

St Joseph's Catholic Church

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FIFTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - **YEAR C**

Sunday 13th July: 15th Sunday - Year C. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 14th July: Feria of the 15th Week in Ordinary Time, or, **St Camillus of Lellis**, founder, *optional memorial*. **No Mass today.**

Tuesday 15th July: St Swithun, bishop, *memorial*. **Mass at 10.00am with pupils from St Joseph's School.**

Wednesday 16th July: Feria of the 15th Week in Ordinary Time, or, **Our Lady of Mount Carmel**, *optional memorial*. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Thursday 17th July: St Bonaventure, religious & bishop, Doctor of the Church, *memorial*. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Friday 18th July: Feria of the 15th Week in Ordinary Time. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Saturday 19th July: Our Lady on Saturday. **Mass at 10.00am.** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions follow 10.00am Mass.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 13th July: 8.30am for Mary McCurdy RIP (Carol Irlam Intention).

11.00am for Josinho Romeu Pereira RIP (Pereira Family Intention).

Tuesday 15th July: For intentions of St Joseph's School.

Wednesday 16th July: In Thanksgiving for Night Adoration.

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Angela Jordan, Jonathan Sheridan, Philip Rowlands, 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: 6th July: Plate collection £616.17; Candles £18.75; Poor Box £26.00. June totals: Standing Orders £1,807.50; Contactless £1,697. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 13th July: 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C.

The central theme of today's Scripture readings is that we gain eternal life by loving God, in Himself and living in our

neighbours, by becoming good neighbours. There will be the annual **2nd Collection** today at Masses for the **Apostleship of the Sea (Stella Maris)**. Offerings on-line can be made at:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/apostleship-of-the-sea-sunday-second-collection-2025>

11.00am Mass: Children's Liturgy will take place during this Mass for children of school age.

Tea and coffee will be served in the church after 8.30am and 11.00am Masses. All welcome.

Tuesday 15th July: N.B. Mass at 10.00am with pupils from St Joseph's School to mark their end of term and school year.

Wednesday 16th July: The church will be open today for quiet prayer during the usual Wednesday times of **12.30 – 2pm**. All are welcome to drop in.

Thursday 17th July: 10.30am Grand/Mothers' Prayers every Thursday at *Newbury Grove Care Home*, 370 London Road, Newbury RG14 2QH to pray for the needs of our children and grandchildren, and for a strengthening of faith. New attendees always welcome. For more information, speak with Fr Michael or Elizabeth Matias after Mass.

Saturday 26th July: Jubilee Year Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimage. Our Pastoral Area is taking part in a 4 mile walk starting 100 metres south of Burghfield Close, Theale, RG31 7ZU at 10.00am, walking to St. James & St William of York Church, Forbury Rd, Reading (our nearest Jubilee Pilgrimage church) for Mass at 1pm - preceded by Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 12.30pm. The walk (mostly on the flat!) will be led by Tony Vickers, currently the Chairman of West Berkshire Council. Afterwards, pilgrims will picnic in the park and visit nearby Reading Abbey where the last Abbot, Blessed Hugh Faringdon, was martyred. Speak to, or email, Tony Vickers at 07413 480080, tonyvickers@phonecoop.coop to confirm your attendance, and for more details.

Sunday 27th July: The Repair Café, 2pm-4.30pm at the Methodist Church Hall, Northbrook Street RG14 1AN. What is the Repair Café? Fixing your broken household

items for free; keeping stuff out of landfill; chatting over coffee, tea and biscuits. Voluntary contributions are welcome.

TWO NEW CATECHETICAL PROGRAMMES BEGINNING THIS AUTUMN:

1) FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2025-2026:

The parish's preparation programme for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will begin probably in October this year – depending on the completion of the hall refurbishment project. The programme is open to children in our parish community who will be in Year 4 or above in September 2025. If you would like to register your child on the programme, please email the parish office to request an application form.

2) INVITATION - RCIA: Perhaps God is also calling you, or someone you know, to become a Roman Catholic. If you are interested in exploring the Catholic Faith with a view to being received into the Church, the **RCIA Programme** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) will commence in September. Speak to Fr Michael, and also email Francis Connolly (email fjcon@btinternet.com). The programme is run jointly for the Pastoral Area. Adult Catholics seeking Confirmation may also prepare for this sacrament via the RCIA programme.

300 Club Lottery 2025/2026: Thank you to all participants in the 2024/2025 300 Club. The first draw of the 2025/2026 lottery will take place in September. Application forms are available to buy tickets for the coming year. To buy one or more tickets, please complete an application form before returning it, together with a cheque or cash (or ask for details to make an electronic bank transfer), to the parish office before the end of August.

'Render Unto Caesar': The Department for Social Justice of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has published a document on taxation called '*Render Unto Caesar*'. It offers perspectives on taxation from Catholic social thought and teaching. As far as the Church is concerned, decisions on taxation and government spending need to be driven by human dignity and serving the common good. The document can be viewed at www.cbcew.org.uk

'The Pilgrimage of Hope': is a national walking pilgrimage for England & Wales with four main Ways converging at the Cathedral of St Barnabas, Nottingham, on Saturday 13th September 2025. It is an initiative of the *Hearts in Search of God* project. The Ways start at the Catholic cathedrals in Cardiff, Leeds, Norwich and London and will bless our nations with a Sign of the Cross. The routes use established hiking routes and are off road as much as is feasible. It is now possible for pilgrims to register for day stages at www.pilgrimways.org.uk/become-a-pilgrim-for-a-day

CARE NOT KILLING – APPEAL: The next stage of the Assisted Suicide Bill is in the House of Lords on 12th September. Disappointingly, MPs voted the Bill through the House of Commons by 314 to 291 at its Third Reading in June. The top priority now is for a seasoned political adviser to operate at Westminster (£20,000) to walk peers through the Bill and alert them to its many pitfalls and dangers. 'Care not Killing' have therefore launched an Appeal because the more that supporters of assisted suicide hear of the troubling consequences new legislation could bring in its wake, the more likely they are to change their minds and reject it in practice. Donate at – <https://carenotkilling.org.uk/donate/>

Ecumenical Prayer Walks in Newbury: CTNA (Churches Together in Newbury Area) are doing Prayer Walks in Newbury on the following dates: Saturday 19th July 11am; Friday 25th July 2pm. Walks all begin at Newbury Baptist Church in Cheap Street. All welcome!

Formation at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke: A Formation morning for **Ministers of Children's Liturgy** will take place on **Saturday 6th September**. The programme will include prayer and reflection, sharing good practice; working collaboratively; how to grow and communicate as Liturgical Catechists; Music suggestions; and a wish list for future support, networking and how to find more helpers. A Formation morning for **Readers** will take place on **Saturday 18th October** and all readers, experienced and new, are very welcome to attend. This day will include a session on Lectio Divina.

Catholic Response to the vote for Assisted Suicide Bill: To see the statement of Cardinal Vincent Nichols, and that of Archbishop John Sherrington (Bishops' Conference lead for Life issues), go to the Bishops' Conference website at: www.cbcew.org.uk

REFURBISHMENT OF THE PARISH HALL: Please allow priority for parking for older parishioners, the disabled and families with young children. **N.B.** If parking in Hawthorn Road, opposite the church, you may be subject to parking fines (please check parking signage carefully).

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: ... "Come, let us give a little time to folly ... and even in a melancholy day let us find time for an hour of pleasure." St Bonaventure (Feast - 17th July)