

St Joseph's Catholic Church

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1st SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR A



Sunday 22nd February: 1st Sunday of Lent - YEAR A.
Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 23rd February: Monday of the 1st Week of Lent.
No Mass today.

Tuesday 24th February: Tuesday of the 1st Week of Lent.
Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 25th February: Wednesday of the 1st Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 26th February: Thursday of the 1st Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 27th February: Friday of the 1st Week of Lent, or St Gregory of Narek, Doctor of the Church, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 28th February: Saturday of the 1st Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 22nd February: 11.00am for Shirley Ann O'Sullivan RIP (Oliver Conway's Intention).

Wednesday 25th February: 10.00am for Vi Welch RIP (Anne Robertson's Intention).

Thursday 26th February: 10.00am for Pat Saunders RIP (Margaret Saunders' Intention).

Friday 27th February: 10.00am for Philip Rowlands RIP (Maureen & Jeremy Smith's Intention).

Saturday 28th February: 10.00am for Martin Cawte RIP (Jill Cawte's Intention).

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Fr Padraig Faughnan, Carol Bartlam, Monika Rackham, Batilda Temba, Angela Jordan, Margaret Saunders, Elizabeth Skelton, Kate Kennington, Jonathan Sheridan, Deanna Knight, Eric and Beryl Thompson, Lesley Smith, Larry Bretz, Yvonne Bradley, Pat and Ron Bird, Theresa Cassidy, Joshua David, Marie O'Sullivan, Liliana Ramalingam, Terry Hamill, Rita Zollo. Additions - please inform Fr Michael.

Collections: 15th February: Plate collection £826.84; Poor Box £20.90; Candles £32.79. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 22nd February: 1st Sunday of Lent (A) Lent is the time of intense spiritual preparation for Easter, using the means Jesus used during his forty days in the desert. It is also the time of repenting for our sins and renewing our lives so that we can celebrate Easter with our Risen Lord who conquered sin and death by his suffering, death and resurrection.

CAFOD Lent Appeal envelopes are available this Sunday for return on Sunday 1st March.

2pm – 4.30pm: Newbury and Thatcham Repair Cafe at the Newbury Methodist Church Hall today (last item check-in at 4 pm). During the last 2 years the Newbury and Thatcham Repair Cafe have saved over 1300 items from waste-processing (that's over 3000kg in weight), continuing to reduce waste in West Berkshire and helping many also to save money and revive well-loved items. For more information visit www.repaircafe.org/en/cafe/newbury-and-thatcham-repair-cafe

Wednesday 25th February: Open Church 12.30pm – 2pm. The church will be open for quiet prayer and reflection. All are welcome at any time while the church is open.

Thursday 26th February: 10.30am Grand/Mothers' Prayers every Thursday at *Newbury Grove Care Home*, 370 London Rd, Newbury RG14 2QH. For more information, speak with Fr Michael or Elizabeth Matias after Mass.

2.30pm Film Matinée in the hall. *'The Assassination Bureau'*, period comedy thriller with Diana Rigg and Oliver Reed. All welcome.

Friday 27th February: (CAFOD Lent Family Fast Day). **10.30am Stations of the Cross** follow 10.00am Mass.

Sunday 1st March: Second Sunday of Lent (A): CAFOD Lent Appeal Please return your CAFOD Lent Appeal envelopes today. As an alternative to envelopes, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope, call 0303 303 3030, text

CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10, or scan the QR code at the head of the newsletter.

Journey through Lent with 'The Chosen': During 40 days of Lent, all 40 episodes of the ground-breaking series, 'The Chosen', brilliantly depicting the life, work, and ministry of Jesus – and now watched by over 650 million people – are available to watch free. Try a vivid new daily visual 'retreat' this Lent that will bring your faith to life with a new perspective. Go to:

<https://watch.thechosen.tv>

The Annual World Day of Prayer – (formerly 'Women's World Day of Prayer') will be held at St Joseph's church on **Friday 6th March at 11.00am** (following Mass). PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF TIME from previous years. This year's theme: '*Come, I will give you rest*' and has been written by Christian women in Nigeria. All welcome. Refreshments will follow in St Joseph's Hall.

ACTION! Pro-suicide campaigners are lobbying MPs to use what is known as the Parliament Acts to bypass the House of Lords and force the Assisted Suicide Bill into law in the next Parliamentary session. *Right To Life UK's* EasyAction tool lets you email your MP asking them to oppose attempts to force assisted suicide into law by bypassing the House of Lords. **Please visit www.righttolife.org.uk/ASCommons2026** to ask your MP to oppose forcing the Assisted Suicide Bill into law.

Resurrection Gardens: As part of St Joseph's Easter celebrations, we are planning a display entitled '*Christ is Risen*', featuring Resurrection Gardens - small model gardens of Christ's burial site made with natural or craft materials. We ask for the help of parishioners - children and adults - to create this display. If you would like to participate, please speak to Fr Michael, Maureen Smith or Pauline Mason for more information. Thank you.

FOR THE DIARY - Formation Morning for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. Fr Anthony Fyk and the Liturgy Formation team invite you to a formation morning at St Peter's Pastoral Centre, Winchester on **Saturday 9th May 2026** commencing with Mass at 9am. Following a welcome from Fr Anthony, - a talk on the Eucharist in the scriptures; a session on Lectio Divina: "Living a Eucharistic life – what does it mean to live out the Eucharist?" All Eucharistic Ministers, experienced and new, are welcome. Please register via liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

CENTENARY of St Joseph's Church 2027. Next year is the centenary of the building of our parish church in 1927! We wish to mark this milestone with events, celebrations and initiatives next year. Thoughts and ideas are invited, and it is hoped to form a ***Centenary Committee*** to plan our celebrations. Please share your interest and ideas with Fr Michael and the Parish Office!

PARKING IN HAWTHORNE ROAD Thank you for your cooperation in now observing parking restrictions in Hawthorn Road when attending Sunday Masses, and for showing courtesy to residents who live there. Hopefully no further complaints will be forthcoming.

'The Fruits of Medjugorje' – Lent Reflection Day. On **Saturday 28th February** at Douai Abbey 10.00am-4.30pm – led by Susan Smith and Br Christopher Greener OSB. The day will explore the impact of Our Lady's appearing in Bosnia-Herzegovina since 1981. Book by email at pastoral@douaiabbey.org.uk. Contribution of £20 on the day – tea & coffee provided. Bring your own packed lunch.

St Joseph's 2026 Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes - Tuesday 30th June to Saturday 4th July. Stansted to Lourdes direct. 11.50am outward flight, 16.10pm inbound flight. £799 per person sharing. £39 per night single supplement. Pilgrims will incur additional charge for transfers to/from Stansted, cost TBC. To register interest, please notify the Parish office by email – office@stjosephsnewbury.org.uk

The Quiet Garden Movement: This year Tithe Barn Quiet Garden Days will be held on Friday 22nd May, Friday 10th July and Friday 11th September. 10am – 4pm with coffee from 9.45am. £20 donation, a good lunch is provided. To book, please speak to Penny Lovelock or email the parish office for contact details.

From West Berkshire Foodbank: Most needed items are: anti-bac spray, fruit juice, Pringles, tinned fruit, tinned meat and pasta/rice. Your generosity is appreciated. Collection box at the back of church.

St Joseph's Hall: Interested in hiring St Joseph's Hall for an occasion or a class? Please contact the parish office to enquire about availability, and to book. A provisional cost of £25 per hour has been set at present, subject to confirming the new heating and utility costs following the hall's major refurbishment. Office Tel: **01635 40167**; E-mail office@stjosephsnewbury.org.uk

Contactless Donations: Please use your debit/credit card or smart phone/device to donate your chosen amount on our digital collection pads for Sunday collections. Gift Aid details need only be entered once and will be retained for future donations.

If you would like to receive a copy of this newsletter by email each week, please contact the parish office.

AND A FINAL THOUGHT: "God refuses to give up, and we who are enlisted to be fellow-workers with God know that the only reason we continue is that death did not have the last word; that Good Friday was not the end of the story." *Desmond Tutu*