

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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

Sunday 17th August: 20th Sunday - Year C. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 18th August: Feria of the 20th Week in Ordinary Time. No Mass today.

Tuesday 19th August: Feria of the 20th Week in Ordinary Time, or, St John Eudes, Founder, *optional memorial*. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 20th August: St Bernard, Abbot, Doctor of the Church, *memorial*. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 21st August: St Pius X, Pope, *memorial*. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 22nd August: The Queenship of Mary, *memorial*. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 23rd August: Our Lady on Saturday, or St Rose of Lima, Religious, *optional memorial*. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 17th August: 8.30am for Helena Pontes RIP (Maria Pires' Intention).

11am for Giulia Columbro RIP (Vito Columbro's Intention).

Tuesday 19th August: 10.00am for Janice RIP (Karen'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: 10th August: Plate collection £498.54; Candles £31.21; Poor Box £41.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 17th August: 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C. Today we are asked to be Christians on fire instead of just "frozen Christians," i.e. by courageously living out our convictions with commitment as Jeremiah, Paul, and

Jesus did, even if doing so results in divisions in families and society and inviting suffering and sacrifice. If no one is ever offended by the quality of our commitment to Christ, then perhaps we are practicing "*inoffensive Christianity*."

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 20th August: NB: The church will not be open for quiet prayer on Wednesdays during August; Wednesday lunchtime opening will resume on 10th September.

7pm – 8.30pm The Choir rehearses every other **Wednesday at 7pm – 8.30pm in the church**. The next rehearsal is held today. 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)

Sunday 24th Aug: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C.
11am Mass: The **Music Group** will play at this Mass.

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.

Saint John Henry Newman: Pope Leo will declare Saint John Henry Newman, the most recently canonised English saint, the 38th 'Doctor of the Church'. Cardinal Nichols said: "This recognition that the writings of St John Henry are a true expression of the faith of the Church is of huge encouragement to all who appreciate not only his great learning but also his heroic sanctity in following the call of God." A 'Doctor of the Church' is a man or woman of great holiness and learning whose teaching and wisdom not only resonated with their own contemporaries, but still illuminates, instructs and inspires today. The Church gives them the title 'Doctor', from the Latin '*docere*', meaning 'to teach', in recognition of the eminent contribution to our knowledge of the faith – spiritually, intellectually or morally. The only other English saint given this recognition is St Bede the Venerable.

Pope Leo's words to young people and Prayer for Peace: During the Jubilee of Youth gathering in Rome (28th July - 3rd August) Pope Leo reminded the young people that Jesus is our hope, and urged them to "adventure with the Lord toward eternity" as the Lord is "gently knocking" at the window of their soul. "It is truly beautiful, especially at a young age," the Holy Father said, "to open wide your hearts, to allow him to enter, and to set out on this adventure with him."

At this week's General Audience he also called attention to those afflicted by war and violence: "*Plead with God to grant peace to all peoples who are experiencing the tragedy of war.*" The Pope's appeal was inspired by Saint Maximilian Kolbe, the Polish Franciscan who died in the Auschwitz concentration camp after volunteering to take the place of a father of a family condemned to die by starvation.

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.

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. **August Winners!:** 1st prize

£100 & 2nd prize £50 to Emily Caine; 3rd prize £25 to Noah Kayawi.

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 - A coach is arranged for the March for Life event on 6th September 2025 in London. If interested, fill in the following form <https://tinyurl.com/spuccoach2025> or contact spucreading@gmail.com. No fixed cost but a suggested donation of £20 for adults for those who can afford it. Coach departs 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 go to: <https://www.marchforlife.co.uk/2025-event-page/> Book early to secure coach places. Those unable to attend may support the event with a donation to help sponsor others to go.

Diocesan Formation Days: A Formation Day for **Ministers of Children's Liturgy** on **Saturday 6th September from 10.30am – 1pm**. The programme includes prayer, reflection, sharing good practice, working collaboratively, growing and communicating as Catechists, music suggestions, networking and finding more helpers.

A Formation Day for **Readers** is 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 are at St Bede's Church/Hall, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX. Please register for either day via liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.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: Horse sense is what horses have to stop them betting on people!