

St Joseph's Catholic Church

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THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C

'GAUDETE SUNDAY'

Sunday 15th December: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT 'GAUDETE SUNDAY' YEAR C. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 16th December: Monday of the 3rd Week of Advent. No Mass today.

Tuesday 17th December: Liturgy of 17th December, 'O Wisdom'. Requiem Mass for Johanna Fitzgerald at 10.00am.

Wednesday 18th December: Liturgy of 18th December, 'O Adonai'. Mass at 10.00am

Thursday 19th December: Liturgy of 19th December, 'O Root of Jesse'. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 20th December: Liturgy of 20th December, 'O Key of David'. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 21st December: Liturgy of 21st December, 'O Morning Star'. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions follow 10.00am Mass.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 15th December: 11.00am for the Intentions of Imogen Ciochon.

Tuesday 17th December: 10.00am for Johanna Fitzgerald RIP (Requiem Mass).

Wednesday 18th December: 10.00am in Thanksgiving for Night Adoration.

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, Marie O'Sullivan, Liliana Ramalingam, Terry Hamill, Rita Zollo. Additions - please inform Fr Michael.

Collections: 8th December: Plate collection £678.14; Candles £28.37; Poor Box £4.20; Hall hire £100. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 15th December: Third Sunday of Advent (C) 'Gaudete Sunday'. The theme of today's readings is the command "Rejoice!" We are to do so mainly by realising

the presence of Jesus in our midst, by receiving Jesus into our lives through our repentance, by our renewal of life, and by our faithful doing of God's will. Today is called "Gaudete" Sunday because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon, "Gaudete in Domino semper" ("Rejoice in the Lord always"). Today we light the rose-coloured candle of the Advent wreath.

Response to today's psalm: 'Shout aloud and sing praise, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel.'

11.00am Mass We are grateful that Fr Philip Carroll, priest of our diocese and currently serving as a chaplain in the Royal Navy, has agreed to celebrate this Mass today in order that Fr Michael can lead a Memorial Service at 11.00am at the town War Memorial to mark the anniversary of the end of British combat operations in Afghanistan on 12th December 2014. 454 British personnel lost their lives serving in Afghanistan up to this date.

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

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: 10.00am Requiem Mass for Johanna Fitzgerald RIP.

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.

Wednesday 18th December: 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.

Sunday 22nd December: 11am Mass: The Music Group will play at Mass today.

Parish Christmas Collection 2024: 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-2024>

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.

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.

Holy Year 2025 Pilgrimage to Rome 6th-11th April 2025:

We are invited to join the parish of St Mary's, Hampstead, on this pilgrimage the week before Holy Week. Full programme includes General Audience with Pope Francis, visits to the major basilicas, catacombs, the Venerable English College and its villa at Palazzola, Castel Gandolfo (the papal summer residence) etc. Flights, full board approx. £1400. Email Fr Michael for more details.

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

New Combined Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia: On 2nd December, the Archdiocese of Cardiff and the Diocese of Menevia in Wales received the Papal Bull which sanctioned the new Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia. In an event attended by clergy from across the new Archdiocese, bishops, religious, schoolchildren, parishioners and local dignitaries came to hear the Deputy of the Apostolic Nunciature read the papal bull which decreed that both Dioceses would now become one Archdiocese. Looking to the future, Archbishop Mark called for creativity and courage in serving the Church's mission.

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.

From the Diocesan Vocations Team: "*Gaudete! - Rejoice in the Lord always.*" Are you filled with joy at the Lord's invitation to serve Him in the priesthood or consecrated life? This deep sense of joy is a sign that God may be calling you to share His love with others in a special way. Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke by email (vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or call 01329 318869.

300 Club – December Draw: 1st prize £100 – Willie Hartley-Russell; 2nd prize £50 – Anne & Paul McClintock; 3rd prize £25 – Meg Turner. Congratulations!

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: 'A clear conscience is a sure sign of a bad memory!' ... Come to our Advent Penitential Service on Tuesday at 7.30pm to make your Confession for Christmas.

