

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

105 London Road Newbury Berkshire RG14 1JP

Reg. Charity No. 1199568 'Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth'

Telephone: 01635 40167

Email: office@stjosephsnewbury.org.uk

Website: www.stjosephsnewbury.org.uk

Safeguarding Minister: Mary Barnard: Telephone 0777 616 3856

Email: safeguarding@stjosephsnewbury.org.uk

St. Joseph's School Telephone: 01635 43455

Parish Admin/ Hall Bookings/Information email: rcoutinho@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY - YEAR A

Sunday 20th September: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 21st September: ST MATTHEW, Apostle, Evangelist, feast. No Mass today.

Tuesday 22nd September: Feria of 25th Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10:00am

Wednesday 23rd September: St Pio of Pietrelcina, Religious, memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 24th September: OUR LADY OF WALSHINGHAM, feast. N.B. No Mass at 10.00am - 11.30am Requiem Mass for Julia Comber RIP.

Friday 25th September: Feria of 25th Week in Ordinary Time. N.B. No Mass at 10.00am - 11.00am Requiem Mass for Bernadette O'Donnell RIP.

Saturday 26th September: Our Lady on Saturday, or Ss Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 20th September: 8.30am for Ella Herbert RIP (Carol Irlam's Int)

11.00am for Irene Garnell RIP (Family Int)

Tuesday 22nd September: 10.00am for Peter Dixon RIP (Maureen Dixon's Int)

Wednesday 23rd September: 10.00am for Rafael Pio Fernandes (Birthday Int)

Thursday 24th September: 11.30am Julia Comber RIP - Requiem Mass

Friday 25th September: 11.00am Bernadette O'Donnell RIP - Requiem Mass

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Caroline Boal, 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: 13th September 2026: Plate collection £747.05; Poor Box £10.00; Candles £15.32; Film Night £50. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 20th September: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A ('Home Mission Sunday' and 'Battle of Britain Sunday'). There is a compulsory **2nd Collection** on this Sunday for the Home Missions to support the work of the Bishops' Conference Mission Directorate. The link for on-line giving is:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/home-mission-sunday-20-september-2026>

Today's readings are about the human sense of justice contrasted with the extravagant grace of a merciful and compassionate God. God rewards us, not in the measure of what we do, but according to our need and his good will.

The annual Mass 'count' begins this Sunday and will be done for the next three Sundays. Statistics for Rome!

12.30pm Fr Michael will conduct a short commemoration to mark 'Battle of Britain Sunday' outside the Royal British Legion, Pelican Lane, Newbury. All are welcome.

Tuesday 22nd September: Sycamore Course begins. Those recently received into the Church and those Catholics wishing to learn more about their faith are welcome to join Sycamore - a course crafted by Bishop Elect Stephen Wang. The first meeting at **7.30pm in the St Francis de Sales' parish hall**. All welcome. Please notify the parish office at washcommon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk if attending. Meeting will be generally fortnightly on Tuesdays.

Thursday 24th September: 10.30am: Mothers/Grandmothers' Prayers at Newbury Grove Care Home, 370 London Road, RG14 2QH.
11.30am Requiem Mass for Julia Comber RIP. **N.B. NO 10.00am MASS TODAY.**

Friday 25th September: 11.00am Requiem Mass for Bernadette O'Donnell RIP. **N.B. NO 10.00am MASS TODAY.**

7pm: Parish Film Night – Supper and showing of 'Conclave' in St Joseph's Hall, for those who have booked tickets. Please bring your own drinks and a glass!

300 Club Lottery: TOTAL TICKETS SOLD THIS YEAR: 294!

Winners for September: 1st Prize: Rebecca Couzens; 2nd Prize: Phil Hobbs; 3rd Prize: Antoinette Philp.

Thank you to everyone who has bought tickets for the Lottery – your tickets are available to collect from the front of church. If you win a prize and would prefer your name not to be printed in the parish newsletter, please inform the parish office before 30th September.

PARISH EXPENSES: Some parishioners who are aware of our recent bills have urged me to share an insight into the parish's recent expenses because - quote - "most people are unaware of the large costs incurred in running a parish." In the last 2 months we have had to spend £3000 on new printer equipment for the office; £2,500 on church decorating (more to come...); £484 on a hall Legionella risk assessment; £455 on annual testing and replacement of fire extinguishers; £484 on Biffa waste disposal; £718 on a church fire risk assessment; £144 on organ tuning; £340 on hall cleaning etc. Shortly we expect invoices for the repairs to the collapsed church guttering/new tiles and scaffolding hire, for the design and creation of a safer car park as a health and safety priority, and as winter approaches, church heating will be needed. There is much else besides! Your generosity is appreciated in these difficult times. Fr Michael.

Kenya Project: The new session for cutting out material for the Kenya Girls Project will start this week. Material is available in the hall after both Masses. Please continue to support the young women in Kenya. The initiative helps provide girls with dignity packs of reusable pads, underwear, and a supportive letter of encouragement. Contributions of unwanted towels and bed linen are needed together with voluntary help to cut out a simple pattern with the material. Thank you.

1st September – 4th October - 'The Season of Creation'.

The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation was established by Pope Francis, inspired by his landmark encyclical *Laudato Si'*. The annual celebration of the Season of Creation invites the world's 2.6 billion Christians to prayer and action to protect Earth, our common home. It runs from 1st September (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4th October (Feast of St Francis of Assisi). In his message for the World Day of Prayer 2026, with the theme "They shall beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks" (Is 2:4), Pope Leo highlights that 'the now widespread awareness of the impact of war on natural resources has not led to the creation of adequate institutions or to responsible decisions aimed at preventing conflicts and resolving disputes peacefully.' Further information and resources are available via: www.seasonofcreation.org

Date for your diary - Saturday 10th 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!

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2026-27: Our first parents/carers meeting about this year's program is on **Wednesday 30th September at 7pm in St Joseph's Church.** All parents are asked to attend this short meeting. The programme is open to children in our parish community who are in Year 4 or above from September 2026. To register your child on the programme, please email the parish office to request an application form.

SYNODALITY: God is doing a new thing in the Church! Synodality is about walking together, listening to one another, and ensuring that every member of the community has a voice and a role to play. Want to find out more? Please join us on **Thursday 1st October at 7.45pm in St Joseph's Church Hall.** We will reflect on how we are currently listening, reflecting, welcoming, and making shared decisions as a parish, and how we can personally contribute to our shared mission. All welcome. More details from Mike Parry 07799238813.

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: An open mind leaves the chance of someone dropping a worthwhile thought into it.