

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY – **YEAR A**

Sunday 23rd August: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 24th August: ST BARTHOLOMEW, Apostle, feast. No Mass today.

Tuesday 25th August: Feria of 21st Week in Ordinary Time or St Louis IX, King of France, *optional memorial* or **St Joseph Calasanz,** Founder, *optional memorial*. Mass at 10:00am

Wednesday 26th August: Feria of 21st Week in Ordinary Time, or **Blessed Dominic Barberi,** Religious, *optional memorial*. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 27th August: St Monica, *memorial*. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 28th August: St Augustine of Hippo, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, *memorial*. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 29th August: The Passion of St John the Baptist, *memorial*. Mass at 10.00am followed by **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.**

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 23rd August: 8.30am Ismael Rodriguez RIP (Veronica Rodriguez's Intention).

11.00am Giulia Columbro RIP (Vito Columbro's Intention)

Wednesday 26th August: 10.00am Darragh Conor Spelman RIP (Amy Thomas' Intention)

Thursday 27th August: 10.00am Pat Saunders RIP (Margaret Saunders' Intention)

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Carol Bartlam, Deidre McNair-Wilson, Joyce Delahunty, Graham Attridge, Angela Jordan, Elizabeth Skelton, Jonathan Sheridan, 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: 9th August 2026: Plate collection £722.64; Poor Box £5.06; Candles £52.77; 330 Club £1180.00. For 16th August 2026: Plate Collection £614.12; Poor box £21.04; Candles £40.69; 300 Club £700. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 23rd August: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year

A. The theme of all the readings is that God is the Source of all authority. God shares his authority with civil rulers elected to serve the people and with the Pope and the other Church leaders for the material and spiritual welfare of his children. Today's Gospel challenges us to accept the authority of Jesus as our Lord and Saviour as St. Peter did at Caesarea Philippi.

Your MP could be one of the 12: Only 12 MPs need to switch for the Assisted Suicide Bill to be defeated on 11th September at its Second Reading in the House of Commons. A face-to-face meeting can make a real difference to how your MP votes. *Right To Life UK's* simple tool lets you request a meeting in just 30 seconds and gives you everything you need to prepare, including a short video guide. **Please ask your MP today for a meeting and urge them to vote NO to assisted suicide:** <https://righttolife.org.uk/meetyourmp>

Challenging Perceptions: Bishop Paul Mason, Bishop of the Forces and Lead Bishop for Healthcare for the Bishops' Conference, has again raised his voice in opposition to the controversial puberty blockers trial after a High Court judge ruled that children as young as 11 can be recruited to take part. Further details may be found at: www.indcatholicnews.com/news/55611

300 Club Lottery: 2026-2027 – The first draw of the 2026/27 lottery will take place next month in September. **Application forms are still available** for one more week to buy tickets for the coming year. To buy one or more tickets, please complete an application form before returning it, together with a cheque or cash (or ask for details to make an electronic bank transfer), to the parish office before the end of August.

TOTAL TICKETS SOLD SO FAR: 209!

Film and Supper Night – Friday 25th September: A chilli-con-carne and baked potato supper will accompany a showing of the recent film, 'Conclave' at 7pm in St Joseph's Hall. Tickets will be sold for the supper (£15). Limited availability of about 40 - available shortly. Names to Marion Shaw.

Date for your diary - Saturday 10 October 2026: A Concert by the *Cantemus Choir* will take place in St Joseph's Church at 7.30pm. Varied programme to be announced. A previously very successful concert by the choir took place in 2025, which helped raise funds for the parish. Nearer the date, please consider volunteering your assistance on the evening to help sell tickets on the door, and to serve refreshments!

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2026 -2027: Our next Confirmation programme run together with St Francis de Sales' Parish will **begin on 14th September 2026** – open to those who are in year 9 or above (aged 14 – 18), and who are resident and participants in our Parish community. *Confirmation celebrates the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit on a baptised person, completing and strengthening the grace given by the Spirit in Baptism. It marks the Christian as a follower of Christ and a full member of the Church.* If interested, please contact the Parish Office at Wash Common as soon as possible giving your name, age and contact details. Information about the programme will be provided when we receive your application. Learning sessions will take place in St Joseph's Hall. **There is a payment of £126 which covers the entire cost of the retreat weekend (5th – 7th February 2027) at St Cassians in Kintbury.** Parish Office: **washcommon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk** Telephone: 01635 40332.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2026-27. The parish's preparation programme for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will begin in September this year. The programme is open to children in our parish community who will be in Year 4 or above in September 2026. To register your child on the programme, please email the parish office to request an application form.

RCIA PROGRAMME 2026-27: If, as a non-Catholic, you feel called to explore the Catholic faith, the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) offers a journey of prayer, learning, and spiritual growth.

RCIA is the process through which adults are introduced to the Catholic faith and prepared to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. It is open to those: Unbaptised and seeking to become Catholic; Baptised in another Christian tradition and

interested in becoming Catholic; Baptised Catholic but never received First Communion or Confirmation; Those without any faith background, but who may be interested in learning more about the Catholic faith. The RICA Programme commences on Wednesday 9th September at 7.30pm in the Parish Hall at St Francis de Sales', Wash Common. Speak to Fr Michael and also email Francis Connolly (fjcon@btinternet.com). The programme is run jointly for the Pastoral Area.

From West Berkshire Foodbank: Donated items can be left in the box at the back of church at any time, ready for collection on alternate Wednesdays. Your generosity is appreciated.

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: Remember that you are absolutely unique – just like everybody else.