

# St Joseph's Catholic Church

**Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE**

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## **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** **- YEAR C**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August: 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday - Year C. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.**

**Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August: Feria** of the 21<sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time, or **St Louis IX**, King of France, or **St Joseph Calasanz**, founder, *optional memorials*. **No Mass today.**

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August: Feria** of the 21<sup>st</sup> Week in Ordinary Time, or, **Blessed Dominic Barberi**, religious, *optional memorial*. **Mass at 10.00am.**

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August: St Monica**, *memorial*. **Mass at 10.00am.**

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> August: St Augustine of Hippo**, Bishop & Doctor of the Church, *memorial*. **Mass at 10.00am.**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> August: The Passion of St John the Baptist**, *memorial*. **Mass at 10.00am.**

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August: Our Lady on Saturday**, or **Ss Margaret Clitherow, Anne Line, & Margaret Ward**, martyrs, *optional memorial*. **Mass at 10.00am** followed by **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** and **Confessions**.

### **Mass Intentions:**

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August: 8.30am for Kathleen, John Snr and John Jnr Dick RIP (Paul Dick's Intention).

11am for Darragh Conor Spelman RIP (Amy Thomas' Intention).

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August: 10.00am for Pat Saunders RIP (Margaret Saunder'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:** 17<sup>th</sup> August: Plate collection £349.18; Candles £62.01; Poor Box £16.00; Cards £9.50. Thank you for your generosity.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August: 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C.** Cooperation with God's grace daily is needed by choosing the narrow gate of self-control and self-

discipline; by loving others; seeing the face of Jesus in them; and sharing our blessings with them.

**Tea and coffee** will be served in the church after **8.30am Mass**. All welcome. The Music Group will play at the **11.00am Mass**. **NB:** No tea and coffee after the 11am Mass today or next Sunday.

**Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August: NB:** The church will not be open for quiet prayer on Wednesdays during August; Wednesday lunchtime opening will resume on 10<sup>th</sup> September.

## **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 25<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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.

**CAFOD: Response in Gaza:** CAFOD donations to Gaza since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. Right now, CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing medicines to treat chronic illness. CAFOD have helped 1,400 households with cash to buy supplies in the last month and are currently feeding 2,000 people with new stocks of flour and rice. Despite the restrictions on aid coming into Gaza, CAFOD's

local partners are working tirelessly to help people. With ongoing support, they will do all in their power to keep doing so. More about how to make a difference in Gaza at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk). Please continue to pray for peace in the Middle East.

**Liturgical Addition:** Marking the 10th anniversary of the publication of the encyclical '*Laudato Si'*', Pope Leo XIV has approved for use the Decree for the Missa pro custodia creationis - 'Mass for the Care of Creation'. Details of what the initiative means and the reasons behind it may be viewed at: [www.indcatholicnews.com/news/52995](http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/52995)

**Cremation – Did you know?** The Instruction of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith: *Ad resurgendum cum Christo* - regarding the burial of the deceased and the conservation of the ashes in the case of cremation, states: 1. When, for legitimate motives, cremation of the body has been chosen, the ashes of the faithful must be laid to rest in a sacred place, that is, in a cemetery or, in certain cases, in a church or an area, which has been set aside for this purpose, and so dedicated by the competent ecclesial authority. 2. In order that every appearance of pantheism, naturalism or nihilism be avoided, it is not permitted to scatter the ashes of the faithful departed in the air, on land, at sea or in some other way, nor may they be preserved in mementos, pieces of jewellery or other objects.

**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:** There are less than 2 weeks now to buy tickets for 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. 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.

**Youth Group for our West Berks Parishes:** Open to children Year 4 and above. The Youth Group has spaces on its session at the Waterside Centre in Newbury on **Friday 12th September** doing water activities of canoeing, paddle boarding from 6-7pm. The cost is £10.00 per child. To go along, contact Ann Haynes, email: [annhaynes07@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:annhaynes07@hotmail.co.uk)

**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](mailto: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](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**Volunteering opportunities with Home-Start West Berkshire:** Home-Start West Berkshire supports families with children under 5 in the West Berks area by sending out a volunteer for 2-3 hours per week, to offer families in need some much needed physical or emotional support. If you would be interested in finding out about their volunteer induction course running during September and October, please go to [www.home-startwestberks.org.uk](http://www.home-startwestberks.org.uk) for details.

**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:** Funny how nothing so needs reforming as much as other people's habits!?