

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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FOURTEENTH SUNDAY OF THE YEAR **YEAR A**

Sunday 5th July: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A.
Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 6th July: Feria of 14th Week of Ordinary Time, or, St Maria Goretti, virgin & martyr, *optional memorial*. No Mass today.

Tuesday 7th July: Feria of 14th Week of Ordinary Time.
Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 8th July: Feria of 14th Week of Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 9th July: Feria of 14th Week of Ordinary Time, or, St Augustine Zhao Rong, priest, and Companions, martyrs, *optional memorial*. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 10th July: Feria of 14th Week of Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 11th July: ST BENEDICT, founder & Patron of Europe, *feast*. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 5th July: 8.30am for intentions of Teddy Totman (Celia Rose's intention).

11.00am for Ann Gowing RIP (Hitchon Family intention).

Wednesday 8th July: 10.00am for intentions of Margaret Gault (Denise Dougan's intention).

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Paula Holmes, Carol Bartlam, Joyce Delahunty, Graham Attridge, Angela Jordan, Elizabeth Skelton, 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: 28th June 2026: Plate collection £1063.35; Second Collection (*Peter's Pence*) £480.36; Poor Box £6; Candles £31.53; Repository £15; proceeds from the Parish Quiz Night £653.60. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 5th July: 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A.

The readings this Sunday show us how God works in quiet and simple ways, and remind us that God does not always show strength in power or force. Instead, he shows his love through peace, mercy, and care for those who are weak or tired.

11.00am Mass – Children's Liturgy will take place in the parish hall during this Mass today for children of primary school age in Reception Class and above.

Tuesday 7th July: 7.30pm Parish Finance Committee Meeting. In the Parish house.

Thursday 9th July: 10.30am - Grand/Mothers' Prayers for now will be held in members' own homes. If interested in attending, please speak with Fr Michael or Elizabeth Matias after Mass.

Friday 10th July: The Holy Rosary will be recited after 10.00am Mass today.

2.30pm: Film Matinée in the Parish Hall – '*The Song of Bernadette*' with Jennifer Jones. All welcome.

Sunday 12th July: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A. ('Sea Sunday')

There is a 2nd Collection at Masses today for the Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris). Stella Maris helps thousands of seafarers every year who are struggling with loneliness, exhaustion, bullying and exploitation.

More information at <https://stellamaris.org.uk/>

11.00am Mass – The **2025-26 First Holy Communion Group Children** will come together at this Mass in celebration of the conclusion of their preparation programme, and a shared lunch will follow in the parish hall.

24th-27th July: THE 'WE BELIEVE' FESTIVAL at St Mary's College (Seminary), Oscott – outside Birmingham. The festival brings thousands together to encounter Jesus Christ in his Church, and is an unmissable opportunity to discover the traditions and charisms that flow through the Catholic Church, to grow in authentic community, and to encounter the transforming love of God. It is a feast of the True, the Good and the Beautiful. Tickets provide access to all festival content, facilities and a pitch

on the campsite - should you need it, but do not include food or accommodation. Go to the web-site <https://www.webbelievFestival.com/tickets>

If you would like to come, but are in need of a sponsored pass, please apply by writing to info@webbelievFestival.com

Saturday 25th July: ADoRE Spiritual Mini-Retreat 10.00am-1.00pm on Zoom. "HIS BANNER OVER US IS LOVE." Responding to God's invitation to His heavenly banquet. Mini retreat morning Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring talk from guest speaker Russ Fairman, Member of the National CHARIS renewal team. ADoRE is a part of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, dedicated to the encouragement of a personal relationship with God, through Jesus, in the power of the Holy Spirit. Register in advance at <https://bit.ly/ADOREJUL2026> More details at www.altonrenewal.com/july_2026

12th-18th August – Pilgrimage to the Shrine of Banneux Notre Dame in Ardennes, Belgium for the Feast of the Assumption. Coach and ferry from London. Bookings by 30th June. Contact Lisa Pirie on 07500 288384 or email banneuxndgb@gmail.com for more information.

The Evangelium Conference - 21st - 23rd August 2026 A conference on Catholic faith, life and culture to help make faithful young Catholic adults effective for mission. Over the years, hundreds have ignited their faith through Evangelium. Many have met lifelong friends and spouses, joined apostolates or discovered a vocation. **Cost (All inclusive:** Conference attendance, full-board accommodation, refreshments **£165;** Students and unemployed concession **£149.** Location: THE ORATORY SCHOOL, READING, RG8 0PJ. To book, go to - www.evangelium.co.uk

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 (CORRECTION – 5th – 7th February 2027) at St Cassians in Kintbury.** Parish Office: washcommon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk Telephone: 01635 40332.

Kenya Project: Please continue to support the St Joseph's/St Francis de Sales' charity project to assist young women in the area of Urenga, Kenya, that helps to provide girls with 'Dignity Packs' of reusable pads, underwear, and a supportive letter of encouragement. Contributions of unwanted towels and bed linen are still needed together with voluntary help to cut out a simple pattern with the material. Please ask for further details.

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!

Leaving a Gift in your Will: Many Catholics choose to leave a gift to their parish in their will. These gifts are greatly appreciated and make a real difference to parish life. To support parishioners in planning ahead, the diocese has created a range of helpful resources and documents to assist with getting personal affairs in order. These include: An Asset Inventory Record; A Will Planner; Instructions for a Catholic Funeral; and Guidelines for Funerals and the care of the terminally ill. These materials are designed to provide practical support and peace of mind when making important plans for the future, and are available on the diocesan website at <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/legacy>

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: If you are 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, and for Second 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: Continuous improvement is better than delayed perfection.