

# St Joseph's Catholic Church

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

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## **2<sup>nd</sup> SUNDAY OF ADVENT** **YEAR A**



**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year A. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.**

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December: THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. Solemnity.** (Joint Principal Patron of our Diocese). **Mass at 10.00am today.**

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December: Tuesday** of the Second Week of Advent, or, **St John Diego Cuahtlatatzin, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.**

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December: Wednesday** of the Second Week of Advent, or, **Our Lady of Loreto, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December: Thursday** of the Second Week of Advent, or, **St Damasus I, pope, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.**

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December: Friday** of the Second Week of Advent, or, **Our Lady of Guadalupe, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December: St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr, memorial. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.**

### **Mass Intentions:**

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December: 8.30am for a Private Intention.

11.00am for Charles Connelly RIP (Denise Dougan's Intention).

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December for the intentions of St Joseph's School, pupils and staff.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> December: for intentions of Joyce Delahunty.

### **Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:**

Fr Padraig Faughnan, Carol Bartlam, Anne Horner, Angela Jordan, Margaret Saunders, Elizabeth Skelton, Oliver Avery, Kate Kennington, Jean O'Neill, Philip Rowlands, Jonathan Sheridan, Deanna Knight, 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:** 30<sup>th</sup> November: Plate collection £562.46; Candles £16.75; Poor Box £1.00. Totals for November: Contactless £1,490; Bamenda Appeal £91 (contactless); Standing Orders £1,857.50. Thank you for your generosity.

**THANKYOU!** Our Parish Harvest Collection for **CAFOD** raised **£704.05**; our sale of poppies on behalf of the **Royal British Legion Charity Appeal** raised **£144.60**. Both charities have expressed their thanks to St Joseph's!

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> December: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year A.** The 'stump of Jesse' referenced in today's first reading refers to Jesse, the father of King David, and Jesus is descended from the line of David. He is the branch God promised would grow from Jesse's family tree. John the Baptist in today's Gospel summons us to play our part in the plan of salvation by leading lives of repentance and renewal, thus preparing the way for the Lord's second coming. We start this process by spiritually preparing for the annual celebration of Christmas, the Lord's first coming, as we reform and renew our lives by repentance and works of charity.

**5pm: Concert, 'Soul Reason for the Season'** with singers and the Watership Brass at St John's Church, St John's Road, Newbury RG14 7PY. Tickets in aid of the *Newbury Soup Kitchen*.

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December: THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY. Solemnity. 10.00am Mass** – The children of St Joseph's School will be present celebrating their *End of Term Mass*. All are welcome! Pope Pius IX proclaimed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception on 8th December 1854. In that definition he expressed that Our Lady was conceived free from the stain of the original sin from the moment of her conception. It was a privilege unique to Mary, and a fitting one, for she would one day carry in her womb the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity.

**6pm: St Joseph's School Christmas Carol Service** in St Joseph's Church. All welcome.

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December: Open Church 12.30pm – 2pm.** The church will be open for quiet prayer and reflection. All are welcome at any time while the church is open.

**7pm-8.30pm – Choir Practise** in church. Thinking about joining the choir? Male voices needed! Come along without obligation.

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December: 10.30am Grand/Mothers' Prayers** every Thursday at *Newbury Grove Care Home*, 370 London Rd, Newbury RG14 2QH to pray for the needs of our children and grandchildren, and for a strengthening of faith. New attendees are particularly welcome at present. For more information speak with Fr Michael or Elizabeth Matias after Mass.

**Friday 12<sup>th</sup> December: 12 noon - Memorial Service at the Control Tower, Greenham Common**, led by Fr Michael. The Service commemorates two tragic accidents, and marks the 81st anniversary of the crash on the Common of a Horsa glider from the 17<sup>th</sup> Airborne Division on 12<sup>th</sup> December 1944 which killed two pilots and 31 soldiers. Just 3 days later, on 15<sup>th</sup> December, two B17 Flying Fortresses returning from a raid on Germany collided in bad weather over Greenham. Of 18 crew, only 2 survived. The memorial to these men, was moved to the control tower site in September 2019. All are welcome to attend.

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December: 10am – 12 noon: First Holy Communion Programme Children's Learning Session at St Joseph's School.**

**Also, this Saturday - Douai Abbey Pastoral Programme - Advent Reflection Day: 10.30am – 4pm** (arrivals and coffee from 10am). Led by Barbara Priest, an Anglican lay minister, and oblate of Douai Abbey. In the dark of winter, we find the promise of light. Come and rest in this gentle Advent season of waiting for the Light of the World. Bring own lunch. For bookings/enquiries, email [pastoral@douaiabbey](mailto:pastoral@douaiabbey) or visit Abbey website. A contribution of £20 is payable on the day. Coffee and tea are provided.

**ADVENT CALENDAR!** The Catholic Union Advent Calendar, featuring daily contributions from leading Catholic figures in public life, is available to download free at: [www.catholicunion.org.uk/advent-2025/](http://www.catholicunion.org.uk/advent-2025/)

**Advent Prayer to St Joseph:** In Advent we recall that St. Joseph is the Guardian of Jesus. In his 2020 Apostolic Letter *Patris Corde*, Pope Francis said that "every day, for over forty years, I have recited a prayer to Saint Joseph expressing devotion and trust.":  
*Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph,  
whose power makes the impossible possible,  
come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty.*

*Take under your protection  
the serious and troubling situations that I commend to  
you, that they may have a happy outcome.  
My beloved father, all my trust is in you.  
Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain,  
and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary,  
show me that your goodness is as great as your power.  
Amen.*

**Parish Christmas Collection 2025:** As an alternative to donating via the 'plate' collection at the Christmas Masses, the following link can also be used to make the traditional Christmas clergy offering:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/newbury-st-joseph-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2025>

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: 24<sup>th</sup> December** – 6.30pm Children's Christmas Vigil Mass with the Music Group; 11.00pm Christmas Night Mass (Starting with carols at 10.30pm). **25<sup>th</sup> December** – Christmas Day Masses at 08.30am and 11.00am. **26<sup>th</sup> December** (St Stephen's Day) Mass at 12 noon.

**From West Berkshire Foodbank:** The support you have shown over Harvest has been an answer to prayer. Stock levels in the warehouse had reached a worrying level after the Hungry Holidays initiative but you have made a fantastic response. Over autumn the Harvest donations received from churches, schools and the community weighed over 12 tonnes (comparable to the weight of 2 male African elephants!). THANK YOU! See posters at the church entrances for details of the '**Reverse Advent Calendar**' and '**Alternative Secret Santa**'. Donations can be left in the collection box at the back of church (on, or before, Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> December please).

**REFURBISHMENT OF THE PARISH HALL:** While work concludes, parking is available in Hawthorn Road, opposite the church, but 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:** "If everyone simply did their Christian duties, we would not have so much hate and misery in the world." *Blessed Karl Hapsburg.*

**CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN CHURCH AFTER SUNDAY MASSES!**