

St Joseph's Catholic Church

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TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

TIME - YEAR C

Sunday 31st August: 22nd Sunday - Year C. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 1st September: Feria of the 22nd Week in Ordinary Time. No Mass today.

Tuesday 2nd September: Feria of the 22nd Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 3rd September: ST GREGORY THE GREAT, Pope & Doctor of the Church, feast. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 4th September: Feria of the 22nd Week in Ordinary Time, or, St Cuthbert, Bishop, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 5th September: Feria of the 22nd Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 6th September: Feria of the 22nd Week in Ordinary Time or Our Lady on Saturday. N.B. The Mass at 10.00am today will be a Nuptial Mass of Marriage Validation for Juliet Omambala and Chimaobi Onyekaba. There will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions after the Nuptial Mass.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 31st August: 8.30am for Peter Butterworth RIP (John Apicella's Intention).

11am for James Hitchon RIP (Hitchon Family Intention).

Tuesday 2nd September: 10.00am for Aubrey Howie RIP (Evelyn Howie'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: 24th August: Plate collection £571.75; Candles £38.58. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 31st August: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C. Today we are reminded of our need of humility as we come to realise that everything we have is a loving gift from God. We, therefore, have no reason to elevate

ourselves above others. True humility requires that we neither overestimate nor underestimate our worth.

Tea and coffee will be served in the church after **8.30am Mass**. All welcome. **NB:** No tea and coffee after the 11am Mass today.

Wednesday 3rd September: 7pm – 8.30pm Choir Rehearsal in the church. Newcomers are welcome to come along and see – without commitment – if they might like to join! All are welcome.

NB: The church will not be open for quiet prayer this afternoon; Wednesday lunchtime opening will resume next week on 10th September.

Friday 5th September: Recitation of the **Holy Rosary** will follow after 10.00am Mass today.

Saturday 6th September: 10.00am Nuptial Mass of Marriage Validation for Juliet Omambala and Chimaobi Onyekaba. There will be no Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions after the Nuptial Mass today.

10.30am – 1pm: A Formation Day for Ministers of Children's Liturgy, at St Bede's Church/Hall, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX. The programme includes prayer, reflection, sharing good practice, working collaboratively, growing and communicating as Catechists, music suggestions, networking and finding more helpers. Please register via liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Sunday 7th September: 23rd Sunday – Year C. The Canonisation to Sainthood by Pope Leo takes place this morning in Rome for **Blessed Carlo Acutis** and **Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati** (patron of Youth for our diocese). Carlo was born in 1991 in London and died in 2006 from leukaemia at age 15, A passionate web developer and evangelist, he created a popular website cataloguing Eucharistic miracles from around the world. Pier Giorgio Frassati, born in 1901 in Turin, Italy, died at 24 from polio contracted while caring for the poor. An avid mountain climber and activist, he is beloved for his dynamic blend of spiritual fervour and social commitment.

3pm: Emergency Alerts Test - The Emergency Alerts system - sent to mobile phones - is used to warn if

there is a danger to life nearby, including extreme weather. The first national test of the system was in April 2023. There will be a second national test on Sunday 7th September 2025 at 3pm. Please share this awareness to make sure that others know of this Emergency Alerts system test.

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.

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. Please continue to pray for peace in the Middle East.

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.

PROMOTING CARE: The Catholic Safeguarding Standards Agency is inviting survivors of abuse to share their experiences, anonymously if they wish. The purpose of this public call is to gather information from anyone who has had recent contact with a Diocese or a Religious Life

Group. This includes experiences that are new or ongoing, as well as those connected to non-recent abuse. Details and links to various areas are available at: www.catholicsafeguarding.org.uk/contactus-and-other-information/public-calls-for-information/

GIFTED COMMUNICATION: Marking the 150th anniversary of the death of the Catholic artist Jean-François Millet, the National Gallery has dedicated a free exhibition to the Catholic Realist artist, most famous for his painting '*The Angelus*'. Further details are available at: www.indcatholicnews.com/news/53070

300 Club Lottery 2025/2026: Thank you to everyone who has already bought tickets for the Lottery – your tickets are available to collect from the back of church. If you have not yet bought a ticket and would like to do so, this week is your last chance! There are still some tickets available for £20 each – please complete an application form in the church and return it, with a cheque or cash (or ask for details to make an electronic bank transfer), to the parish office.

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

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 for further 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: Choosing to be positive and having a grateful attitude is going to determine how you are going to live your life.