

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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25th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

Sunday 21st September: TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 22nd September: Feria of the 25th Week in Ordinary Time. No Mass today.

Tuesday 23rd September: St Pio of Pietrelcina, Religious, memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 24th September: OUR LADY OF WALSHINGHAM, feast. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 25th September: Feria of the 25th Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 26th September: Feria of the 25th Week in Ordinary Time, or Ss Cosmas & Damian, Martyrs, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 27th September: St Vincent de Paul, Founder, memorial. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 21st September: 8.30am for the Intentions of the Keller Family.

11am for Mary and Tony Kirk RIP (Annette Haines' Intention).

Tuesday 23rd September: 10.00am for a Private Intention.

Saturday 27th September: 10.00am for Elizabeth Constantine RIP (Laudie Constantine's Intention).

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Philip Rowlands, Jonathan Sheridan, Angela Jordan, 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: 14th September: Plate collection £816.50; Candles £53.94; Poor Box £32.83; Repository 50p. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 21st September: TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C. 'Home Mission Sunday' –

Today's readings remind us that we are God's stewards, and that God expects faithful and prudent stewardship from us. They challenge us to use our God-given talents and blessings, like wealth, wisely to attain Heaven.

'Home Mission Sunday/Evangeli Gaudium Sunday', a day dedicated to proclaiming the joyful message of the Gospel - a message that brings hope and transformation to all, and highlights the Church's evangelisation efforts at both parish and diocesan levels. There will be a **second collection** at Masses for Home Missions. To give alternatively on-line go to:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/home-mission-sunday-second-collection-2>

N.B. This Sunday is the first of four when, annually, we are obliged to take a **'Mass Count'** of attendees as required by the diocese to feed into national statistics which are then submitted to the Vatican.

Wednesday 24th September: 12.30pm – 2pm: The church will be open for quiet prayer and reflection. All are welcome at any time whilst the church is open.

Thursday 25th September: 7.30pm: First meeting of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Programme 2025/26 in the Parish Hall, St Francis de Sales', Wash Common. This programme is run jointly for the Pastoral Area for adults interested in exploring the Catholic Faith with a view to reception into the Church. Adult Catholics seeking Confirmation may also prepare for this sacrament via the RCIA. Please speak to Fr Michael and also email Francis Connolly (fjcon@btinternet.com).

Sunday 28th September: 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C. 11am: The **Music Group** will sing at this Mass. There will be a talk about **CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal** at both Masses.

Wednesday 1st October: 7.00pm: Introductory Parents' Meeting in St Joseph's Church. All parents for children registered on this year's First Holy Communion Preparation programme are asked to attend this short meeting to be briefed on the forthcoming programme. The first **Children's Preparation Session** will be held on **Saturday 11th October**. The programme is open to

children in the parish who will be in Year 4 or above in September 2025. To register your child on the programme, please email the parish office to request an application form.

7.30pm – 9pm: Choir Rehearsal in church. Please note the later start time for this week only. You are welcome to come along to see if you might like to join the choir – with no commitment. Any questions, please speak to Sarah Holland or Carl Calow after 11am Mass on Sundays or email via the church office (office@stjosephsnewbury.org.uk).

Saturday 4th October 'A Day with Mary' – 10.00am – 5.30pm at Our Lady of Peace & Blessed Dominic Barberi Church, Wokingham Rd, Earley, Reading RG6 7DA. Bring packed lunch. Programme includes Marian procession and Litany, Mass, Exposition, Rosary, talk on Our Lady, Act of Consecration, Benediction, enrolment in the Brown Scapular. Email adwmary.uk@gmail.com. Poster at back of church.

The Season of Creation: The Season runs from 1st September (World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation) to 4th October (the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi). It is an ecumenical season dedicated to prayer and action for the protection of creation, a time to renew our relationships with God, and with all creation, as we join together in prayer. We give thanks for all that God has made. We repent for the damage that we have caused, and we commit ourselves to take action to protect the earth, our common home. "*Peace with Creation*" is this year's theme, from Isaiah 32:14-18. Isaiah pictured the desolated Creation without peace because of injustice and the broken relationship between God and humankind, stressing that human destructive behaviours impact on the Earth. Our hope: Creation will find peace when justice is restored. To hope does not mean to stand still and quiet, but to act, pray, change, and reconcile with Creation and the Creator in unity, metanoia (repentance), and solidarity.

Retrouvaille – Catholic Marriage Support Programme:

Couples are helped to rediscover trust and hope in their marriage, and taught better communication tools and skills that have brought hope and healing to thousands of marriages. Privacy and confidentiality is key, so NO GROUP SHARING.

Does your relationship need some TLC? Need help with deeper issues? Next programme starts **17th October**. Go to website or phone - www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: **+44 7887 296 983**

Stop assisted suicide - further action needed! As the assisted suicide Bill progresses through the Lords, Peers have made it clear that receiving physical letters will have the most influence at this stage of the process. **Right To Life UK** has launched a new **EasyAction** tool that creates a personalised letter to be sent in the post to a Peer highlighting a key concern with the Bill, selects a

Peer to receive it, and customises the letter so that it is addressed from you. ***Please take action now*** and visit www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeersletter to send a letter to Peers asking them to oppose assisted suicide.

Saturday 18th October: Formation Day for Readers: The Liturgy Project team invites you to a formation day for Readers at St Bede's, Basingstoke on Saturday 18th October. All readers, experienced and new, are welcome to attend. This day will include a session on Lectio Divina. Register attendance at liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Also, 18th Oct: 7.30pm CANTEMUS CHOIR CONCERT at **St Joseph's Church**. The programme includes '*Five Days that Changed the World*' by Bob Chilcot, John Rutter's '*Requiem*', and lighter pieces including '*Blue Moon*'; '*In the Mood*'; and '*Scarborough Fair/Sound of Silence*'. Tickets £10 on the door. Interval Refreshments. Proceeds to St Joseph's Church.

CSSA PUBLIC CALL FOR INFORMATION: The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency (CSSA) is inviting everyone engaged with the Catholic Church to contribute their experiences of how the Catholic Church engages with Survivors. Please go to portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/cssa-public-call-for-information to complete a survey. The survey is anonymous unless you choose to provide your name or a contact number.

A FLAG TO REPRESENT OUR HOME NATIONS: A display will be created in St Joseph's Chapel to illustrate the many home nations from which our parish members originate. Can you please contribute a small flag (maximum size A4) from your home nation to form part of the display? Please hand in to Maureen Smith or Fr Michael.

300 Club Lottery 2025/2026: September Winners: 1st prize - £100 Adrian Scrope; 2nd prize - £50 Terry Hammill; 3rd prize - £25 Phil Hobbs. Congratulations!

REFURBISHMENT OF THE PARISH HALL: Please allow priority for parking for those less able than you. **N.B.** If parking in Hawthorn Road, opposite the church, you may be subject to parking fines (please check parking signs).

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: 'We must accept finite disappointment but never lose infinite hope' – *Martin Luther King Jr*