

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

**Sunday 8th December: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
YEAR C. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.**

**Monday 9th December: THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, Joint-Principal Patron of
the Diocese, solemnity. N.B. Mass at 10.00am today.**

**Tuesday 10th December: Tuesday of the 2nd Week of
Advent or Our Lady of Loreto, optional memorial. Mass
at 10.00am.**

**Wednesday 11th December: Wednesday of the 2nd Week
of Advent or St Damasus, Pope, optional memorial. Mass
at 10.00am. St Joseph's School attending (End of Term
Mass).**

**Thursday 12th December: Thursday of the 2nd Week of
Advent or Our Lady of Guadalupe, optional memorial.
Mass at 10.00am.**

**Friday 13th December: St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr, memorial.
Mass at 10.00am.**

**Saturday 14th December: St John of the Cross, Religious,
Doctor of the Church, memorial. Exposition of the
Blessed Sacrament & Confessions follow 10.00am Mass.**

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 8th December: 08.30am for Audrey O'Connor RIP
(Christina Castle's Intention).

11.00am for a Private Intention.

Wednesday 11th December: For intentions of St Joseph's
School, pupils, staff, and governors.

Thursday 12th December: for Mick Devery RIP (Hyacinth
Cobb's intention)

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Diana Amesbury, Angela Saguez, Geoff and Kathleen
Wain, Lesley Smith, Joyce Delahunty, Larry Bretz, Yvonne
Bradley, Pat and Ron Bird, Theresa Cassidy, Joshua David,
Colin Devery, Marie O'Sullivan, Liliana Ramalingam, Terry
Hamill, Rita Zollo. Additions - please inform Fr Michael.

Collections: 1st December: Plate collection £977.48;
Candles £21.37; Poor Box £25.15; Repository £130.00;
Hall hire £40. Monthly totals for November - Standing
Orders £1,582.50; Contactless £1,404.00; Contactless

second collections: £226 for Bamenda, £53 for CAFOD.
Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 8th December: Second Sunday of Advent (C)

Today we are challenged to prepare a highway in our
hearts so that we may receive Christ at Christmas. Be
prepared for Christ's daily coming into our lives in the
Eucharist, in the Bible, in everyone we encounter, and in
the praying community. We are also asked to be ready to
meet Jesus as our Judge at his *Second Coming*, at the end
of our lives and at the end of the world.

11am Mass: Children's Liturgy in the hall for all children
of primary school age (in Reception class and above).
There will be an appeal by the **Saint Vincent de Paul
Society** after both Masses today.

There is a **Pastoral Letter** today from the Bishop, a copy
of which can be accessed on our parish website. A video
of the bishop's letter is on YouTube at -
<https://youtu.be/JyhP0zuzhjw>

Christmas Cards will be on sale in the parish hall after
Masses from today.

Tea and coffee served in the hall after both Masses. All
welcome.

Sale of soft toys, costume jewellery and greetings cards
in support of **Aid to the Church in Need**, and **Christian
Aid** today in the hall after **11 o'clock** Mass.

**Monday 9th December: 10.00am Mass for THE
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN
MARY, Joint-Principal Patron of the Diocese.**

**Wednesday 11th December: 10am: End of Term School
Mass** in church for the children and staff of our parish
school of St Joseph's. All welcome.

12.30-2pm: The church is open on Wednesday afternoon
for quiet prayer and reflection. All are welcome at any
time whilst the church is open.

6pm: St Joseph's School Christmas Concert in the church.

**Thursday 12th December: 2.30pm Festive Christmas Film
Matinée** in St Joseph's Hall – wear sparkles! All welcome.

**Friday 13th December: 6pm – 8pm: Pastoral Area Youth
Group Christmas Party** at St Francis de Sales Parish Hall,
Wash Common. Food, friends and fun!

All children who have already made their 1st Holy Communion are very welcome to come along for fun, games, party food and Christmas craft activities. Please bring a POT NOODLE for the collection for Newbury Soup Kitchen, and also a plate of food to share (NUT FREE). RSVP by Monday 9th December to annhaynes07@hotmail.com, with details of any food allergies.

Saturday 14th December: 10.00am – 12noon: First Holy Communion Preparation Session in St Joseph's Hall for all children enrolled in the 2024/5 programme. The children will make their **First Confessions at a special service at 11.15am** in the church, and participate at 11.00am Mass tomorrow.

Sunday 15th December: 3rd Sunday of Advent (Gaudete Sunday). 7.30pm Concert – 'A Celebration of Christmas' with carols and anthems from Newbury Choral Society, at St Nicolas' Church, Newbury. Tickets £15 available online at www.newburychoral.org.uk

Tuesday 17th December: 7.30pm ADVENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE in St Joseph's Church for the parishes of the West Berkshire Pastoral Area. This is your opportunity to make your Confession in readiness for Christmas with at least 6 priests present.

CTNA (Churches Together in Newbury Area) COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS DAY EVENT: Christmas lunch will take place in St George's Hall, Newbury, 10.00am-4pm, for those who might otherwise spend Christmas Day alone. Volunteers are needed to set up the hall and prepare vegetables (10.30pm-12.30pm Christmas Eve) – or on the day: drivers, entertainers, washer-uppers, servers, and one large Christmas cake! If you, yourself, will be alone and want to join the lunch, or for more information contact Joanna Abrahams **07828 244119** or email marinaoabraham@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: 24th December – 6.30pm Children's Christmas Vigil Mass with the Music Group; 11.00pm Christmas Night Mass (starting with carols at 10.30pm). **25th December** – Christmas Day Masses at 08.30am and 11.00am.

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL: Reception Open Afternoon on Friday 13th December at 1.30pm. If you would like the opportunity to visit our parish school, please contact the school office: office@stjosephs.w-berks.sch.uk

Date for your diary: There will be a Fun Quiz on Friday 7th February in St Joseph's Hall – everyone welcome! Further details to follow in the newsletter later this month.

Newbury Room to Rent? A professional carer is seeking a room only (no meals) for occasional nights to facilitate shift care role of a local person receiving care assistance.

£25 per night offered. For more details, please contact Marie Rodican at email mariarodican@gmail.com

LITURGICAL SYMBOLISM: The lights of the candles on the Advent Wreath dispel the darkness, anticipating the Light of Christ at Christmas. The evergreens are a reminder of continuous life, and their circular form points to eternal life in Christ. The four candles mark the Sundays of Advent. The purple candles remind us of the penitential nature of the season to prepare us for the second coming of Christ. The pink candle (for Gaudete, 3rd Sunday) announces a day of rejoicing as Christ approaches. The white candle in the centre represents Christ himself, and is lit to celebrate the incarnation of the Light of the World.

Compassionate Assistance: The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) has launched its Emergency Middle East Appeal. The DEC members provide lifesaving aid in Gaza, Lebanon and the West Bank, but now urgently need more funds. Further details and information at: www.dec.org.uk

CAFOD's WORLD GIFTS 2024: Choose an ethical charity gift this Christmas and make a life-changing difference to people living in poverty. World Gifts are CAFOD's range of virtual charity gifts that will please friends and family but are also a great way of rediscovering what it really means to share the love, peace and joy of Christmas. See the CAFOD gift catalogues in church.

New Sunday Missal: The CTS New Sunday Missal (People's Edition) with the new translation of The Lectionary, is available to purchase direct from CTS for £19.95 (hard-back edition) at www.ctsbooks.org or from Pilgrim Gifts based in Walsingham via www.pilgrimgifts.co.uk.

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH HALL: The hall is available for bookings for social events, classes, or activities. Reasonable hire rates. Please contact Anne Paice to book on email: annepaice62@yahoo.co.uk

Contactless Donations: Please use your debit/credit card or smart phone/device to donate on our *Digital Collection Pads*. 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: We believe that we're all here on earth to help others, but what on earth the others are here for appears to remain a mystery...!

