

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY

TIME - YEAR C

Sunday 14th September: THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, feast. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 15th September: Our Lady of Sorrows, memorial. No Mass today.

Tuesday 16th September: Ss Cornelius, Pope, & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs, memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 17th September: Feria of the 24th Week in Ordinary Time, or St Hildegard of Bingen, Religious, Doctor of the Church, or St Robert Bellarmine, Religious, Bishop, Doctor of the Church, optional memorials. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 18th September: Feria of the 24th Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 19th September: Feria of the 24th Week in Ordinary Time, or, St Januarius, Bishop, Martyr, or St Theodore of Canterbury, Bishop, optional memorials. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 20th September: St Andrew Kim Taegon, Priest, St Paul Chong Hasang & Companions, Martyrs, memorial. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 14th September: 8.30am for Doris Baulk RIP (Liz Rees' Intention).

11am for John and Ella Herbert RIP (Carol Irlam's Intention).

Tuesday 16th September: 10.00am in Thanksgiving for Night Adoration.

Friday 19th September: 10.00am for Lucy Tyler RIP (Toby Tyler's Intention).

Saturday 20th September: 10.00am for a Private Intention.

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Sandy Snook, 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: 7th September: Plate collection £630.74; Candles £49.86; Poor Box £4.31. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 14th September: FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS, (also Education Sunday, and Battle of Britain Sunday).

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross helps us appreciate better the importance of the symbol and reality of Christ's sacrificial love, namely, the cross in the daily life of every Christian. This feast is also celebrated to memorialize the first installation of the remnants of the true cross of Jesus in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre on Mount Calvary.

There is no mandated 2nd Collection for *Education Sunday* but you can donate on-line at: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/catholic-education-service-second-collection-2025>

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

Newbury Prayer Week: Sunday 14th – Saturday 20th September. 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, including St Joseph's on Wednesday. See poster in church.

Wednesday 17th September: 10.00am Mass – we will be joined by Year 5 children from St Joseph's School.

12 noon – 1pm: Prayers for Unity in the Church at St Joseph's as part of **Newbury Prayer Week** marked by **CTNA**, the Churches Together in Newbury Area. See poster in church for the times and venues of other prayers across the Newbury churches this week. All are welcome.

1pm – 2pm: The church will then remain open for quiet prayer and reflection. All are welcome at any time whilst the church is open.

7pm – 8.30pm Choir Rehearsal in the church. Newcomers are welcome to come along and see – without commitment – if they would like to join. All welcome!

Saturday 20th September: INVITATION FROM CAFOD:

You are invited to a CAFOD meeting at St Bede's Church Hall, Basingstoke on Saturday 20th September 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.

Also on **Saturday: CALLED AND GIFTED ALUMNI DAY** at St Peter's Winchester for anyone who has experienced the Called and Gifted discernment process. To book and for further details, please email the team with your name and _____ parish via calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Sunday 21st September: 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year C. 'Home Mission Sunday - Evangelii Gaudium Sunday', a day dedicated to proclaiming the joyful message of the Gospel - a message that brings hope and transformation to all, and highlights the Church's evangelisation efforts at both parish and diocesan levels. There will be a **second collection** at Masses for Home Missions. To give alternatively on-line go to: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/home-mission-sunday-second-collection-2>

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.

Canonisation Teaching. Bishop Nicholas Hudson of Westminster led a delegation to the canonisation celebration in Rome last weekend of St Carlo and St Pier Giorgio, which also joined with a UK Government delegation led by the Right Honourable Bridget Phillipson, Secretary of State for Education. Speaking to the group, Bishop Hudson said there was much to learn from the two new saints. "Saints Pier Giorgio and Carlo really are our teachers. They teach us how to live; they teach us how to die. They teach us how to live life to the full."

Retrouvaille – Catholic Marriage Support Programme:

Couples are helped to rediscover trust and hope in their marriage, and taught better communication tools and skills that have brought hope and healing to thousands of marriages. Privacy and confidentiality is key, so **NO GROUP SHARING**.

Does your relationship need some TLC? Need help with deeper issues? Next programme starts 17th October. Go to website or phone - **www.retrouvaille.org.uk** Tel: **+44 7887 296 983**

Stop assisted suicide - further action needed! As the assisted suicide Bill progresses through the Lords, Peers have made it clear that receiving physical letters will have the most influence at this stage of the process. **Right To Life UK** has launched a new **EasyAction** tool that creates a personalised letter to be sent in the post to a Peer highlighting a key concern with the Bill, selects a Peer to receive it, and customises the letter so that it is addressed from you. ***Please take action now*** and visit **www.righttolife.org.uk/aspeersletter** to send a letter to Peers asking them to oppose assisted suicide.

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.

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: The person who follows the crowd will usually go no further than the crowd. The person who walks alone is likely to find themselves in places no one has been before.