

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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3rd SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

Sunday 8th March: 3rd Sunday of Lent - YEAR A. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 9th March: Monday of the 3rd Week of Lent, or, St Frances of Rome, memorial. No Mass today.

Tuesday 10th March: Tuesday of the 3rd Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 11th March: Wednesday of the 3rd Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 12th March: Thursday of the 3rd Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 13th March: Friday of the 3rd Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 14th March: Saturday of the 3rd Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 8th March: 8.30am for Margaret Hitchon RIP (Hitchon Family's Intention).

11.00am for the Intentions of Beata Ciochon and Family.

Tuesday 10th March: 10.00am for Fr Pdraig Faughnan RIP (Paul Cunane's Intention).

Thursday 12th March: 10.00am for Des Dougan RIP (Denise Dougan's Intention).

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Carol Bartlam, Batilda Temba, Monika Rackham; Angela Jordan, Margaret Saunders, 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: 1st March: Plate collection £639.05; Poor Box £14.75; Candles £53.43. CAFOD £882.10. Totals for February: Standing Orders £1,697.50; Contactless £1,931.40. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 8th March: 3rd Sunday of Lent (A) The readings focus on Baptism and new life. *Living Water* represents God's Holy Spirit we receive in Baptism to quench our spiritual thirst. The Holy Spirit, the Word of God, and the

Sacraments of the Church are the primary sources of the *living water* of Divine Grace. We are assembled here in the Church to drink this *water* of eternal life and salvation.

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

8.30am & 11am Masses: Planned Giving Envelopes for the new Tax Year are now available. If you contribute in this way, please collect your box of envelopes from Phil Hobbs after the 8.30am or 11am Mass today. If you would like to contribute by **Standing Order**, please speak to Phil who can provide details.

Please return any final **CAFOD Lent Appeal** envelopes today.

Tuesday 10th March: 10.00am Mass - we will be joined by Year 3 from St Joseph's School today.

10.45 am Baptism of KingDavid Idokpesi. Congratulations.

Wednesday 11th March: 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.

2.30pm: Film Matinée in the Parish Hall. All welcome.

7.15pm Choir Rehearsal in church. Thinking about joining the choir? Male voices particularly needed. Come along without obligation.

Thursday 12th March: The Holy Rosary will follow after 10.00am Mass today.

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.

Friday 13th March: 10.30am Stations of the Cross will follow 10.00am Mass today.

Saturday 14th March: 10.00am – 12 noon First Holy Communion Preparation Session in **St Joseph's Hall** – for all children participating in this year's programme.

Lent Formation Day for Parish Catechists. 9.30am - 3.30pm. Canon John Cooke invites catechists to St Philip Howard Church, Bishopsfield Road, Fareham PO14 1QS for a Lent Formation Day for all new

and existing Catechists. The Dominican Sisters of St Joseph from Sway led by Sr Hyacinthe OP will help lead the day. Please bring a packed lunch. If you wish to attend, please email farehamportchester@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Sunday 15th March: 4th Sunday of Lent (Mothering Sunday): 11.00am Mass - The FHC children and their families participate today. There will be a second collection for the *Diocesan Clergy Assistance Fund* at both Masses today. The Fund supports the welfare, ongoing formation and personal wellbeing of our clergy i.e. provision of spiritual direction, counselling, appraisal, ongoing formation and practical advice. It organises retreats, ministerial formation days, courses and sabbaticals.

Sunday 22nd March: New Parish Hall Celebration Shared Lunch. Following 11.00am Mass this Sunday we will enjoy a shared lunch together in our newly refurbished hall to celebrate its completion. Please bring drinks (tea & coffee provided) and a savoury dish to share (list of ingredients attached – for allergy clarity). There will then be a ‘buffet’ for all to enjoy. 8.30am Mass attendees please inform Anne Robertson of your proposed contribution dish, and 11.00am Mass attendees please inform either Maureen Smith or Marian Shaw. For dessert, cakes, scones with jam and cream will be provided and a small donation asked.

Also, **St Cassian's Pastoral Centre Open Afternoon**: 2pm - 5pm in Kintbury RG17 9SR - Come and see what the Centre does as it celebrates 50 years of running retreats for young people! Experience some of the activities run for our schools and have a look around the Centre and its grounds. Enjoy a cup of tea and some cake in the dining room. All are welcome!

Thursday 26th March: at 2.00pm, Rededication of the Grave of Georgiana Douglas, buried in Newtown Road Cemetery, Newbury, on 26th March 1926. She left the money to build St Joseph's Church, and lies alongside her brother. The *Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery* have recently funded the restoration of her grave, and at 2.00pm Fr Michael will dedicate the restored grave on the 100th anniversary of the day of her burial. The *Friends* welcome you to refreshments in the Cemetery Chapel afterwards where they can share what they have discovered about Georgiana. The Cemetery is situated in Newtown Road at RG14 7BT.

Saturday 28th March: 10.30am-4pm. 'Awakening to the Mystery of God' in the scriptures, in the environment, and in each other. How might we be more open to the presence of God now? A workshop led by Peter Bowie OSB and Martin Webb. At Douai Abbey; tea/coffee provided; £20 contribution on the day; booking and enquiries - email pastoral@douaiabbey.org.uk

Kenya Project: Thank you for your ongoing support for the charity project to assist young women in Urenga,

Kenya. Contributions of unwanted towels and bedlinen have been generous. More help is now needed for cutting the material. Just take some material and a pattern from the hall on Sunday, and return the cut-out shapes the following Sunday. Thanks!

St Joseph's 2026 Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes - Tuesday 30th June to Saturday 4th July. Stansted to Lourdes direct. 11.50am outward flight, 16.10pm inbound flight. £799 per person sharing. £39 per night single supplement. Pilgrims will incur additional charge for transfers to/from Stansted, cost TBC. To register interest, please notify the Parish office by email – office@stjosephsnewbury.org.uk

'LIFE' Fundraising Appeal: In addition to the Assisted Suicide Bill, the McArthur Bill proposing termination of the unborn up to birth, is approaching a knife-edge vote later this month. In order to assist lobbyists to fight these two bills, please donate to CNK's (Care, Not Killing) multiple campaigns across the country to keep up the pressure against this deadly legislation over the next crucial weeks. Donate at: <https://www.carenotkilling.org.uk/donate/>

Resurrection Gardens: As part of St Joseph's Easter celebrations, we are planning a display entitled '*Christ is Risen*', featuring Resurrection Gardens. These are small model gardens of Christ's burial site made with natural or craft materials. We ask for the help of parishioners - children and adults - to create this display. If you would like to participate, please speak to Fr Michael, Maureen Smith or Pauline Mason for more information. Thank you.

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 18th March (and each fortnight going forward). Currently some of the most needed items are: anti-bac spray, fruit juice, tinned fruit, tinned meat and dried milk powder. 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.

AND A FINAL THOUGHT: "Stability and peace are not built with mutual threats, nor with weapons, which sow destruction, pain, and death, but only through a reasonable, authentic, and responsible dialogue."
Pope Leo