

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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Vulnerable Adults in St Joseph's Parish. Telephone 0777 616 3856

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3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - **YEAR A**

Sunday 25th January 2026: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time - YEAR A. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 26th January: Ss Timothy (Bishop & martyr) and Titus (Bishop), memorial. No Mass today.

Tuesday 27th January: Feria of the 3rd Week in Ordinary Time, or St Angela Merici, foundress, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 28th January: St Thomas Aquinas, Religious & Doctor of the Church, memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 29th January: Feria of the 3rd Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 30th January: Feria of 3rd Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 31st January: St John Bosco, Founder, memorial. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 25th January: 11.00am Mass for John Herbert RIP (Carol Irlam's Intention).

Saturday 31st January: 10.00am for Martin Cawte RIP (Jill Cawte's intention).

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Fr Padraig Faughnan, Carol Bartlam, Batilda Temba, Damian Perry, Angela Jordan, Margaret Saunders, Elizabeth Skelton, Oliver Avery, Kate Kennington, Philip Rowlands, 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: 18th January: Plate collection £693.28; Poor Box £19; Candles £63.07; Crib collection £58.40. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 25th January: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) The annual Second Collection for St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth, Mother Church of our Diocese, is taken at Masses today. The weekly Cathedral collection in the last

financial year covered only just over half of the ordinary running costs of £5,000 per week. Please see the QR code to the GAYL (Give as You Live) page for the collection on the second page of this newsletter.

Today's readings show that the early Christians understood how Jesus had fulfilled the expectations of ancient Israel. Describing the humble beginning of the public ministry of Jesus, today's scripture readings teach us that Christ has brought us from the darkness of sin into the Light of God (Mt 4:16) by calling us to repentance (Mt 4:17) and complete acceptance of the Kingdom of God and God's consequent rule over us.

'World Leprosy Day' – marked on the last Sunday of January to raise awareness of the disease. Donations can be made to the St Francis Leprosy Guild – www.stfrancisleprosy.org

Wednesday 28th January: Open Church 12.30pm – 2pm.

The church will be open for quiet prayer and reflection. All are welcome at any time while the church is open.

Thursday 29th January: 10.00am Mass – we will be joined today by the Year 5 children of St Joseph's School.

10.30am Grand/Mothers' Prayers every Thursday at *Newbury Grove Care Home*, 370 London Rd, Newbury RG14 2QH to pray for the needs of our children and grandchildren, and for a strengthening of faith. For more information speak with Fr Michael or Elizabeth Matias after Mass. Please note that Grand/Mothers' Prayers will not take place on Thursday 5th February.

Saturday 31st January: Douai Abbey Spring Pastoral Programme:

'An Introduction to the Gospel of St Matthew' presented by Fr Gervase Holdaway OSB, 2-4pm, no charge. In this new year we read the Gospel of St Matthew again at Mass. Come to discover the particular character of this Gospel and see how it differs from the other Gospels, and thereby enhance your understanding and the celebrations of the coming Sundays in Year A. There is no need to book, but please email pastoral@douaiabbey.org.uk to let the organisers know you will be attending so they can keep a track of numbers.

Sunday 1st February: At Masses today parishioners will be reminded of evacuation procedures in the event of a fire in the church.

Last Call: Online Marriage programme: Does your marriage need some TLC? Need help with communication and trust? **Retrouvaille helps marriages.** It can bring hope and healing to relationships. Next date: 12th February 2026. **www.retrouvaille.org.uk** Tel: 07887 296983

Persecution: All of us pay some kind of cost for following Christ. But for one in seven Christians around the world, who live in situations of persecution, the price is high. A world 'Watch List' ranks the 50 countries where Christians face the most severe persecution for their faith with North Korea retaining its position as the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian. You might like to sign *Aid to the Church in Need's* petition calling on the UN and governments around the world to take decisive action to stamp out persecution. **<https://acnuk.org>**

Have a car and a little spare time? Do you want to make a real difference in your local area? **The Downland Volunteer Group** would love to hear from you. The **DVG** urgently needs caring, reliable volunteer drivers to support local people who are elderly, sick, disabled or in need. Just a few hours a month could get someone to an urgent medical appointment or stay connected in their community. Your spare time could be someone's lifeline. Interested? Get in touch via 01635 578394 or dvg.office@btinternet.com, visit www.downlandvolgroup.org or fill in one of the forms available at the back of church.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School & Nursery – Consultation on Primary School Admissions Policy 2027 – 2028: The Governing Body of St Joseph's School are consulting on this policy for the required six weeks between 15/12/2025 and 30/01/2026. School admission authorities must consult on admission arrangements if change is proposed other than an increase to their PAN (Published Admission Number), and if they have not consulted in the last seven years. St Joseph's School Governing Body is required to consult as they are proposing a change to their Admissions Policy oversubscription criteria removing the category "Catholic children who are resident in the parishes of St Joseph's, Newbury; St Francis de Sales, Wash Common; The Sacred Heart, Lambourn; Our Lady of Lourdes, Hungerford," and creating the category "other Catholic children". This change is in line with changes proposed by the Diocese of Portsmouth CASO (Catholic Academies & Schools Office). The proposed policy is on the school website (Applying for a Place). To comment on the proposed 2027 – 2028 Admissions Policy, e-mail the Clerk to Governors, Mrs Rachael House Gemmell rhousegemmell@stjosephs.w-berks.sch.uk or write to the Clerk via the School Office, St

Joseph's School, Newport Road, Newbury, Berkshire RG14 2AW by 30th January 2026.

'The Fruits of Medjugorje' – Lent Reflection Day: On **Saturday 28th February** at Douai Abbey 10.00am-4.30pm – led by Susan Smith and Br Christopher Greener OSB. The day will explore the impact of Our Lady's appearing in Bosnia-Herzegovina since 1981. Book by email at **pastoral@douaiabbey.org.uk**. Contribution of £20 on the day – tea & coffee provided. Bring your own packed lunch.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: 11th-18th May 2026. £799 per person. The price includes return flights from Gatwick, return airport transfers, senior tour guide, fully guided itinerary, 7 nights half board (breakfast and 3-course main meal), shared ensuite rooms, 1 checked-in and 2 cabin bags. Contact: Susan Smith 07737 175476 or Discover Medjugorje 020 39254613 Whatsapp: 07418 610725 email: info@discovermedj.com

From West Berkshire Foodbank: Food and house-hold items will be needed as much as ever over the winter. Donated items can be left in the collection box at the back of church at any time. Your generosity is appreciated.

Job Opportunity: Parish Administrator based at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke RG24 9DX. Salary: £17,732 (£26,598 FTE). Contract: Permanent, Part-time working 25 hours per week. For further details - portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about/careers/

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. 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: Try not to become a person of success, but rather become a person of value.

