

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

Sunday 21st December: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
Year A. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 22nd December: Liturgy of 22nd December. **No Mass today.**

Tuesday 23rd December: Liturgy of 23rd December. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Wednesday 24th December: CHRISTMAS EVE. No Mass at 10.00am. THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD: Children's Christmas Vigil Mass at 6.30pm. Christmas Night Mass at 11.00pm.

Thursday 25th December: CHRISTMAS DAY. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Friday 26th December: ST STEPHEN, the First Martyr, feast. NB Mass at 12 noon.

Saturday 27th December: ST JOHN, Apostle, Evangelist, feast. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 21st December: 11am for Mary and Tony Kirk RIP (Annette Haines' Intention).

Tuesday 23rd December: 10.00am for intentions of Daphne Priestley (Joyce Delahunty's intention).

Thursday 25th December: 8.30am for Nathan Tamar-Agha RIP (Family Intention).

11am for Barbara Rowlands RIP (Phil Rowland's Intention).

Friday 26th December: Denis & Frances Dougan RIP (Denise Dougan's Intention),

Saturday 27th December: 10am for Philip Smith RIP (Jane Smith's Intention).

Sunday 28th December: THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY. Year A. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 29th December: ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, feast. No Mass today.

Tuesday 30th December: Liturgy of the Sixth Day within Octave of Christmas. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Wednesday 31st December: Liturgy of the Seventh Day within Octave of Christmas. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Thursday 1st January: MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, solemnity. NB - Mass at 11.00am

Friday 2nd January: Ss Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church, memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 3rd January: Saturday of Christmastide before Epiphany or **The Most Holy Name of Jesus, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am** followed by **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.**

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 28th December: 8.30am for Maura Clarke RIP (Deidre Surtees' Intention).

11am Terry Dixon RIP (Maureen Dixon's Intention).

Friday 2nd January: For Peter & Colleen (60th Wedding) Bridget Lister's Intention.

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Fr Pdraig Faughnan, Carol Bartlam, Anne Horner, Angela Jordan, Margaret Saunders, Elizabeth Skelton, Oliver Avery, Kate Kennington, Jean O'Neill, 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: 14th December: Plate collection £702.22; Candles £40.05; Poor Box £63.00; Repository £187.00; Church donations £1.51. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 21st December: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT –

Year A. St. Joseph's loving, responsive obedience to God is modelled for us in Matthew's Gospel. This obedience is the central theme of today's readings, with special emphasis on the Virgin Birth of Jesus.

Christingle Service 3pm at St Francis de Sales Church. Children's craft activities, (including making the Christingles and dressing for the Nativity play,) from 2pm in St Francis' Hall. Places are limited, so please contact Trisha Craig (by WhatsApp on 07507 532540) to register and for more details. All are welcome to attend the service.

CRIB COLLECTION 2025. Offerings at the crib this year will go to ***'The Friends of the Holy Land'***. This charity will support Christians in Israel and Gaza in these very testing times when they have suffered greatly.

Wednesday 24th December: CHRISTMAS EVE: No 10.00am Mass today. Also, the church will be closed for decoration today, and so **Wednesday Quiet Prayer Time** will resume on **Wednesday 7th January.**

6.30pm Children's Christmas Vigil Mass with the Music Group; **10.30pm Carols** followed by **Christmas Night Mass** at **11pm.**

Thursday 25th December: CHRISTMAS DAY: Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am. N.B. No Grandmothers and Mothers Prayers at Newbury Grove Care Home today or next Thursday.

Friday 26th December (Boxing Day): Feast of St Stephen: Mass at 12 noon today.

Sunday 28th December: THE FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY - YEAR A. On the last Sunday of the year, we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. We are here to offer all the members of our own families on the altar for God's blessing.

Thursday 1st January: MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD, Solemnity. NB: New Year's Day Mass at 11.00am. 12 noon Mass at St Francis de Sales' Church, Wash Common during which the **Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick** will be offered.

Parish Christmas Collection 2025: As an alternative to donating via the 'plate' collection at the Christmas Masses, the following link can also be used to make the traditional Christmas clergy offering:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/newbury-st-joseph-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2025>

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.

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

300 Club Draw for December: Winners: 1st Prize £100 – Jane Smith; 2nd Prize £50 – Celia Rose; 3rd Prize £25 – Michael Parry. Congratulations!

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.

A FINAL THOUGHT: "No love that in a family dwells, no carolling in frosty air, nor all the steeple-shaking bells can with this single Truth compare – That God was man in Palestine and lives today in Bread and Wine."

Wishing a very Happy Christmas to all!

