

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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FEAST OF THE BAPTISM **OF THE LORD - YEAR A**

Sunday 11th January: THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD, feast, Year A. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 12th January: BEGINNING OF ORDINARY TIME. Feria of the 1st Week of Ordinary Time or St Aelred, Abbot, optional memorial. No Mass today.

Tuesday 13th January: Feria of the 1st Week of Ordinary Time or St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 14th January: Feria of the 1st Week of Ordinary Time. N.B. REQUIEM MASS at 10.00am.

Thursday 15th January: Feria of the 1st Week of Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 16th January: Feria of the 1st Week of Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 17th January: St Anthony of Egypt, Abbot, memorial. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 11th January: 8.30am Mass for Jean O'Neill RIP (Marian Mudd's intention).

Wednesday 14th January: 10.00am Requiem Mass for Jean O'Neill RIP.

Friday 16th January: 10.00am in Thanksgiving for Night Adoration.

Saturday 17th January: 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, Damian Perry, Angela Jordan, Margaret Saunders, Elizabeth Skelton, Oliver Avery, Kate Kennington, 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: 4th January: Plate collection £809.14; Candles £35.30; Poor Box £60; Crib Collection £96.85. Totals for December: Standing Orders £2,277.50; Contactless £1,324. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 11th January: THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD (A) The Baptism of the Lord is the great event celebrated by the Eastern Churches on the feast of Epiphany because it is the occasion of the first public revelation of all the Three Persons in the Holy Trinity, and the official revelation of Jesus as the Son of God to the world by God the Father. Hence, it is described by all four Gospels. It marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

11.00am Mass – The First Holy Communion candidates will join us today.

Tuesday 13th January: 7.30pm Meeting of the Parish Finance Committee in the Parish Hall.

Wednesday 14th January: 10.00am Mass today is a REQUIEM MASS for Jean O'Neill RIP.

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 15th January: 10.00am Mass – We will be joined by the **Year 6** children from St Joseph's School.

10.30am Grand/Mothers' Prayers every Thursday at *Newbury Grove Care Home*, 370 London Rd, Newbury RG14 2QH to pray for the needs of our children and grandchildren, and for a strengthening of faith. New attendees are particularly welcome at present. For more information speak with Fr Michael or Elizabeth Matias after Mass.

New Archbishop of Westminster: Pope Leo has appointed the **Right Reverend Richard Moth** as new Archbishop of Westminster. Ordained for the Archdiocese of Southwark in 1982, Archbishop-elect Moth has served as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton

since 2015. Prior to that, he was the Catholic Bishop of the Forces from 2009 to 2015. He will become the 12th Archbishop of Westminster, succeeding Cardinal Vincent Nichols, who has served in the role since 2009. Fr Michael contacted the Archbishop-elect, having known him in his Forces role, and assured him of our prayers following the announcement. He responded thanking all at St Joseph's for their best wishes and prayers. He will be installed in office on 14th February.

Online Gift Card Fraud: Gift Card fraud is an increasingly common way of tricking victims into purchasing gift cards and sharing their details, leading to financial loss. Please be aware that there have been scam messages circulating in the diocese which appear to come from priests or diocesan staff, asking people to buy Gift Cards or provide financial help urgently. The Diocese and its clergy will never ask for money, gift cards, vouchers, or personal details by email, text message, or social media. If you receive a message of this kind, do not respond, and do not send any money. Please report it to your parish office or to the Diocese communications team at communications@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk so that others can be alerted. Thank you for your vigilance and for helping to protect our parish communities.

IT Email issues: Issues continue with emailing those parishioners who have email addresses ending with: **yahoo.co.uk; aol.com; me.com; sky.com; mac.com;** and some **icloud** addresses. Messages are notified as 'undeliverable'. The diocesan IT department are trying to resolve issue, but it appears that some issues may also lie with your email provider.

Douai Abbey Spring Pastoral Programme – Begins on **Saturday 31st January** with '*An Introduction to the Gospel of St Matthew*' presented by Fr Gervase Holdaway OSB, **2-4pm**, no charge. In this new year we read the Gospel of St Matthew again at Mass. Come to discover the particular character of this Gospel and see how it differs from the other Gospels, and thereby enhance your understanding and the celebrations of the coming Sundays in Year A.

From the Diocesan Vocations Team: On **Saturday 17th January** the next '**Seeker Saturday**' event takes place for those discerning a calling to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life from 11am-3pm, at Sacred Heart Church, Fareham. PO16 ONQ. Alternatively, talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke, vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869.

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. Just a few hours a month could get someone to an

urgent medical appointment or stay connected in their community. Your spare time could be someone's lifeline. Interested? Get in touch via 01635 578394 or dvg.office@btinternet.com, visit www.downlandvolgroup.org or fill in one of the forms available at the back of church.

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.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje 11th-18th 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

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. Your generosity is appreciated.

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: Just as water always seeks and fills the lowest place, so the moment God finds you abased and empty, his glory and power flow in.