

St Joseph's Catholic Church

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6th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR A

Sunday 15th February 2026: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time - YEAR A. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 16th February: Feria of the 6th Week in Ordinary Time. No Mass today.

Tuesday 17th February: Feria of the 6th Week in Ordinary Time or The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 18th February: Beginning of the Season of Lent. ASH WEDNESDAY, Day of Fasting and Abstinence. Masses at 10.00am and 7.30pm.

Thursday 19th February: Thursday after Ash Wednesday. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 20th February: Friday after Ash Wednesday. N.B. No 10.00am Mass. 1pm Requiem Mass for Philip Rowlands RIP.

Saturday 21st February: Saturday after Ash Wednesday. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 15th February: 8.30am for Beatrice Fava RIP (Fr Michael's Intention).

11.00am for Philip Rowlands RIP (Mike Parry's Intention).

Tuesday 17th February: 10.00am in Thanksgiving for Night Adoration.

Wednesday 18th February: 10.00am for Colleen Morel RIP (Marcia Morel's Intention).

Friday 20th February: 1pm Requiem Mass for Philip Rowlands RIP.

Saturday 21st 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, Monika Rackham, 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: 8th February: Plate collection £769.53; Poor Box £2.40; Candles £42.59; Repository £0.50. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 15th February: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Today's readings challenge us to choose freely and wisely in order to observe the laws given us by a loving and caring God. God revealed His laws through Moses and the prophets in the Old Testament and through His own Son, Jesus, in the New Testament.

Teresa Dykes from St Francis' Parish will speak to us at Masses today about their **Kenya Charity** initiative, and the ways we can help grow this project which has already proved life-changing for many!

Wednesday 18th February: ASH WEDNESDAY (start of Lent): Masses with distribution of Ashes at 10.00am and 7.30pm (a day of fasting and abstinence). Lent is a 40-day season of personal and communal conversion and renewal using the tools of prayer, fasting and penance. In Lent we accompany Jesus on his journey to Jerusalem and to his Death and Resurrection. Lent is a preparation for the celebration of Easter.

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 19th 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.

7.30pm: RCIA Meeting in St Francis de Sales' Parish Hall, Wash Common. Tonight's session focuses on Preparation for the Rite of Election.

Friday 20th February: No 10.00am Mass today. 1pm: Requiem Mass for Philip Rowlands RIP. Those attending are asked by Philip's family to wear bright colours!

Sunday 22nd February: First Sunday of Lent (A)

11am Mass: The Music Group will play today.

Friday 27th February: Family Fast Day Collection (CAFOD Lent Appeal). Envelopes available next Sunday for

return on Sunday 1st March. This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table and grow food in difficult conditions. Alternative to envelopes, donate online at cafod.org.uk/envelope, call 0303 303 3030, text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10, or scan the QR code on next Sunday's newsletter.

The Annual World Day of Prayer – (formerly 'Women's World Day of Prayer') will be held at St Joseph's Church on **Friday 6th March at 11.00am** (following Mass). PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF TIME from previous years. This year's theme: '*Come, I will give you rest*' and has been written by Christian women in Nigeria. All welcome. Refreshments will follow in St Joseph's Hall.

ACTION! Pro-suicide campaigners are lobbying MPs to use what is known as the Parliament Acts to bypass the House of Lords and force the Assisted Suicide Bill into law in the next Parliamentary session. Such use of the Parliament Acts to bypass the Lords' scrutiny of a Private Members' Bill is wholly inappropriate, and would be its first such usage. Polling confirms that this is not supported by the public. *Right To Life UK*'s EasyAction tool lets you email your MP asking them to oppose attempts to force assisted suicide into law by bypassing the House of Lords. Please visit www.righttolife.org.uk/ASCommons2026 to ask your MP to oppose forcing the Assisted Suicide Bill into law.

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

Fr Anthony Fyk 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. Following a welcome from Fr Anthony, - a talk on the Eucharist in the scriptures; 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 welcome. Please register via liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

CENTENARY of St Joseph's Church 2027: Next year is the centenary of the building of our parish church in 1927! We wish to mark this milestone with events, celebrations and initiatives next year. Thoughts and ideas are invited, and it is hoped to 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 Hawthorne Road (opposite the church) about persistent illegal parking. Parishioners are parking here to attend 8.30am and 11.00am Masses on Sunday causing ongoing problems 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 and causing them significant disruption and inconvenience, which could prevent access for emergency services. **RESTRICTIONS ARE CLEARLY MARKED, YET ARE BEING IGNORED!** Fines may well follow if this situation is not resolved. Please take note, and park legally with courtesy to residents.

'The Fruits of Medjugorje' – Lent Reflection Day. On **Saturday 28th February** at Douai Abbey 10am-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

The Quiet Garden Movement: This year Tithe Barn Quiet Garden Days will be held on Friday 22nd May, Friday 10th July and Friday 11th September. 10am – 4pm with coffee from 9.45am. £20 donation, a good lunch is provided. To book, please speak to Penny Lovelock or email the parish office for contact details.

West Berkshire Foodbank: Donated items can be left in the collection box at the back of church at any time. Donations of dried milk powder, fruit juice, tinned meat and toilet cleaner would be particularly welcome. Thank you for your generosity.

300 Club Winners for February: 1st Prize (£100) Deodata Blyth Currie; 2nd Prize (£50) Monika Rackham; 3rd Prize (£25) Shawqi Tamar-Agha. Congratulations!

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: "Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another, 'What? You too? I thought I was the only one!' - C.S. Lewis