

St Joseph's Catholic Church

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5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

Sunday 8th February 2026: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - YEAR A. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 9th February: Feria of the 5th Week in Ordinary Time. No Mass today.

Tuesday 10th February: St Scholastica, Virgin. Memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 11th February: Feria of the 5th Week in Ordinary Time or Our Lady of Lourdes, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 12th February: Feria of the 5th Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 13th February: Feria of the 5th Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 14th February: ST CYRIL, Religious & ST METHODIUS, Bishop, Patrons of Europe, feast. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 8th February: 8.30am for the intentions of Fr Padraig Faughnan (Mike Parry's Intention).

11.00am for Emily Zott RIP (Monika Rackham's Intention).

Wednesday 11th February: 10.00am for the intentions of Sebastian Ciochon.

Saturday 14th February: 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, 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 February: Plate collection £860.57; Poor Box £5.66; Candles £27.01; Repository £4. Totals for January: Contactless £1,221 plus £86 for the Cathedral

collection; Standing Orders £2,082.50. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 8th February: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A) The common theme of today's three readings is our two-fold mission to the world, to be salt and to be the light of a city built on a hilltop.

11.00am Mass – We welcome our First Holy Communion children and families.

Wednesday 11th February: 'World Day of the Sick'. 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.

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

Thursday 12th February: 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.

2.30pm – 5pm Film Matinée in St Joseph's Hall. 'Sweet Charity', with Shirley Maclaine. All welcome.

Sunday 15th February: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A): Teresa Dykes from St Francis de Sales' Parish will speak at both Masses today about a charity project to assist young women in the area of Urenga, Kenya.

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

The Annual World Day of Prayer - formerly the 'Women's World Day of Prayer' - will be held here at St Joseph's church on **Friday 6th March at 11.00am** (following morning Mass). PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF TIME from previous years. The theme for this year's service is 'Come, I will give you rest' and has been written by Christian women in Nigeria.

All are welcome. Refreshments will be served afterwards in St Joseph's Hall.

FOR THE DIARY! - Formation Morning for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communication: 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.

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 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 next Sunday about the project, and the many ways we can help grow this project which has already proved life-changing for many!

CENTENARY of St Joseph's Church 2027: Next year will see the centenary of the building of our parish church in 1927! Clearly, we wish to mark this milestone with events, celebrations and initiatives next year. Thoughts and ideas are encouraged, and it is hoped to then form a **Centenary Committee** to plan our celebrations. Please share your interest and ideas with Fr Michael and the Parish Office!

PARKING IN HAWTHORNE ROAD! A complaint has been received from residents in Hawthorn Road (opposite the church) about ongoing and persistent illegal parking. Many parishioners are parking here to attend 8.30am and 11.00am Masses on Sunday causing a serious and ongoing problem for residents due to: parking across dropped kerbs; on and across white no-parking access lines; on double yellow lines; and in positions that block

driveways and restrict vehicle access for residents, causing them significant disruption, stress, and inconvenience, which could also prevent access for emergency services. **RESTRICTIONS ARE CLEARLY MARKED, YET ARE BEING IGNORED!** Repercussions and fines may well follow if this situation is not resolved. Please take note, and park legally with courtesy to residents.

Catholic Young Writer and Artist Awards 2026: Entries 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 visit: <https://catholicunion.org.uk/2026/01/catholic-young-writer-award-2026/> <https://catholicunion.org.uk/2026/01/catholic-young-artist-award-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.

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

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: Nobody fails at anything until they stop trying.