

# St Joseph's Catholic Church

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## **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C**

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.**

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December: Monday of the 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent. No Mass.**

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: St Francis Xavier, Priest, memorial. Requiem Mass for James Pringle at 10.00am.**

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December: Wednesday of the 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent or St John Damascene, Priest, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.**

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December: Thursday of the 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent. Mass at 10.00am.**

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Friday of the 1<sup>st</sup> Week of Advent or St Nicholas, Bishop, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November: St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, memorial. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions follow 10.00am Mass.**

### **Mass Intentions:**

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December: 08.30am for Sarah Apicella RIP (Apicella Family's Intention).

11.00am for Tony & Mary Kirk RIP (Haines Family's Intention).

Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: 10.00am for James Pringle RIP (Requiem Mass).

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December: 10.00am for Gilbert Mariatte RIP (Christina Castle's Intention).

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December: 10.00am Margaret & Peter Bailes RIP (Christina Castle's Intention).

### **Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:**

Diana Amesbury, Angela Saguez, Geoff and Kathleen Wain, Lesley Smith, Joyce Delahunty, Larry Bretz, Yvonne Bradley, Pat and Ron Bird, Theresa Cassidy, Joshua David, Colin Devery, Marie O'Sullivan, Liliana Ramalingam, Terry Hamill, Rita Zollo. Additions - please inform Fr Michael.

**Collections:** 24<sup>th</sup> November: Plate collection £662.27; Candles £57.62; Poor Box £10.00; Repository £80.00. Thank you for your generosity.

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December: First Sunday of Advent (C) The New Lectionary** with the New English Version translation comes into use today. An excellent video by Fr Paul Denney explains it at - [www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjCcYGDC5Mk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjCcYGDC5Mk)

Today the Church enters a short but magical season that prepares us for the Coming of Christ. Advent has a twofold character: as a season to prepare for Christmas when Christ's first coming to us in Bethlehem is remembered, and as a season when that remembrance directs the mind and heart to await Christ's second coming at the end of time. Advent is thus a period of hope - of devout and joyful expectation.

**11am Mass:** Our candidates preparing for Confirmation are invited to attend Mass today.

**Christmas Cards** will be on sale in the parish hall after Masses from today.

**Tea and coffee** served in the hall after both Masses. All welcome.

**Sale in aid of Aid to the Church in Need** today in the hall after 11 o'clock Mass.

**Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December: 7.30pm Confirmation Preparation Session** for all enrolled in the programme at St Francis de Sales Parish Hall, Wash Common. Please remember your Bible!

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December: 10.00am Requiem Mass** for James Pringle RIP.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> December: 12.30 - 2pm:** The church is open on Wednesday afternoon for quiet prayer and reflection. All are welcome at any time whilst the church is open.

**N.B. No Adult Formation Talk** tonight. These will resume in the new year when the evenings are lighter.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December: 7.30pm Evangelisation Strategy Committee Meeting** at Our Lady of Lourdes, Hungerford.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December: First Friday Rosary** will immediately follow the 10.00am Mass today.

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December - 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent: 11am Mass: Children's Liturgy** in the hall for all

children of primary school age (in Reception Class and above). There will be an appeal by the **Saint Vincent de Paul Society** after both Masses today.

#### **CTNA (Churches Together in Newbury Area)**

**COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY EVENT:** Christmas lunch will take place in St George's Hall, Newbury, 10.00am-4pm, for those who might otherwise spend Christmas Day alone. Volunteers are needed to set up the hall and prepare vegetables (10.30pm-12.30pm Christmas Eve) – or on the day: drivers, entertainers, washer-uppers, servers, and one large Christmas cake! If you, yourself, will be alone and want to join the lunch, or for more information contact Joanna Abrahams **07828 244119** or email **marinaoabraham@gmail.com**

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:** **24<sup>th</sup> December** – 6.30pm Children's Christmas Vigil Mass with the Music Group; 11.00pm Christmas Night Mass (starting with carols at 10.30pm). **25<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Day Masses at 08.30am and 11.00am.

**Date for your diary:** There will be a Fun Quiz on Friday 7th February in St Joseph's Hall – everyone welcome! Further details to follow in the newsletter later this month.

**Newbury Room to Rent?** A professional carer is seeking a room only (no meals) for occasional nights to facilitate shift care role of a local person receiving care assistance. £25 per night offered. For more details, please contact Marie Rodican at email **mariarodican@gmail.com**

#### **International Campaign for Ending Violence against Women and Girls:**

Starting last Monday, 16 Days of Action are taking place to raise awareness of the global issue of violence against women and girls. We are encouraged to campaign, educate and advocate for ending this scourge. The UK has declared this to be a national emergency and World Health Organisation as a pandemic. Pope Francis has issued a call to all Catholics to use our power to bring about cultural change.

*"It is our duty, the responsibility of each person, to give a voice to our voiceless sisters...It is necessary to act immediately, at all levels with determination, urgency and courage."*

**Compassionate Assistance:** The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) has launched its Emergency Middle East Appeal. The DEC members provide lifesaving aid in Gaza, Lebanon and the West Bank, but now urgently need more funds. Further details and information at: **www.dec.org.uk**

**Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati:** He is the Patron of the Youth of our diocese, and Pope Francis has announced his Canonisation during the Jubilee of Youth at the end of July 2025. He was beatified in 1990 by Pope John Paul II who called him the "Man of the Eight Beatitudes." A

political and social activist, he dedicated himself at aged 17 through the St. Vincent de Paul Society to the care of the poor and the sick. He died in 1925 at the age of 24 from polio, which it is said he caught from his hospital visiting or through his work in the slums.

**CAFOD's WORLD GIFTS 2024:** Choose an ethical charity gift this Christmas and make a life-changing difference to people living in poverty. World Gifts are CAFOD's range of virtual charity gifts that will please friends and family but are also a great way of rediscovering what it really means to share the love, peace and joy of Christmas. See the CAFOD gift catalogues in church.

**New Sunday Missal:** The CTS New Sunday Missal (People's Edition) with the new translation of The Lectionary containing the readings and Order of Mass for every Sunday and solemnity of the liturgical cycle from 1<sup>st</sup> December, is available to purchase direct from CTS for £19.95 (hard-back edition) at **www.ctsbooks.org** or from Pilgrim Gifts based in Walsingham via **www.pilgrimgifts.co.uk**.

**Keyholders' Register:** This register is being updated. If you hold a key for the parish, but have not yet confirmed your details for the register, please contact the parish office.

**ST JOSEPH'S PARISH HALL:** The hall is available for 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*. 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:** "At this Christmas when Christ comes, will He find a warm heart? Mark the season of Advent by loving and serving others with God's own love and concern." *St Teresa of Calcutta*

