

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 SECOND SUNDAY – YEAR A

Sunday 30th August: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year

A. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 31st August: Feria of 22nd Week in Ordinary Time or, St Aidan & All Saints of Lindisfarne, *optional memorial*. **No Mass today.**

Tuesday 1st September: Feria of 22nd Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10:00am

Wednesday 2nd September: Feria of 22nd Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 3rd September: ST GREGORY THE GREAT, Pope & Doctor of the Church, *feast*. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Friday 4th September: Feria of 22nd Week in Ordinary Time or, St Cuthbert, Bishop, *optional memorial*. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Saturday 5th September: Our Lady on Saturday or, St Teresa of Calcutta, Religious, *optional memorial*. **Mass at 10.00am** followed by **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions**

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 30th August: 11.00am James Hitchon RIP (Hitchon Family's Intention)

Wednesday 2nd September: 10.00am for intentions of Margaret Saunders (Maureen Smith's Intention)

Thursday 3rd September: 10.00am for intentions of Chris and Carol Bartlam – 60th Wedding Anniversary (Parish 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 & Ron Bird, Theresa Cassidy, Joshua David, Marie O'Sullivan, Liliana Ramalingam, Terry Hamill, Rita Zollo. Additions - please inform Fr Michael.

Collections: 23rd August 2026: Plate collection £910.27; Poor Box £13.11; Candles £37.10; 300 Club £460.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 30th August: (22nd Sunday A) The Gospel reminds us that discipleship demands self-control ("Deny yourself"), the willingness to suffer ("take up your cross"), the readiness to follow Jesus by obeying his commandment of love, and the ongoing surrender of our whole being to God.

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

Celebrated annually from 1st Sept to 4th Oct (the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi) this ecumenical season mobilizes churches and communities to respond to the ecological crisis. The 2026 theme: "**Living Water**" - based **Ezekiel 47:9,12**. The Season can renew our relationship with our Creator and creation through conversion, and commitment together. The meaning of the 'Living Water' theme is: **Ecological restoration:** Water as a symbol of healing for degraded ecosystems; **Spiritual renewal:** Connection between faith, baptism, and transformation; **Human responsibility:** Stewardship of natural resources, especially water; **Climate justice:** Focus on communities most affected by water scarcity and pollution. The Living Water theme aligns with growing global concerns about freshwater access, biodiversity loss, and environmental sustainability.

Thursday 3rd September: 10.30am Mothers and Grandmothers' Prayers in Parish Hall. All welcome.

1pm: N.B. Early Film Matinée in the Parish Hall. Comedy thriller '*Blindfold*'. Bring a sandwich for lunch! All welcome.

Friday 4th September: The Holy Rosary will follow 10.00am Mass today.

1.30pm - The Marriage of Carolyn Mwarazi and Adam Wills. Congratulations!

Papal Pronouncement: On 16th August, Pope Leo once again called for an end "to the repeated acts of violence against the Palestinian population of the West Bank." The Holy Father added an urgent appeal to the international community "to ensure that progress is made toward a two-state solution, for a just and lasting

peace.” Further details at:
www.indcatholicnews.com/news/55675

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>

300 Club Lottery: 2026-2027 – Sunday 30th August is the last opportunity to purchase tickets for the 2026/27 300 Club lottery before the first draw of the new season in September. **TOTAL TICKETS SOLD SO FAR: 258!**

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. Names to Marion Shaw.

'Repair Café' – Sunday 27th September: 2.00pm – 4:30pm Methodist Church Hall, Northbrook Street. Repair Café has saved over 2000 items from waste processing, continuing to reduce waste in West Berkshire and helping many also to save money and revive well-loved items. Bring your items for repair!

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 successful concert took place in 2025, which raised funds for the parish. Please consider volunteering your help on the evening to 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 **begins on 14th September** – open to those 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.* If interested, please contact the Parish Office at Wash Common giving your name, age and contact details. Information about the programme will follow. 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 Feb 2027) at St Cassians in Kintbury.** Parish Office, Telephone: 01635 40332.

washcommon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2026-27. The programme for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion begins at the start of October. The programme is open to children who will be in Year 4 or above in Sept 2026. To register your child, please email the parish office to request an application form.

RCIA PROGRAMME 2026-27: If, as a non-Catholic, you feel called to 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 prepared to receive the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist. 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: Please donate items in the box at the back of church, 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: 'The higher the hair, the closer to God.' *Dolly Parton RIP*