

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

105 London Road Newbury Berkshire RG14 1JP

Reg. Charity No. 1199568 'Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth'

Telephone: - 01635 40167

Email: office@stjosephsnewbury.org.uk

Website: www.stjosephsnewbury.org.uk

Safeguarding Minister: Mary Barnard, Officer for Children and

Vulnerable Adults in St Joseph's Parish. Telephone 0777 616 3856

Email: safeguarding@stjosephsnewbury.org.uk

St. Joseph's School Telephone: - 01635 43455

Hall Bookings/Information email: annepaice62@yahoo.co.uk



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

TIME - YEAR C

Sunday 7th September: 23rd Sunday - Year C. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 8th September: THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, feast. No Mass today.

Tuesday 9th September: Feria of the 23rd Week in Ordinary Time, or, St Peter Claver, Religious, *optional memorial*. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 10th September: Feria of the 23rd Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 11th September: Feria of the 23rd Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 12th September: Feria of the 23rd Week in Ordinary Time, or, The Most Holy Name of Mary, *optional memorial*. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 13th September: St John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, *memorial*. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 7th September: 8.30am for Lois Coleman RIP (Bridget Bowsher's Intention).

11am for Michael Early RIP.

Friday 12th September: 10.00am for Des Dougan RIP (Denise Dougan's Intention).

Saturday 13th Sept: 10.00am for a Private 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: 31st August: Plate collection £815.03; Candles £46.61; Poor Box £43.00. August monthly totals: Contactless £1023.00; Standing Orders £1777.50. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 7th September: 23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C. Today's readings challenge us to live out our

Baptismal commitment to the true Christian discipleship of total commitment to the will of God, putting God first in our lives.

The Canonisation to Sainthood by Pope Leo takes place this morning in Rome for **Blessed Carlo Acutis** (1991-2006) and **Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati** (1901-1925 - patron of Youth for our diocese). Carlo was born in London and died 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 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. Both had a deep love for the Holy Eucharist, a real concern for the poor, and a love for the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Tea and coffee will be served in the church after the **8.30am & 11am Masses**. All welcome.

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 today at 3pm. Please share this awareness to make sure that others know of this Emergency Alerts system test.

Wednesday 10th September: 12.30 – 2pm: The church re-opens today for quiet prayer and reflection after a summer break. All are welcome at any time whilst the church is open.

Thursday 11th September: 10.00am Mass – We will be joined by Year 6 children from St Joseph's School.

Friday 12th September: The Assisted Suicide Bill comes before the House of Lords today for its 2nd Reading debate. We pray that Peers will scrutinise and reject the Bill, and with your help, recognise the perilous path it represents. The warning from Canada is stark where Assisted Suicide accounts for *about one in 20 deaths—more than Alzheimer's and diabetes combined*. A recent Canadian article stated, *'One day, administering a lethal injection to a patient was against the law; the next, it was as legitimate as a tonsillectomy, but often with*

*less of a wait... There have been unintended consequences as Canadians who cannot afford to manage their illness have sought doctors to end their life. It is difficult to understand how such circumstances are a triumphant act of autonomy—as if **the state**, by **facilitating death where it has failed to provide adequate resources to live**, has somehow given its most vulnerable citizens the dignity of choice.'*

Please write to Peers at: The House of Lords, London, SW1A 0PW – and address to - The Rt Rev The Lord Bishop of Oxford; His Grace The Duke of Wellington; or The Rt Hon The Lord Crathorne (recommended recipients).

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

Sunday 14th September: Feast of the Exultation of the Holy Cross. - Education Sunday, and Battle of Britain 80th Sunday

Sunday 14th – Saturday 20th September: Newbury Prayer Week: Open to all, this week-long initiative creates space for individuals, families, and churches across Newbury to come together in unified prayer. Each day will feature opportunities for communal and individual prayer, hosted by different churches throughout Newbury. *Prayers for Unity in the Church* will be held at St Joseph's on **Wednesday 17th September** from 12 noon until 1pm.

Saturday 20th September: INVITATION FROM CAFOD: You are invited to a CAFOD meeting at St Bede's Church Hall, Basingstoke from **10:30am to 1:30pm**. Come and hear about the difference your donations are making to communities around the world and CAFOD's work with partners in Southern Ethiopia. A simple lunch will be provided so please book your place by emailing Jo on jlewry@cafod.org.uk.

TWO NEW CATECHETICAL PROGRAMMES BEGINNING THIS AUTUMN:

1) FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2025-2026: The preparation programme for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will begin in early October this year. The programme is open to children in our parish who will be in Year 4 or above in September 2025. 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 interested in exploring the Catholic Faith with a view to reception into the Church, the **RCIA Programme** (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) begins on **Thursday 25th September at 7.30pm** 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 runs jointly for the Pastoral Area. Adult Catholics seeking Confirmation may also prepare for this sacrament via the RCIA programme.

September: Month of the Seven Sorrows of Mary. By custom, September is the month of meditation on the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady. Devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows became a devotion in the 14th century, revealed to St. Bridget of Sweden (1303-1373), and consists in praying seven Hail Mary's while meditating on the Seven Sorrows of Mary which are: 1. The Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:34-35); 2. The Flight into Egypt (Matthew 2:13-21); 3. The Loss of Jesus for 3 Days (Luke 2:41-50); 4. The Carrying of the Cross (John 19:17); 5. The Crucifixion of Jesus (John 19:18-30); 6. Jesus Taken Down from the Cross (John 19:39-40); and 7. Jesus Laid in the Tomb (John 19:39-42).

CAFOD: Response in Gaza: CAFOD donations to Gaza are a vital lifeline. CAFOD's partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people. Despite restrictions on aid into Gaza, CAFOD's local partners have helped 1,400 households with cash to buy supplies in the last month and are currently feeding 2,000 people with stocks of flour and rice. See details at cafod.org.uk and pray for peace in the Middle East.

Saturday 18th October: Formation Day for Readers: The Liturgy Project team invites you to a formation day for Readers at St Bede's, Basingstoke on Saturday 18th October. All readers, experienced and new, are welcome to attend. This day will include a session on Lectio Divina. Register attendance at liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

A FLAG TO REPRESENT OUR HOME NATIONS: 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: Thank you to everyone who has already bought tickets for the Lottery – your tickets are available to collect from the back of church.

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).

If you would like to receive a copy of this newsletter by email each week, please contact the parish office.

AND A FINAL THOUGHT: A day wasted on others is never wasted on oneself.