

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

105 London Road Newbury Berkshire RG14 1JP

Reg. Charity No. 1199568 'Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth'

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Safeguarding Minister: Mary Barnard, Officer for Children and

Vulnerable Adults in St Joseph's Parish. Telephone 0777 616 3856

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St. Joseph's School Telephone: - 01635 43455

Hall Bookings/Information email: annepaice62@yahoo.co.uk



18th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR – YEAR B

Sunday 4th August: 18th SUNDAY OF THE YEAR B. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 5th August: Feria of 18th Week in Ordinary Time or Dedication of the Basilica of St Mary Major, Rome, optional memorial. No Mass.

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

Wednesday 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.

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

Friday 9th August: ST TERESA BENEDICTA OF THE CROSS [Edith Stein], Religious, Martyr, Patron of Europe, feast. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 10th August: ST LAURENCE, Deacon, Martyr, feast. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions follow 10.00am Mass.

Mass Intentions: None this week.

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Lesley Smith, Joyce Delahunty, Larry Bretz, Yvonne Bradley, Pat and Ron Bird, Theresa Cassidy, James Pringle, Joshua David, Colin Devery, Marie O'Sullivan, Kathleen Fitzsimmons, Liliana Ramalingam, Terry Hamill, Rita Zollo. Additions - please inform Fr Michael by phone or email.

Collections: 28th July: Plate collection £682.16; Candles £15.87. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 4th August: 18th Sunday of the Year: In today's Gospel people ask again for a sign so that they can believe in Jesus. Jesus explains that God provides the signs; God sends the true bread, which gives life to the world. Jesus is the bread of life; He asks us to come to Him and we will never hunger again, to believe in Him and we will never thirst.

8.30am Baby and Toddler Group in the Parish Hall after Mass.

Tea and coffee will be served in the hall after both Masses. All are welcome. If you would like to join the rota for tea/coffee preparation, please sign up on the sheet in the hall or let Fr Michael know.

Wednesday 7th August: 12.30-2pm: The church will be open for an hour and a half on Wednesday afternoon for quiet prayer and reflection. All are welcome to come along at any time whilst the church is open.

Thursday 8th August: Grand/Mothers' Prayer Group 10.30am – 12 noon at Newbury Grove Care Home, 370 London Road, RG14 2QH to pray for the needs of our children and grandchildren, and for a strengthening of faith. Refreshments provided. If interested, please just come along.

Friday 9th August: 10.30am-12.30pm Friendship Café at Newbury Grove Care Home, 370 London Road, RG14 2QH. All are welcome for coffee, refreshments, and to meet residents. Extra parking available if needed, at the nearby Swan Pub. Please notify Coral Elvin if attending for catering purposes on 01635 896105 or email coral.elvin@careuk.com

Sunday 11th August: There will be an appeal at both Masses on behalf of the charity 'Lepra'. Lepra works to provide better detection, treatment and support mechanisms for those affected by the disease leprosy. To watch a short film about the work of Lepra, please go to: www.youtube.com/watch?v=IJudR1qPIQI

Saturday 7th September: Altar Server Training: 11.30am – 12.30pm in church. Refresher session for those children who have previously attended training and an introductory session for all others who would like to undertake this important role. Open to all who have already made their First Holy Communion. Please let Fr Michael know that your child will be attending by emailing the parish office. Children attending should be accompanied by a parent or carer.

Report on St Joseph's Parish Finances and the Parish Hall Refurbishment Project: If you would like to receive a written version of the address

Fr Michael gave at both Masses last Sunday (28th July), please contact the parish office.

St Finian's School Vacancy: A teaching assistant for four days per week is required for September. Details from school website or office. Email office@stfinians.w-berks.sch.uk

Diocesan Free Wills Service: The Diocese has partnered with leading solicitors, Octopus Legacy, and will-writing providers to offer anyone over 18 the opportunity to write or update a basic simple or mirror Will for free. If wishing to write your Will in person, online, or over the 'phone, you will be supported through the process. There is no obligation to leave the Diocese a legacy in your Will, but a gift of this kind always supports the Church. To arrange over the phone, or to arrange a meeting – call **0800 773 4014**. To prepare online, go to - <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/support-our-work/make-your-free-will/>

300 Club Lottery 2024/2025: Thank you to all participants in the 2023/2024 Lottery for their generous support. The first draw of the 2024/2025 Lottery is in September. To subscribe, please complete an application form (available from the back of church) before returning it, together with a cheque or cash, to the parish office in the presbytery before the end of August. If you would prefer to pay by electronic bank transfer, please contact the parish office.

Ask your MP to protect life in the new Parliament. We are likely to face threatening new legislation in the new Parliament that would facilitate abortion of babies at home for any reason up to birth, and legalise assisted suicide. Ask your local MP to protect the most vulnerable. Take action: Email your MP today by visiting <https://righttolife.org.uk/newparliament>

CARITAS: "To Hope and Act with Creation" On **September 14th** Caritas and St Peters, Winchester, are hosting a conference for the Season of Creation. John Paul de Quay will speak on "*How Faith should motivate us in caring for our Common Home*", there will be updates in preparation for COP 29 including suggestions how to reduce the impact of climate change. All welcome - details to follow, but please note the date.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2024-2025: The parish's preparation programme for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will begin in September 2024. The programme is open to children in our parish community who will be in year 4 or above in September. To register your child on the programme, please email the parish office to request an application form.

SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION 2024 -2025: Confirmation preparation for the West Berks Pastoral

area begins in Sept 2024. Young parishioners, resident and participants in our Parish community, in year 9 or above, are eligible. *Confirmation celebrates the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit on a baptised person, completing and strengthening the grace given by the Spirit in Baptism. It marks the Christian as a follower of Christ and a full member of the Church.* Please enlist before the end of August by contacting the Parish Office giving name, age, and contact details. Further information issued nearer the time. Email: office@stjosephsnewbury.org.uk

Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages. Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Retrouvaille (French for 'find each other again') is a Catholic programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com – or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

AN INVITATION FROM BISHOP PHILIP: All married couples celebrating their 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th (or longer) Wedding Anniversary are asked to join me for this year's Significant Wedding Anniversaries Mass at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke on **Saturday 7th September** at 2:00pm. If celebrating a significant wedding anniversary this year, be sure to save the date! To attend, please contact your parish office or email anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for an application form.

LOST PROPERTY: A folding camping chair was left in the church garden after the parish picnic. Please contact the parish office if you are its owner.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH HALL: The hall is often available for your bookings for social events, classes, or activities. Reasonable hire rates. Please contact Anne Paice to book on email: annepaice62@yahoo.co.uk

Contactless Donations: Please use your debit/credit card or smart phone/device to donate on our *Digital Collection Pads* for Sunday collections. Simply choose the amount you wish to donate and hold your card onto the reader. 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: Patience is something you admire in the driver behind you, but not in the driver ahead of you!