

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C

Sunday 16th March: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C.
Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 17th March: ST PATRICK, Bishop, feast. No Mass today.

Tuesday 18th March: Tuesday of the 2nd Week of Lent.
Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 19th March: ST JOSEPH, Patron, Solemnity.
Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 20th March: Thursday of the 2nd Week of Lent.
Mass at 10.00am

Friday 21st March: Friday of the 2nd Week of Lent. Mass
at 10.00am.

Saturday 22nd March: Saturday of the 2nd Week of Lent.
Mass at 10.00am.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 16th March: 8.30am for Arthur Williamson RIP
(Georgiana Avery's Intention)

11am in Thanksgiving for Night Adoration

Tuesday 18th March: 10am for Des Dougan RIP (Denise
Dougan's Intention)

Wednesday 19th March: 10am for Grace Granville RIP
(Deidre McNair-Wilson's Intention)

Thursday 20th March: 10am for John McMahan RIP
(Denise Dougan's Intention)

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Eric and Beryl Thompson, Geoff and Kathleen Wain,
Lesley Smith, Joyce Delahunty, Larry Bretz, Yvonne
Bradley, Pat and Ron Bird, Theresa Cassidy, Joshua David,
Marie O'Sullivan, Liliana Ramalingam, Terry Hamill, Rita
Zollo, Kevin McCormack. Additions - please inform
Fr Michael.

Collections: 9th March: Plate collection £708.42; Candles
£44.52; Poor Box £14.54. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 16th March: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT Year C:

The theme of today's readings is transfiguration or
transformation. They invite us to work with the Holy
Spirit to transform our lives by renewing them during

Lent so that they radiate the glory and grace of the
transfigured Lord to all around us.

The **New Planned Giving Envelopes** will be given out
after Masses today. In some cases, the box number may
have changed due to the need for less boxes. Standing
Order details/forms will also be available for anyone
wanting to switch to this method of contributing to the
Parish.

11am Mass: Children's Liturgy in the hall for all children
of primary school age (in Reception Class and above). **Tea
and coffee** served in the hall after both Masses. All
welcome.

**Wednesday 19th March: SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH –
PARISH PATRONAL FEAST DAY:** Mass at 10.00am in
honour of our Patron.

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.

Friday 21st March: 10.30am: Stations of the Cross in
church following Mass.

2.30pm: Film Matinée in the hall. 'Avanti!', comedy, with
Jack Lemmon. All welcome.

Saturday 22nd March: 10am to 12 noon Preparation
session for the **First Holy Communion Group** children in
St Joseph's Hall. The children participate in the 11.00am
Mass tomorrow, Sunday 23rd March.

12.30pm: Baptisms of Johnathan and Millie Mascenik-
McGinnety. Congratulations!

Sunday 23rd March: A second collection for the
Walsingham Shrine will be taken at both Masses today.
The **Music Group** will play at the **11am Mass**.

Monday 24th March: 7.30pm Confirmation Preparation
Session at St Francis de Sales' Parish Hall for all enrolled
in the programme. Please remember to bring your Bible.

Saturday 29th March: PASTORAL AREA LENT RETREAT
11am to 3pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, Hungerford led by
Fr. Francis Preston SDB assisted by 2 seminarians and
including a programme for young parishioners. All are

most welcome. Full programme on posters in the church.

'CAFOD's Big Lent Walk 2025': A team of Confirmation candidates from St Joseph's and the West Berkshire Pastoral Area are taking on the challenge to walk 200km in 40 days in raise money for CAFOD and SCIAF to help fight global poverty. If you would like to sponsor our young people, please go to <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk> and search for 'West Berkshire Confirmation'. Look for the daffodils!

Saturday 12th April: 7.30 pm at St Nicholas' Church: Newbury Choral Society, together with a professional orchestra and soloists, will perform **Elgar's 'The Dream of Gerontius'**, a work for voices and orchestra based on the 1865 poem written by St John Henry Newman. Tickets (£16.50 or £5.50 for under 16s) are available via newburychoral.org.uk.

Pope Francis' Thanks: Pope Francis has sent a message of gratitude and closeness to all those who have been praying for his recovery since he was admitted to hospital. *"I thank you with all my heart for the prayers you offer for my health. I accompany you from here. May God bless you, and may the Virgin protect you. Thank you."*

March – The Month of St Joseph: March by custom is devoted to St. Joseph, and we look forward to his feast day this Wednesday 19th March. Pope Francis dedicated the year 2021 to him in commemoration of the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as the Patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX. Here is a Prayer that the Pope says to St. Joseph every day: *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 PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 30th June – 4th July 2025: £839 including flights and full board. Closing date for bookings is today, Sunday 16th March! Email: annepaice62@yahoo.co.uk

Quiet Garden Days: Tithe Barn Quiet Garden offers you the opportunity to come away from the bustle of normal life and spend a day of peace in contemplation and stillness in a lovely local garden, on one of three days this summer, hosted by Penny Lovelock at Tithe Barn, Stroud Green RG14 7JA. 10 people limit on any one day. With short introductions by a leader, the day is spent in silence around the garden or house. £20 for full day; £10 on Penny's day (5th Sept). A good lunch is provided! Friday 30th May: 10.00am - 4.00pm Lead by Fr Peter Bowe; Friday 4th July: 10.00am - 4.00pm Lead by Revd Pat

Bhutta; Friday 5th Sep: 10.00am - 4.00pm Lead by Penny Lovelock. **Book by contacting:** pennylovelock44@gmail.com or mobile 07913 358068

'CARE – NOT KILLING' PETITION: All MPs will vote on the amended Assisted Suicide Bill at the Third Reading in late April or early May. 142 MPs who voted in favour of the Bill at 2nd Reading in November could change their vote at 3rd Reading because of concerns over so-called safeguards.

Those concerns include dropping the requirement that a High Court judge must look at every assisted death application on a case-by-case basis - a key reason why many MPs voted for the Bill last November. **By signing the Petition, Catholics in England and Wales can impress upon their MPs how dangerous this Bill is while there's still time.** Sign the petition at <https://carenotkilling.uk/petition>

CATECHISTS' LENT FORMATION AND NETWORKING

SESSIONS: The diocese is hosting online events during Lent for Catechists from across the diocese. They offer a chance to connect with other catechists, share experiences, and find inspiration to hand on the faith in our parishes. Each event begins at 7:30 PM - for one hour. The remaining on-line sessions are on **Thursday 20th March** (Marriage Preparation & Baptism) and **Thursday 3rd April** (Confirmation & RCIA). To sign up, go to <https://forms.office.com/e/VkCdj1SWzA>.

300 Club – March Draw: 1st prize £100 Joyce Delahunty; 2nd prize £50 Anne McClintock; 3rd prize £25 Fenisia Stopher. Congratulations!

To find out about **job opportunities** in the Diocese visit: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/about-us/people/careers. Current vacancies include Diocesan Head of Liturgical Music; Management Accountant; Parish Support Administrator; Head of Andover Foodbank.

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 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: Seek a relationship when you pray, not answers. You won't always find answers, but you will always find Jesus.