

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY - YEAR A

N.B. Fr Michael will be away on leave from 7th - 11th September. Fr Peter Codd should only be contacted in the event of an emergency. Leave messages with the Parish Office if necessary.

Sunday 6th September: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 7th September: Feria of 23rd Week in Ordinary Time. No Mass today.

Tuesday 8th September: THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, feast. Mass at 10:00am

Wednesday 9th September: Feria of 23rd Week in Ordinary Time, or St Peter Claver, Religious, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 10th September: Feria of 23rd Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 11th September: Feria of 23rd Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 12th September: Our Lady on Saturday or The Most Holy Name of Mary, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 6th September: 8:30am for Sandy Kain RIP (Penny Kain's Intention)

11.00am for Michael Earley RIP (Family Int)

Tuesday 8th September: 10.00am for a Private Intention

Wednesday 9th September: 10.00am for Sandy Snook RIP

Saturday 12th September: 10.00am for Des Dougan RIP (Denise Dougan's Intention - Anniversary)

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Carol Bartlam, 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: 30th August 2026: Plate collection £807.72; Poor Box £4.00; Candles £20.17; 300 Club £500.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 6th September: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A. We are our brother's/sister's keepers. We have the obligation to charitably guide others, offering advice and encouragement to our friends, family, and neighbours, when it is needed - loving correction, in private, for a personal offense where that is possible.

Thursday 10th September: 10.30am Mothers/Grandmothers' Prayers will resume as from today at Newbury Grove Care Home, 370 London Road, Newbury, RG14 2QH to pray for the needs of our children and grandchildren, many of whom have lapsed from the faith. New attendees welcome. For more information speak to Elizabeth Matias or Fr Michael.

Sunday 13th September: 24th Sunday (A) and 'Education Sunday'. There is an optional collection today for Catholic Education Services. You can donate on - <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/catholic-education-service-second-collection-2026>

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.

Your MP could be one of the 12: Only 12 MPs need to switch for the Assisted Suicide Bill to be defeated next Friday 11th September at its Second Reading in the House of Commons. **Please urge your MP to vote NO to assisted suicide.**

300 Club Lottery: 2026-2027 – TOTAL TICKETS SOLD THIS YEAR: 292!

Thank you to everyone who has bought tickets for the Lottery – your tickets are available to collect from the front of church.

Sycamore Course: Those recently received into the Church, and Catholics wishing to learn more about their faith are welcome to join **Sycamore** - a course crafted by Bishop Elect Stephen Wang. The first meeting will be on **Tuesday 22nd September** at 7.30pm in the parish hall at St Francis de Sales', Wash Common. It would help with planning to notify the parish office. **washcommon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk**. Meetings will be generally fortnightly on Tuesday's. Further details to follow.

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!

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

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2026 -2027: Our joint Confirmation programme with St Francis de Sales' Parish begins on **14th September 2026** for young people in Year 9 and above (aged 14–18), and who are resident and

participants in our Parish community. Learning sessions will take place in St Joseph's Hall, and the **£126 fee covers the complete cost of our retreat weekend at St Cassians in Kintbury from 5th to 7th February 2027**. Please contact the Wash Common Parish Office at 01635 40332 or **washcommon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk** as soon as possible with your name, age, and contact details to receive application and programme information.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2026-27. The parish's preparation programme for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will begin at the start of October 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: Are you interested in exploring the Catholic faith? The RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program begins on **Wednesday 9th September** at 7.30 pm in the St Francis de Sales' Parish Hall, Wash Common. This joint Pastoral Area journey of prayer, learning and spiritual growth. It is open to unbaptised adults, Christians from other traditions, baptised Catholics who missed their First Communion or Confirmation, or anyone simply curious to learn more. To find out more or register, please speak to Fr Michael or email Francis Connolly at fjcon@btinternet.com.

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: It is better to be an optimist who is sometimes wrong, than a pessimist who is always right.