

# together

ISSUE TWO  
WINTER 2007  
News from your West  
Berkshire Pastoral Area



**WELCOME TO THE SECOND EDITION OF TOGETHER IN WHICH YOU WILL FIND INFORMATION ON ALL OF THE ADVENT and CHRISTMAS SERVICES IN THE PASTORAL AREA** - See inside pages for details

**Pastoral Area Celebration - Summer 2008** Next summer there will be a first opportunity to get together as a Pastoral Area with a celebration taking place at Douai Abbey on Sunday 29th June. Full details of the form of the celebration have yet to be decided but the day will include a picnic lunch in the grounds of the Abbey, followed by a concelebrated Mass led by Bishop Crispian. Everyone will be welcome and special arrangements will be made to ensure that children are able to participate fully.

2008 sees important anniversaries being celebrated in four of our parishes and this will be one of the themes for the day. These anniversaries are :- ■ **St Joseph's, Newbury** - opened in 1928; ■ **St Bernadette's, Pangbourne** - was founded in 1958; ■ **St Francis de Sales, Wash Common** - opened in 1968, ■ **Our Lady of the Assumption, Thatcham** - opened in 1978.

More information about the celebration will be published in the next issue of Together - available at the beginning of Lent.

**Father Ignatius takes over at Our Lady, Thatcham** You may recall that Father Ignatius Maddineni began his new role as Priest in Charge at Thatcham just as Issue One was going to print. He had something of a Baptism of Fire - taking on his new Ministry, overseeing new Mass times and meeting his new parishioners as well as attending a Larger Pastoral Area Council meeting and a Parish Council meeting within days of his arrival. Here is an opportunity to get to know a little more about him.



Father Ignatius was born 36 years ago in Andhra Pradesh, India's most populous state and home to around 80 million people. An area prone to extremes of weather and temperature, he describes May as the hottest month when the temperature frequently rises to 50°C.

"The monsoon begins in July most years, there is a second summer in September and nobody knows what to expect in November!". This is the time of year when the coastal regions in particular are threatened by cyclones, floods and tsunamis and Father Ignatius' home village often experiences severe flooding even though it is 20 miles inland. He still has vivid memories of a cyclone which hit Andhra Pradesh in 1977 and killed over 10,000 people, a disaster very similar to the recent events which hit Bangladesh in November 2007

His early influences included Spanish, French, Italian and British Missionary Priests who worked throughout the state. Indeed, his own parish church which was founded in 1932, was a missionary church until 1950. He retains fond memories of one Mill Hill Missionary priest in particular, Father Joseph Modi, who sold his car to pay for a dome to finish the roof of the church. So he was delighted to find that his new parish were welcoming Father James Mooney of the Mill Hill Missionaries at the end of November when the Thatcham parish are holding a Mission event.

His family in India is made up of his father who is a retired farmer, two sisters and a brother. He also has two nieces and a nephew. His mother sadly died in 2002 aged only 57 and is still greatly missed. The first ten years of his life were spent at home with his family followed by boarding school until he was 16. Ten years in a Seminary led to his ordination in 1998. On May 28th 2008, he will celebrate 10 years as a priest and is looking forward to celebrating that occasion here in West Berkshire.

He first came to the UK in September 2005 to work as a supply priest in Birmingham for 3 months and returned to the UK in June 2007. Since then he has been training and working in various parts of the country including Winchester, London, Durham and Portsmouth.

Within his new parish he hopes to strengthen the existing institutions and to encourage greater participation by everyone. He sees stronger families as the key to stronger parishes and has an ambition to visit every Catholic household at least once during his stay. He lives the values he preaches and hopes one day to see the time when everyone in India has a home, clothes to wear and enough to eat. On a wider front he is praying and working for a fairer and more just society throughout the world.

*(continued on back page)*

■ **If you feel that you have something of interest to contribute** on any local relevant issue, please contact the editor: **Hilary Wynn**, email: [thewynns@waitrose.com](mailto:thewynns@waitrose.com). Articles should be no more than 300 words long. Digital pictures are welcome. Shorter regular pieces will also be considered. We cannot undertake to use all copy sent, due to limitations on space. The editor's decision is final.

**Advent and Christmas Services - West Berkshire Pastoral Area**



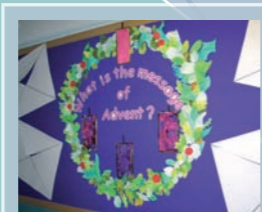
**St Joseph's**  
**Fr Padraig Faughnan**  
 105 London Road, Newbury RG14 1JP  
**Phone:** 01635 40167  
**Email:** parishpriest@stjosephsnewbury.org.uk  
**Website:** www.stjosephsnewbury.org.uk

**Advent Holy Hour**  
 Sun 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd Dec: 4:00 - 5:00 pm  
**Penitential Service**  
 Monday 17 December: 8:00 pm  
**Carol Service**  
 Christmas Eve: Monday 11:30 pm  
**Christmas Masses**  
 Christmas Eve: Monday Midnight 12:00 am  
 Christmas Day: 8:30 am & 11:00 am  
 (Weekdays: Tue - Fri 10:00 am - except 25 Dec)



**St Francis de Sales**  
**Fr Eamon Walsh**  
 Warren Lodge, Warren Road  
 Wash Common, Newbury RG14 6NH  
**Phone:** 01635 40332  
**Email:** st-francis-de-sales@hotmail.co.uk  
**Website:** www.StFrancisDeSales.org.uk

**Advent music and reflections**  
 Friday 7 December: 7:30 pm  
**Penitential Service**  
 Friday 14 December: 7:30 pm  
**Christingle Service**  
 Sunday 16 December: 3:00 pm  
**Carol Service**  
 Christmas Eve: Monday 11:30 pm  
**Christmas Masses**  
 Christmas Eve: Monday 5:00 pm (Children's)  
 Midnight 12:00 am  
 Christmas Day: 10:00 am  
 (Weekdays: Tue-Sat 10:00 am - except 25 Dec)



**St Cassian's Centre**  
**Bro Anthony** - Retreat enquiries  
 Wallington's Road, Kintbury RG17 9SR  
**Phone:** 01488 658267  
**Email:** admin@kintbury.org  
**Website:** www.kintbury.org



**Our Lady of the Assumption**  
**Fr Ignatius Maddineni**  
 7 Bath Road, Thatcham RG18 3AG  
**Phone:** 01635 863430 (Off) / 864416 (Presb)

**Penitential Service**  
 Wednesday 12 December: 2:00 pm  
**Christmas Masses**  
 Saturday 22 December: 6:15 pm  
 Sunday 23 December: 10:00 am  
 Christmas Eve: Monday 5:30 pm (Children's)  
 Midnight 12:00 am (Doors open 11:30 pm)  
 Christmas Day: Tuesday 10:00 am  
**Carol Service**  
 Sunday 6 January: 3:00 pm

**St Finian's Catholic Primary School**  
 The Ridge, Cold Ash, Thatcham RG18 9HU  
**Phone:** 01635 865925 **Fax:** 01635 874892  
**Email:** office.stfinians@westberks.org  
**Website:** www.westberks.org/schools/stfinians

**Advent Mass** 12 December: 9:30 pm  
**Infants Nativity** 12 Dec: 2:15 pm (ticket only)  
**Carol Service** 19 December: 7:00 pm

**The Society of Franciscan Pilgrims**  
**Phone:** 01635 552240  
**Website:** www.soc-franciscanpilgrims.co.uk  
**Meditation:** Monday 7.30 pm

**Cold Ash Retreat & Conference Centre**  
 The Ridge, Cold Ash, Thatcham RG18 9HU  
**Phone:** 01635 865353  
**Email:** fmmcac@aoc.com

**St Joseph's Catholic Primary School**  
**Mrs Alison Webster:** Head Teacher  
 Newport Road, Newbury RG14 2AW  
**Phone:** 01635 43455 **Fax:** 01635 552859  
**Email:** office.stjosephs@westberks.org  
**Website:** www.stjosephsprimaryschool.org.uk

**Carol Service** to be held at St Joseph's Church  
 Wednesday 12 December - 1:30 pm  
 Thursday 13 December - 7:00 pm



**St Paul's Catholic Primary School**  
 City Road, Tilehurst, Reading, RG31 4SZ  
**Phone:** 0118 942 2003  
**Fax:** 0118 945 4924  
**Email:** office.stpauls@westberks.org  
**Website:** www.westberks.org/schools/stpauls

**Advent Service** KS2, to be held at St Joseph's Church Monday 17 December: 7:00 pm



**St Bernadette's**  
**Fr Benedict Thompson OSB**  
 Horseshoe Road, Pangbourne RG8 7JH  
**Phone:** 01189 715350  
**Email:** parish@douaiabbey.org.uk  
**Website:** www.douaiparish.org.uk

**Christmas Masses**  
 Sunday 23 December: 9:00 am  
 Christmas Eve: Monday 9:30 pm  
 Christmas Day: Tuesday 9:00 am  
 (Weekday Masses resume: Tue 8 January  
 Usual Sunday Mass resume: Sun 30 Dec)



**St Mary's**  
**Fr Benedict Thompson OSB**  
 Upper Woolhampton, Reading RG7 5TQ  
**Phone:** 01189 715350  
**Email:** parish@douaiabbey.org.uk  
**Website:** www.douaiparish.org.uk

**Christmas Masses**  
 Sunday 23 December: 9:00 am  
 Christmas Day: Tuesday 9:00 am  
 Weekdays: None  
 (Usual Mass times: Sun 30 Dec)

**Douai Abbey Church of Our Lady and St Edmund, King & Martyr**  
**Rt Rev Dom Geoffrey Scott** - Abbot  
 Upper Woolhampton, Reading RG7 5TQ  
**Phone:** 0118 971 5300  
**Fax:** 0118 971 5303  
**Email:** info@douaiabbey.org.uk

**Christmas Masses**  
 Sunday 23 December: 11:00 am  
 Christmas Eve: Monday 9:00 pm  
 Christmas Day: Tuesday 11:00 am  
 (Weekday Masses as usual: 7:45 am)



**Blessed Hugh Faringdon Catholic Secondary School**  
**Mr Paul Barras** - Head Teacher  
 Fawley Road, Southcote, Reading, RG30 3EP  
**Phone:** 0118 957 4730  
**Fax:** 0118 956 8150  
**Email:** admin.hughfaringdon@reading.gov.uk  
**Website:** www.hughfaringdon.reading.sch.uk



**St Luke's**  
**Fr Benedict Thompson OSB**  
 Englefield Road, Theale RG7 5AS  
**Phone:** 01189 715350  
**Email:** parish@douaiabbey.org.uk  
**Website:** www.douaiparish.org.uk

**Penitential Service**  
 Wednesday 19 December: 8:00 pm  
**Carol Service**  
 Christmas Eve: Monday 7:30 pm  
**Christmas Masses**  
 Saturday 22 December: 5:30 pm  
 Christmas Eve: Monday 8:00 pm  
 (Weekday Masses resume: Wed 9 January  
 Usual Sunday Mass resume: Sun 30 Dec)



**St Oswald's**  
**Fr Benedict Thompson OSB**  
 Abbey Pk, Clayhill, Burghfield Common RG7 3HQ  
**Phone:** 01189 715350  
**Email:** parish@douaiabbey.org.uk  
**Website:** www.douaiparish.org.uk

**Christmas Masses**  
 Sunday 23 December: 11:00 am  
 Christmas Eve: Monday 10:30 pm  
 Christmas Day: Tuesday 11:00 am  
 (Weekday Masses resume: Thu 10 January  
 Usual Sunday Mass resume: Sun 30 Dec)



WEST BERKSHIRE

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NEWBURY

THATCHAM

WASH COMMON

WOOLHAMPTON

PANGBOURNE

THEALE

BURGHFIELD

CENTRAL & WEST READING

LODDON VALLEY

NORTH EAST HAMPSHIRE

NORTH WEST HAMPSHIRE

**Father Ignatius (continued)** His greatest inspiration has been Mother Theresa and he was fortunate enough to celebrate Mass in the Mother House at Calcutta in June 2000. Inspired during that visit to do something special, on 28th December 2000, the feast of Holy Innocents, he began an orphanage project initially looking after 25 children. Starting with no facilities and no money, the orphanage was helped by local people and with support coming later from the London and Birmingham dioceses it now looks after 150 children, aged between 6 and 16. The orphanage provides books, clothing, stationery, health care, accommodation and food and Father Ignatius is very passionate about the success of this project. Given its phenomenal growth in just seven years, he sees the hand of God to be very evident in this work.

His other interests include playing and watching cricket and he is currently looking for a team in which he can play next spring. He enjoys meeting new people and loves talking. He also likes to keep in touch with his family and friends via e-mail.

When recently asked by one of his parishioners how he was settling in at Thatcham, in typically positive fashion he replied "I've settled!"

**New Liturgy Advisory Group set up for the Pastoral Area** A new group, chaired by Father Benedict, has been formed to help identify, prioritise and address the liturgical needs within our Pastoral Area. To establish a representative group, our Parish



FR BENEDICT THOMPSON

Priests nominated individuals to serve each parish. Two additional members with special responsibility for representing the views, needs and aspirations of our youngsters complete the group. Some churches already have their own liturgy groups. The advisory group is not there to interfere, but to offer support to these groups, encouraging them to share their skills and talents for the benefit of others within the Pastoral Area.

The first task of this group is to identify the liturgical strengths, weaknesses and needs within our Pastoral Area and to put together some achievable short, medium and longer term objectives. They will also provide recommendations to the Pastoral Area Council about how these objectives might be achieved.

The group will only be directly involved in the organisation of liturgies which impact on the whole Pastoral Area such as Confirmation and our Pastoral Area celebration with the Bishop, at Douai on Sunday 29th June 2008. For these events the group will call upon the expertise of parishioners from across our area to make the celebrations as spiritually rich as possible.

If you have strong views about our liturgies, and many of us do, do share them with your local representative whose name appears opposite. Please pray for the success of the new group.

#### Liturgy Advisory Group - our representatives

<b>Fr. Benedict Thompson</b> OSB:	Chairman
<b>Deacon John Foley:</b>	Secretary
<b>Mike Colbert:</b>	St. Joseph's, Newbury
<b>Jo Harrison:</b>	St. Luke's, Theale
<b>Annalisa Webb:</b>	The Abbey Church Woolhampton
<b>Midge Robinson:</b>	St. Oswald's, Burghfield
<b>Sue Edwards:</b>	St. Bernadette's, Pangbourne
<b>Shany Middleton:</b>	St. Francis, Wash Common
<b>Geralyn Collins:</b>	St. Mary's, Woolhampton
<b>Richard Fueger:</b>	Our Lady, Thatcham
<b>Tracy Pyne:</b>	Youth Rep. Pastoral Area (West)
<b>Mary Mallia:</b>	Youth Rep. Pastoral Area (East)

**Confirmation 2008 - Key Dates** Next year's service of Confirmation will be held at the Abbey Church, Douai on Friday 2nd May 2008 with Bishop Crispian presiding.

Enrolment of candidates will take place on Sunday 2nd December in the candidates' individual parishes. Seven training sessions will be held on Wednesday evenings at Our Lady of the Assumption, Thatcham between 9th January and 30th April with a full day of training taking place on Saturday 26th April.

Confirmation is an important milestone in a young person's life and although marriage may seem a long way ahead, unless you have been confirmed, you cannot be married in a Catholic Church.



**Something Different for Advent?** The Youth CaFE is hosting the Shining Lights production of Ted Hughes' play, *Coming of the Kings*, at Our Lady of the Assumption, Thatcham, on Wednesday 19th December. This short play performed by young people mixes humour with the traditional Christmas message.

It is a story of misunderstanding, greed and mystery...Christmas all too easily becomes an excuse for commercial exploitation, but the simple, marvellous reality of Jesus' birth is finally supreme.

**Congratulations to Bart Fossey** a much loved parishioner of St Francis de Sales Parish in Wash Common who recently received the 'Bene Merenti' Medal in recognition of his many years of pastoral work. He also celebrated his 80th birthday this year.

**Pilgrimage to Lourdes** St Joseph's Parish in Newbury are organising a Pilgrimage to Lourdes in June 2008. Further details may be obtained from John Horner, Father Pat or via the Parish Office.

**Date for your Diary - The Diocesan Annual Justice and Peace Day** will be held in St Anne's School, Southampton on 16th February 2008. There will be two Keynote Speakers and the themes for the various Justice and Peace workshops will include Schools Fair Trade Accreditation, Human Trafficking, Stewardship, Your Carbon Footprint and Migrant Communities.