

# St Joseph's Catholic Church

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## 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April: 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A.

Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April: Monday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter.

No Mass today.

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April: Tuesday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter or

St Anselm, Religious, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, *optional memorial*. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April: Wednesday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April: ST GEORGE, Patron of England, *solemnity*. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April: Friday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Easter or St Fidelis of Sigmaringen, Religious, Martyr, or, St Adalbert, Bishop, Martyr, *optional memorials*. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April: ST MARK, Evangelist, *feast*. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

### Mass Intentions:

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April: 8.30am for the Intentions of Katarzyna Frauze.

11am for Ronald Garnell RIP (Family Intention).

### Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Chris Turner, Carol Bartlam, Graham Attridge, Angela Jordan, Elizabeth Skelton, Kate Kennington, 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:** 12<sup>th</sup> April 2026: Plate collection £867.60; Poor Box £52; Candles £71.85. Totals for March: Contactless £1,471 plus £43 for CAFOD and £132 for the Clergy Assistance Fund; Standing Orders £2,617.50. Thank you for your generosity.

**Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April: 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER (A):** Today's liturgy has one common, encouraging theme: No matter what happens in our lives, the risen Jesus is always with

us. God is always near to those who seek Him and desire to live in His presence, doing His will.

**11am Mass:** Our First Holy Communion children and their families participate today.

**4.30pm: Holy Hour of Prayer for the Dignity of Life** - Join with the Bishops of England and Wales in spirit to pray a Holy Hour for the dignity of all human life as peers in the House of Lords continue to debate whether to make Assisted Suicide law. Help to present a unified, prayerful front to offer this petition to Our Lord for the dignity of life from conception to natural end, and to pray that assisted suicide will not become law. The Archbishop of Liverpool, John Sherrington (lead Bishop for Life Issues for the Bishops' Conference), recently reaffirmed the Church's principled objection to the Terminally Ill (Adults) End of Life Bill, and urged Catholics to pray for parliamentarians debating the Private Members' Bill, those who are suffering near the end of their lives, and those who care for them.

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April: 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 23<sup>rd</sup> April: 10.00am Mass:** The pupils of Year 5 from St Joseph's School will join us in church for Mass.

**10.30am Grand/Mothers' Prayers** every Thursday at *Newbury Grove Care Home*, 370 London Rd, Newbury RG14 2QH. For more information, speak with Fr Michael or Elizabeth Matias after Mass.

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April:** 10.30am-4pm at Douai Abbey – '*Life's Fragility*'. Reflecting on the reality of loss, ageing, sickness and death. Led by Clare Carlisle and John Cottingham. Do today's solutions measure up to what older philosophical and spiritual traditions offer us? Bring your own lunch. A contribution of £20 is made on the day; coffee and tea are provided. Booking & further enquiries: Email: [pastoral@douaiabbey.org.uk](mailto:pastoral@douaiabbey.org.uk)

**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> April: 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) – 'Good Shepherd Sunday' (World Day of Prayer for Vocations):** There will be a **second collection** at both Masses for the

**Clergy Training Fund.** The Diocese of Portsmouth is blessed to have 10 men in formation for the priesthood. Seminarian formation takes between six to eight years at a cost of approximately £30,000 per year, and relies on the generosity of people to support the formation of our future priests.

**11am Mass: Children's Liturgy** in the Hall for children of primary school age in Reception Class and above.

**2.00pm-4.30pm: 'The Repair Café'** in the Methodist Church Hall, Northbrook Street. In the last two years the Repair Café has saved over 1300 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!

**Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> May: 'A Day with Mary'** - 10.00am - 5.30pm at Our Lady of Peace & Blessed Dominic Barberi Church, Earley, near Reading RG6 7DA. Procession; Confessions; Mass; Rosary; Exposition; Talk; Act of Consecration; Enrolment in the Brown Scapular. A day of instruction and intercession based on the message given at Fatima in 1917. Bring a packed lunch.

**THANKS!** Sincere thanks are owed to all the good ladies of the parish, together with the choir, who worked to ensure that **Fr Pat's Funeral** went so well on Wednesday. The hospitality and catering at the reception were outstanding (and took much organising!); the hall beautifully decorated; photo montage wonderful (thanks Jeremy!); and the music wonderful as always. Thanks to all who made themselves so readily available to help in tribute to Fr Pat. RIP.

**Our Lady of Fatima:** The National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima, together with relics of Saint Jacinta and Saint Francisco, two of the visionaries, is visiting the Catholic Cathedrals of England and Wales. The statue and relics will be nearby in Aldershot at the Cathedral Church of the Bishopric of the Forces (St Michael & St George) on the weekend of Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> and Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May.

**"Harry Clark Goes to Rome:"** A BBC documentary is recommended to your attention. It follows *The Traitors* winner, Harry Clark aged 23, who undertakes a personal journey to explore his Catholic faith and meet the Pope in Rome. The film explores his quest to understand belief, identity, and what it means to be a good Catholic as a young man in modern Britain. The film would be of particular interest to teenagers and young adults to encourage discussion about faith, and can be accessed via the BBC iPlayer.

**St Joseph's Parish Administrator & Hall Manager.** After 3 years of hard work, Rebecca Couzens, our present Parish Administrator is moving on. We are grateful for all that she has done. St Joseph's is therefore seeking to fill an expanded role as Parish Administrator and Hall Manager. The role provides comprehensive administrative, IT, and organisational support to the

Parish Priest, ensuring the smooth day-to-day operations of the parish. This role enables the Parish Priest to focus on pastoral duties while maintaining efficient administrative processes. The postholder is expected to foster a professional, welcoming, and efficient parish environment for parishioners, volunteers, and visitors. Contract: Permanent, Part-time Hours: 12 hours per week (flexible in line with hall bookings).

As an employee of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth, a registered charity, applicants must comply with all diocesan policies and procedures, as well as those related to local arrangements specifically authorised by the Parish Priest. **How to Apply:** You may send a comprehensive and up-to-date Curriculum Vitae, along with a covering letter outlining your suitability for the role and your motivation for applying (maximum two sides of A4), to **recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk**. Please include 'Parish Administrator and Hall Manager NEWBJ' in the subject line of your email. Alternatively visit: **<https://catholicdioceseofportsmouth.peoplehr.net/Pages/JobBoard/Opening.aspx?v=695969d2-c7e8-4783-83d1-c683673118ef>**

The closing date is **29<sup>th</sup> April 2026**.

**300 Club Winners for April:** 1st prize (£100) - Penny Kain; 2<sup>nd</sup> prize (£50) - Vinny Butler; 3<sup>rd</sup> prize (£25) - John Apicella. Congratulations!

**MARRIAGE SUPPORT:** If you are just in a rut or for more serious issues – *Retrouvaille* could be the solution. [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) +44 797 338 0443

**From West Berkshire Foodbank:** Donated items can be left in the box at the back of church at any time, ready for collection on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April. 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:** "Better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak out and remove all doubt." Abraham Lincoln.