

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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

Sunday 10th August: 19th Sunday - Year C. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 11th August: St Clare, Foundress, memorial. No Mass today.

Tuesday 12th August: Feria of the 19th Week in Ordinary Time, or, St Jane Frances de Chantal, Foundress, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 13th August: Feria of the 19th Week in Ordinary Time, or St Pontian, Pope, & St Hippolytus, Priest, Martyrs, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 14th August: St Maximilian Maria Kobe, Religious, Priest, Martyr, memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 15th August: THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, solemnity. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 16th August: Our Lady on Saturday or, St Stephen, King of Hungary, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Friday 15th August: 10.00am for Colleen Morel RIP (Morel Family Intention).

Saturday 16th August: 10.00am in Thanksgiving for Night Adoration.

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: 3rd August: Plate collection £810.13; Candles £39.09. July totals: Contactless £1,053; Contactless second collection for Stella Maris £65; Standing Orders £2032.50. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 10th August: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C. The readings for today invite us to trust in God's ways. As we hear from the letter to the Hebrews: "Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things

not seen". If we have that faith, then we need not be afraid.

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 13th August: NB: The church will not be open for quiet prayer on Wednesdays during August; Wednesday lunchtime opening will resume on 10th September.

The Choir rehearses every other Wednesday at 7pm – 8.30pm in the church. The next rehearsal will be held on **Wednesday 20th 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 they 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.

ADoRE spiritual mini-retreat: 30th August 10.00-1.00 on Zoom. "PILGRIMS OF HOPE FORGIVE ONE ANOTHER - Jubilee is above all a time of forgiveness." Including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring talk from guest speaker Fr Paul Leonard. Please register for the free Zoom meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADOREAUG2025 More information at www.altonrenewal.com

From the local SPUC branch: March for Life 2025 - Saturday 6th September - We have hired a coach to take us to and from the March for Life event on Saturday, 6th

September 2025. If you are interested in going please can you fill in the following form <https://tinyurl.com/spuccoach2025> or contact us at spucreading@gmail.com. No fixed cost but a suggested donation of £20 for adults for those who can afford it. The coach will depart from St William of York Church in Reading at 8.45am, and also the MereOak Park & Ride (MereOak Ln, Three Mile Cross, Reading RG7 - off junction 11, M4 - the parking here is free) at 9.15am. For more details about the event go to: <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/2025-event-page/> Please book early to allow us to secure the coach. For anyone who can't make it but would like to support the event, we are happy to take donations to help sponsor others to go. Thank you.

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: 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: Your life does not get better by chance, it gets better by change.