

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C

N.B. Fr Michael is away on leave – returning for Sunday 10th August. Fr Peter Codd should only be contacted in the event of an emergency. Leave messages with the Parish Office if necessary.

Sunday 3rd August: 18th Sunday - Year C. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 4th August: St John Vianney, priest, memorial. No Mass today.

Tuesday 5th August: Feria of the 18th Week in Ordinary Time, or, Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major, Rome, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 6th August: THE TRANSFIGURATION OF THE LORD, feast. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 7th August: Feria of the 18th Week in Ordinary Time, or, St Sixtus II, Pope & Companions, Martyrs. optional memorial, or, St Cajetan, Founder, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 8th August: St Dominic, Founder, memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 9th August: ST TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS [Edith Stein] Religious & Martyr, Patron of Europe, feast. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 3rd August: 11.00am for Margaret Mizen RIP (Joyce Delahunty's Intention).

Wednesday 6th August: 10.00am Intention for Peace, and for victims of war (Kiki Morley'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: 27th July: Plate collection £662.33; Candles £64.90; Poor Box £0.50. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 3rd August: 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C.

Today's readings remind us of the futility of greedy acquisition of wealth and power since everything and everyone is "here today and gone tomorrow." The meaning of life cannot be found in selfishly hoarding wealth and possessions, but only in sharing these with the needy.

Tea and coffee will be served in the church after 8.30am Mass. All welcome. **NB:** During August, as always, there will be no tea and coffee after the 11am Mass.

Wednesday 6th August: NB: The church will not be open for quiet prayer on Wednesdays during August; Wednesday lunchtime opening will resume on 10th September.

The church Choir rehearses every other Wednesday at 7pm – 8.30pm in the church. The next rehearsal will be held on Wednesday 6th August. If you would like to join us please do come along. If you have any questions please speak to Sarah Holland or Carl Calow at 11am Mass, alternatively we can be contacted via the church office (office@stjosephsnewbury.org.uk)

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 on **Thursday 25th September** in the Parish Hall at St Francis de Sales', Wash Common. 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.

BEATIFICATION: In June **Floribert Bwana Chui Bin Kositi**, a newly graduated 26-year-old and devout Catholic Congolese man, was beatified as Blessed Floribert by Pope Leo, having been kidnapped and brutally murdered in June 2007. After beginning work as a Customs Official only three months earlier, he repeatedly withstood pressure to take bribes and be corrupted by smugglers who were outraged at the disruption of their illegal trade. His "mafia-style" murder was meant to serve as a warning to anyone else who stood up to corruption in a part of the world where guns hold sway over the rule of law. Last year, the Church declared him a martyr, ruling that his death was the result of his unwillingness to sacrifice his Christian values for money. Pope Leo XIV, who presided over the beatification ceremony at the Basilica of St Paul Outside the Walls said, "This African martyr, in a continent rich in youths, shows how young people can give rise to peace. May the long-awaited peace in Congo, and across all of Africa come soon - through the intercession of the Virgin Mary and Blessed Floribert."

A FLAG TO REPRESENT OUR HOME NATIONS: In the autumn 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.

MARRIAGE HELP – 'Retrouvaille', a Catholic Marriage Counselling Service, helps couples find hope and healing for their marriage. Next date: 17th-19th Oct. www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983.

300 Club Lottery 2025/2026: Would you, your family or friends like the chance to win in the monthly draws of the St Joseph's 300 Club Lottery starting in September? Tickets cost £20 each and are available for anyone over the age of 16 to buy. Each ticket gives you the chance to win a prize of £100, £50 or £25 every month until August 2026. The funds raised by the lottery make a valuable contribution towards the upkeep costs of the parish. To buy one or more tickets, please complete an application form (available at the church entrances) 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.

'The Pilgrimage of Hope': is a national walking pilgrimage for England & Wales with four main Ways converging at Nottingham Cathedral on Saturday 13th September 2025 - 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 off road as much as possible. Pilgrims can register for day

stages at www.pilgrimways.org.uk/become-a-pilgrim-for-a-day

CARE NOT KILLING – APPEAL: The Assisted Suicide Bill comes to the Lords on 12th September. Disappointingly, MPs voted the Bill through the Commons by 314 to 291 at its Third Reading in June. The 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 help inform supporters of assisted suicide of the troubling consequences of the new legislation, encourage them to change their minds and reject it. Donate at – <https://carenotkilling.org.uk/donate/>

Diocesan Formation Days: A Formation Day for **Ministers of Children's Liturgy** will take place on **Saturday 6th September from 10.30am – 1pm**. 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 Day for **Readers** will take place on **Saturday 18th October from 10am – 2pm** and all readers, experienced and new, are very welcome to attend. The day will include a session on Lectio Divina. Both Formation Days will be held at St Bede's Church/Hall, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX. Please register for either day via liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CURRENT VACANCIES ACROSS THE DIOCESE: Please visit portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about/careers to find out about job opportunities across the diocese. There are currently a number of vacancies in Diocesan Administration and Vicariates, as well as roles in parishes, including Parish Administrator, Christ the King, Reading.

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: You do not have to be perfect to be amazing.