

St Joseph's Catholic Church

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6th SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A

Sunday 10th May: 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR A.

Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 11th May: Monday of the 6th Week of Easter. No Mass today.

Tuesday 12th May: Tuesday of the 6th Week of Easter or Ss Nereus & Achilleus, Martyrs, or St Pancras, Martyr, optional memorials. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 13th May: Wednesday of the 6th Week of Easter, or, Our Lady of Fatima, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 14th May: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, Holy Day of Obligation, and Solemnity. Masses at 10.00am and 7.30pm.

Friday 15th May: Friday of the 6th Week of Easter after Ascension. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 16th May: Saturday of the 6th Week of Easter after Ascension. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 10th May: 8.30am for Pam Thompson RIP (Anne Thompson's Intention)

11am for Tony & Mary Kirk RIP (Kirk Family's Intention).

Tuesday 12th May: 10.00am for Martin Pereira & Family RIP (Pereira Family intention).

Wednesday 13th May: 10.00am for Emilie Zott RIP (Monika Rackham's Intention).

Thursday 14th May: 10.00am for George Fava RIP (Fr Michael's intention).

Saturday 16th May: 10.00am in thanksgiving for night adoration.

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Chris Turner, Carol Bartlam, Graham Attridge, Angela Jordan, Elizabeth Skelton, 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: 3rd May 2026: Plate collection £622.41; Poor Box £12.00; Candles £33.19; Repository £10.00. April totals: Standing Orders £2,427.50. Contactless £1,783.00; and £170 for The Holy Places and £470 for The Clergy Assistance Fund.

Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 10th May: 6th SUNDAY OF EASTER (A) – Today's readings explore Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit to his apostles. Who is the Holy Spirit? What are his roles? How can we experience the Holy Spirit in our daily lives?

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

12.45pm: Baptism of Nellie Josephine Holton. Congratulations!

Wednesday Open Church: Many thanks to Rosie Byrne for kindly arranging and supervising the weekly Open Church sessions over the past few years. If you would like to volunteer to take over this important role, please speak to Fr Michael. For the time being, there will be no Open Church sessions on Wednesdays.

Thursday 14th May: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD (Holy Day of Obligation). Masses at 10.00am and 7.30pm. The Feast of the Ascension of Jesus, celebrated forty days after Easter, commemorates the moment when the risen Christ, in the sight of his apostles, ascended bodily into heaven (Acts 1:9-11). It marks the completion of his earthly mission and the beginning of his exaltation at the right hand of the Father, where he intercedes for us as our eternal High Priest. The Ascension is a reminder that heaven is our true home and that Jesus, fully God and fully man, has gone before us to prepare a place for us in the Father's house.

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 15th May: 10. 2.30pm – **Film Matinée** in the Parish Hall – *'The Miracle Club'* with Maggie Smith (her last film)
7pm-9.30pm - Quiz Night, Raffle, and Auction in aid of the UNHCR (United Nations Refugee Agency) at Ace

Space. St Nicholas Rd, Newbury RG14 5PR. £5 per ticket. Put a team of 6 together or join a team on the night. Book a ticket or just turn up. Everyone welcome, including children. An enjoyable social evening, not just for quizzers, includes nibbles & squash. You are welcome to bring your own drinks. Would you donate an item or pledge a promise for the Raffle or Auction? Contact jackiepaynter@hotmail.com or call **07717165645**

Saturday 16th May: 10.00am – 12 noon Preparation for First Holy Communion Candidates in the Parish Hall. The children will participate in tomorrow's 11.00am Mass.

Sunday 17th May: 7th SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR A. The annual Second Collection for the **Catholic Communications Network** is taken at Masses today.

Thursday 21st May: 11.00am-2pm Free NHS Health Checks in St Joseph's Parish Hall for those aged 30-74 years available offered by 'Solutions for Health' i.e. checks for blood pressure, diabetes, heart and kidney disease etc. and personalised lifestyle advice offered. Referrals to your GP if required.

Saturday 23rd May: 10.00am-1pm 'The Gifts and Fruits of Love', mini on-line (Zoom) retreat about the Holy Spirit empowers us. Includes Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and talk from guest speaker Dr. Maria Heath, Director of Mission Northampton. Register in advance at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/48kbB0i3Szy9mHowQ6kweQ#/registration>

MAY – Mary's Month: May is known traditionally among Catholics as 'Mary's Month,' a specific month of the year when devotions are made in honour of the Blessed Mother. In ancient Greece and Rome, the month of May was dedicated to pagan goddesses connected to fertility and springtime. This, combined with other rituals commemorating the new season of Spring, led many to view May as a month of life and motherhood. In some parts of the early Church, there was a major feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary celebrated on the 15th May, but it was not until the eighteenth century that the month of May received a particular association with Our Lady. In 1945, Pope Pius XII classed May as a Marian month when he established the feast of the Queenship of Mary on 31st May. After Vatican II, this feast was moved to 22nd August, but 31st May became instead the Feast of the Visitation of Mary. This May, let us frequently call on the help of Mary's prayers, especially by attending Mass and by reciting the Rosary.

The Great Novena (or 9 Days of Prayer). Between Ascension and Pentecost many pray with Mary, Peter, and the Apostles in the Upper Room, for the coming of the Holy Spirit. In the 'Our Father' we pray 'Thy Kingdom come.' In this Novena, Catholics are invited to join with Anglican and other Christians in the 'Thy Kingdom Come'

initiative. Just as in January we have the Week of Prayer for the Unity of Christians, so in this week, we join ecumenically with our brother and sister Christians in other communities to pray for the mission of the Church and the spread of the Gospel in our land. During this Novena, why not pray each day the great Prayer to the Holy Spirit for this intention: *Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth. Let us pray. O God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the gifts of the same Spirit, they may be truly wise and ever rejoice in His consolations. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

PARISH LOURDES PILGRIMAGE 2026: Transport has been arranged to and from Stanstead. The cost is **£45** per person. Please pay cash or cheque payable to "**The Tea Bar**" and hand in to the Presbytery.

SAVE THE DATE: Saturday 6th June: Family Quiz Night at St Francis de Sales. Proceeds to Justice and Peace charities. For details, please contact Trisha Craig (trishacraig@hotmail.com)

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 6th May. 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.

If you would like to receive a copy of this newsletter by email each week, please contact the parish office.

AND A FINAL THOUGHT: "The Ascension of Jesus into heaven acquaints us with this deeply consoling reality on our journey: that in Christ, true God and true man, our humanity was taken to God. Christ opened the path to us. He is like a roped guide climbing a mountain who, on reaching the summit, pulls us up to him and leads us to God. If we entrust our life to him, if we let ourselves be guided by him, we are certain to be in safe hands, in the hands of our Saviour, of our Advocate."

Pope Francis 2013.