

# St Joseph's Catholic Church

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## 4<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2026: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time - YEAR A. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February: THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD, feast. N.B. Mass at 10.00am today.**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February: Feria of the 4<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time, or St Blaise, bishop & martyr, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February: Feria of the 4<sup>th</sup> Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February: St Agatha, virgin & martyr, memorial. Mass at 10.00am.**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February: St Paul Miki & Companions, martyrs, memorial. Mass at 10.00am.**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February: Our Lady on Saturday, memorial. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.**

### Mass Intentions:

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February: 8.30am for Philip Rowlands RIP (Parish intention).

11.00am for intentions of Batilda Temba (Parish intention).

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February: 10.00am for intentions of Batilda Temba (Mike Parry's Intention).

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February: 10.00am for intentions of Fr Padraig Faughnan (Parish intention).

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February: 10.00am Mass 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, 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:** 25<sup>th</sup> January: Plate collection £408.78; Poor Box £5; Candles £30.35; Repository £5; 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection for

St John's Cathedral £260.58. Thank you for your generosity.

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> February: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)** In today's Gospel, Jesus instructs his disciples in the paradoxical blessedness of poverty, hunger, sorrow, and persecution. The Beatitudes propose to us a way of life inviting us to identify with the poor, those who mourn, the meek, and those who hunger and thirst after justice. Today is Racial Justice Sunday which is the day the Church focuses on the need to oppose racism and pursue racial justice with renewed vigour. This year the theme is: "Whoever loves God must also love his brother" (1 John 4:21): *Promoting Racial Justice in our Parishes.*

**At Masses today parishioners will be reminded of evacuation procedures in the event of a fire in the church.**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February: FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD** (A Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life). N.B. Mass at 10.00am today.

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> February:** 10.00am Mass – Year 4 children from St Joseph's School will join us, and the **Traditional Blessing of Throats** will be offered at Mass on the Feast of St Blaise.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> February:** 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 5<sup>th</sup> February:** Please note that Grand/Mothers' Prayers will not take place on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February at *Newbury Grove Care Home*, 370 London Rd, Newbury RG14 2QH.

**7.30pm RCIA Meeting** at St Francis de Sales' Parish Hall, Wash Common. Tonight's topic: *'The Catholic Church's Teaching'*.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February:** The Holy Rosary will follow immediately after 10.00am Mass today.

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> February:** 10.00am – 12 noon First Holy Communion Preparation Session in St Joseph's Hall – for all children participating in this year's programme.

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February: 11.00am Mass** – We will be joined by the First Holy Communion candidates and their families.

**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](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk) Tel: 07887 296983

**FOR THE DIARY! - Formation Morning for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion:** Fr Anthony Fyk, Director of Liturgical Formation and the Liturgy Formation team invite you to a formation morning at St Peter's Pastoral Centre, Winchester on **Saturday 9th May 2026** commencing with Mass at 9am. There will be a welcome session from Fr Anthony, a talk focussing on the Eucharist in the sacred scriptures as well as a session on Lectio Divina: "Living a Eucharistic life – what does it mean to live out the eucharist?". All Eucharistic Ministers, experienced and new, are very welcome to attend. If you wish to attend, please register via [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

**Kenya Project:** St Joseph's is to join St Francis de Sales' parish in their charity project to assist young women in the area of Urenga, Kenya. When girls reach puberty, they lose a term each academic year as they have no adequate protection during their period. Following a visit to Kenya in January 2025, Fr Zbigniew and a Kenyan parishioner asked the parish to help 50 girls to provide 'Dignity Packs' of reusable pads, underwear, and a supportive letter of encouragement. 100 packs were sewn, £3000 raised to buy 4 treadle sewing machines, a sewing teacher was found, and a sewing school begun with 60 girls enrolled. A dignity pack costs £3 to make, using donated and specialist fabric that is bought or donated here. A total of 19 sewing machines have now been acquired, and 20 girls have qualified in basic machine skills – all also learning hand sewing. Fr Zbigniew has just returned from another trip to Urenga - Needed now are: donations of unwanted printed cotton/polycotton; unwanted towels, duvet covers, and sheets. Money is needed for: wages for sewing teacher (£1000 a year), shipping costs, fabric (about £400 a year), and underwear (£300 a year approx). Teresa Dykes from St Francis' Parish will speak to us at Masses on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February about the project, and the many ways we can help grow this project which has already proved life-changing for many!

**Catholic Young Writer and Artist Awards 2026.** Entries for the *Catholic Young Writer Award* and *Catholic Young Artist Award* are now open for 2026. The *Catholic Young Writer Award* is open to all young Catholics (and pupils at Catholic schools) in England and Wales in secondary

years 8-11 inclusive. There is a cash prize for the best essay, plus a number of runner-up book prizes.

The *Catholic Young Artist Award* is open to primary school aged children. A cash prize is available for the winner and runners up will be recognised. For more information, to view entry requirements and download registration forms, please visit the below links: <https://catholicunion.org.uk/2026/01/catholic-young-writer-award-2026/> <https://catholicunion.org.uk/2026/01/catholic-young-artist-award-2026/>

**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. Get in touch via 01635 578394 or [dvg.office@btinternet.com](mailto:dvg.office@btinternet.com), visit [www.downlandvolgroup.org](http://www.downlandvolgroup.org) or fill in one of the forms available at the back of church.

**'The Fruits of Medjugorje' – Lent Reflection Day:** On **Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:pastoral@douaiabbey.org.uk). Contribution of £20 on the day – tea & coffee provided. Bring your own packed lunch.

**Pilgrimage to Medjugorje: 11<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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. The shopping list on the Foodbank's website shows that anti-bac spray, fruit juice, Pringles, tinned fruit, tinned meat and pasta/rice are urgently needed. Your generosity is appreciated.

**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](mailto:office@stjosephsnewbury.org.uk)

**AND A FINAL THOUGHT:** If at first you don't succeed, then skydiving isn't for you!