turner, Mary O'Shea, Mary Hoban and Margaret Chaplin.

If you would like to add a name to this list or if you have any queries, please contact Sheila in the Parish Office. *Thank you.*



WINEFRIDE MARY THERESE HADLAND RIP (TERRY)

The parish offers condolences to the family of Terry Hadland, who died recently. Terry's Funeral Mass has been arranged for Thursday, 4th January 2018 at 10.30 am. Terry's body will be received into the church the evening before, Wednesday, 3rd January, at 4.30 pm. *All are welcome.*

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS CHURCH CLEAN

A special Christmas church clean will be held on Saturday, 23rd December at 10.45 am. Many hands make light work! *Please do come and join us.*

LAST CHANCE TO ATTEND AN ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE - Monday, 18th December at 7.30 pm at St James' Church.

TEA & COFFEE

Please join us for tea & coffee which is served in the large hall after 10.30 am Mass on Sundays. *All are most welcome.*

APF NEWS

It is time to empty the Red Boxes once again. Could I have all contributions by Sunday, 24th December please? Any money received after this date cannot be included in the 2017 accounts. Thank you. *Mike Tomas, APF Secretary.*

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

If you are in Year 7 or above and are interested in enrolling for the Sacrament of Confirmation, please send your name, phone number AND email address to St Joseph's Parish Office or to *Sue Collier: sue1collier@gmail.com*. Sessions will start after Christmas.

REPOSITORY

Please note that we have a number of Christmas items for sale in the Repository including cards, Advent calendars, 2018 calendars and Advent candles. As the Repository unit is now much larger, we will not be having a separate stall in the small hall as in previous years – all Christmas items now fit into the Repository unit, and you may purchase items, with immediate effect. Please do have a look as the items are very reasonably priced.

Diocesan Directories 2018 are also now available from the Repository, priced at £4 each. *Thank you.*

MARY'S MEALS

BACKPACK PROJECT UPDATE

There is now be a small box in the church porch on top of the Repository counter where donations will be collected periodically. Thank you for your support. *Patrizia Chessell Youth Group Co-ordinator ☎ 0774 054 7922 ✉ ignityouth16@outlook.com.*

Is there anyone in the parish who can create a halo of lights above the statue of Our Lady? Please see me if you can help. *Fr Peter.*

THURSDAY MORNING MASS

St Jude's Class will be attending Mass here at St Joseph's on Thursday, 4th January at 9.30 am. *All parents and families are welcome to join them.*

BAPTISM COURSE

The next Baptism course at St Joseph's will be on Wednesdays, 10th & 17th January from 8 pm - 9.30 pm in the large 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 *Mary Philip* on 961 5905 email: *mphilip@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk* or *alternatively email the Parish Office (details on the front of this newsletter).*

PARKING AT

6 PM CHRISTMAS VIGIL MASS

Would you kindly consider walking to Mass or parking your car considerably further away from Berkshire Drive in order to avoid traffic congestion.

"ON FIRE!" PRAYER & HEALING SERVICE.

The next "On Fire!" Prayer & Healing Service will be celebrated on Saturday, 27th January from 5 – 7 pm. *All are welcome!*

SUNDAY MASS BOOKLETS

At its meeting on 13th September, St Joseph's Co-ordinating Team took the decision to reduce the number of Sunday Mass booklets to 75 because of the capabilities of our new audiovisual screen, wef 1st January. Due to an error on the part of the printing company, the reduction will now take place with effect from 1st April 2018.

A CHRISTMAS GIFT FROM THE BISHOP

This Christmas, as a help to the work of evangelisation across the Diocese, Bishop Philip wishes to give a gift to everyone who comes to Christmas Mass - a copy of the book "Rediscover Jesus" by Matthew Kelly." Rediscover Jesus consists of a collection of 40 short chapters, 3 - 8 pages each, that focus on a particular way to know Jesus and to open the reader's life to His grace. Each reading concludes with a Point to Ponder, a Verse to Live, a Question to Consider and a Short Prayer. May it help all of us in our efforts at "Bringing people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church". *Please take your copy from the back of the church.*