

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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TWENTY FOURTH SUNDAY - YEAR A

Sunday 13th September: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 14th September: THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, feast. No Mass today.

Tuesday 15th September: Our Lady of Sorrows, memorial. Mass at 10:00am

Wednesday 16th September: Ss Cornelius, Pope, & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs, memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 17th September: Feria of 24th Week in Ordinary Time, or St Hildegard of Bingen, Religious, Doctor of the Church, optional memorial, or St Robert Bellarmine, Religious, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 18th September: Feria of 24th Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 19th September: Our Lady on Saturday, or St Januarius, Bishop, Martyr, optional memorial, or, St Theodore of Canterbury, Bishop, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 13th September: 8:30am for Doris Baulk RIP (Liz Rees' Intention)

11.00am for Intentions of Chris and Carol Bartlam (Diamond Wedding) (Jane Smith's Intentions)

Tuesday 15th September: 10.00am for Shavkat and Family (Slawek Intention)

Wednesday 16th September: 10.00am in Thanksgiving for Night Adoration

Friday 18th September: 10.00am for Bernadette O'Donnell RIP (Jane Dullea's Intention)

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: 6th September 2026: Plate collection £732.41; Poor Box £22.00; Candles £58.17; 300 Club £260; Repository £0.28. Totals for the month of August: Standing Orders £1,882.50; Contactless £1,509.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 13th September: 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time - Year A. '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>

N.B. Today is the 77th Anniversary of the Consecration of St Joseph's Church on 13th September 1949!

Our readings today concern forgiving those who wound us and being reconciled with them. All remind us of the path to forgiveness, mercy, and reconciliation and challenge us to walk the Way to Life.

Monday 14th September: 7.30pm Meeting for Parents and Candidates who have enrolled in the **Confirmation Preparation Programme 2026-27**. This will be held in St Joseph's Parish Hall.

Wednesday 16th September: 7:30pm RCIA – Journey in Faith. The second session will be held in St Francis de Sales' Parish Hall for those enrolled on the RCIA programme 2026-27.

Thursday 17th September: 10.00am Mass – We will be joined today by the Year 6 children from St Joseph's School.

10.30am: Mothers/Grandmothers' Prayers at Newbury Grove Care Home, 370 London Road, RG14 2QH.

Friday 18th September: 2.30pm Film Matinée in St Joseph's Hall, Film TBC. All Welcome!

Sunday 20th September: 25th Sunday (A) and 'Home Mission Sunday'. There is a compulsory collection on this Sunday for the Home Missions.

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.

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.

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!

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 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. 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 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.

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: The measure of a life is not what you consume, but what you contribute. Spend less time owning, consuming, taking. Spend more time giving, creating, making.