

# St Joseph's Catholic Church

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## **THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C**

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C.**  
**Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.**

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March: Monday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent. No Mass today.**

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March: THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD, solemnity. Mass at 10.00am.**

**Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March: Wednesday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am.**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March: Thursday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am**

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March: Friday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am.**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March: Saturday of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am.**

### **Mass Intentions:**

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March: 11am for Ronald Garnell RIP (Family Intention).

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March: 10am for Arthur, Mary, and Mark Fullerton RIP (Maureen Smith's Intention).

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> March: 10am for David Stopher RIP (Stopher Family Intention).

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March: Michael McNair-Wilson RIP (Deidre McNair- Wilson'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:** 16<sup>th</sup> March: Plate collection £682.17; Candles £34.96; Poor Box £16; CAFOD £502.30. Thank you for your generosity.

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT Year C:** The readings speak of God's mercy and compassion in disciplining his children by occasional punishment, while giving many "second chances" despite repeated sins. God's love is constant, but he will not save

us without our co-operation. So, we are invited in Lent to repent of our sins and renew our lives by producing good fruit. **The Music Group** will play at the 11.00am Mass today.

All are welcome for **tea and coffee** in the hall after both Masses. Also, Easter cards and miscellaneous religious items will be on sale from the **Repository**.

**N.B.** Planned Giving Envelopes for the new tax year are available at the back of the church.

**Monday 24<sup>th</sup> 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, as well as any details of the distance you have walked for the Big Lent Walk.

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March: THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD.**  
**Mass at 10.00am**

### **Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March:**

**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.

**7.30pm: Evangelisation Strategy Committee Meeting** at Our Lady of Lourdes, Hungerford.

**Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March: 10.30am: Stations of the Cross** in church following Mass.

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March: PASTORAL AREA LENT RETREAT**  
**11am to 3pm** at Our Lady of Lourdes, Hungerford led by Fr. Francis Preston SDB assisted by a seminarian and including a programme for young parishioners. Theme – 'The Gifts of Forgiveness & the Eucharist'. All are most welcome. Full programme on posters in the church.

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> March (Laetare and Mothering Sunday):**  
**N.B.** Clocks go **forward** by one hour early today, so don't be an hour late for Mass! There will be a **second collection** for the Diocesan Clergy Assistance Fund at both Masses today.

**Fr Peter's 'BIG' Birthday!** Parishioners are invited to celebrate Fr Peter Codd's birthday today in the hall following 11.00am Mass. Please join us to mark this

happy occasion for Fr Peter who assists in our parish so generously.

**2pm-4.30pm: The Repair Café** in the Methodist Church Hall, Northbrook St. Bring along your broken items for free repair to save them from land-fill!

**CATECHISTS' LENT FORMATION AND NETWORKING SESSIONS**: The diocese is hosting one final online event in Lent for Catechists. It offers a chance to connect with other catechists, share experiences, and find inspiration to hand on the faith in our parishes. The remaining online session is Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April (Confirmation & RCIA). 7:30pm - for one hour. To sign up, go to <https://forms.office.com/e/VkCdj1SWzA>.

**Etiquette in Church – a 7<sup>th</sup> Holy Habit?**: Small things show courtesy to fellow worshippers and to the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. Parking challenges on Sunday can understandably mean being late for Mass. Many, however, regularly arrive late for weekday Masses even arriving during, or after, the Gospel. This causes distraction to all – so make a special effort in Lent to arrive in good time before Mass and compose yourself quietly. If unavoidably arriving late, please enter discreetly at the back of the church and take a seat there rather than distracting others by moving towards the front. Also, please note that crossing in front of the sanctuary during Mass is to be avoided if at all possible, and remember always to genuflect before the altar if this movement is unavoidable.

**LOURDES PILGRIMAGE UPDATE**: The coach to, and from, Heathrow has been booked. The cost per person is £40 for the return journey. Please pay by cash or by cheque, payable to the 'Tea Bar', and post through the presbytery letter box.

**CAFOD's Big Lent Walk**: The West Berks Confirmation Group is participating in CAFOD's Big Lent Walk - the target is to walk 200km in Lent to raise money for those who are less fortunate than us. Support our young people in our Pastoral Area joining in this venture. To donate to CAFOD and support the Confirmation group follow link: <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/teams/west-berkshire-confirmation-groups-big-lent-walk>

**From West Berks Foodbank**: Will you take part in the West Berks Foodbank **40 for 40** challenge this Lent? By giving 40 pence a day for the 40 days of Lent you can support local individuals and families facing hardship this Easter. Find an old jam jar or similar container and start collecting! Donations will be collected at St Joseph's in the week after Easter Sunday.

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> 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](http://newburychoral.org.uk).

**March – The Month of St Joseph**: March by custom is devoted to St. Joseph. Here is a prayer that the Pope says 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.*

**PAPAL PROCLAMATION**: Pope Francis has promulgated several decrees for the Causes of Saints, advancing the causes of canonization for US military chaplain Fr Emil Kapaun; Italian layman Bartolo Longo, the 'Apostle of the Rosary' and five others. Details about all named are available at: [www.indcatholicnews.com/news/51810](http://www.indcatholicnews.com/news/51810)

**The Jubilee Year 2025**: View our Diocesan website for the Jubilee Year. It contains many resources for Lent, including Bishop Philip's Video Message for the Jubilee Year, details about the Jubilee diocesan shrine churches and lots more. There are also e-books of Bishop Philip's meditations for the Stations of the Cross, and his prayer book, 'Lord, I am not Worthy'. The six shrine churches include: • St. John's Cathedral, Portsmouth • St. James's, Reading • Sacred Heart, Bournemouth • St. Edmund's, Southampton • St. Thomas' in St. Helier, Jersey • St. Joseph's in St. Peter Port, Guernsey. Go to - <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/jubilee-year-2025/>

**'CARE – NOT KILLING' PETITION**: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading of the Assisted Suicide Bill is in late April or early May. 142 MPs who voted in favour at 2<sup>nd</sup> Reading in November could change their vote at 3<sup>rd</sup> Reading because of concerns over weak safeguards i.e. dropping the need for a Judge to look at applications on a case-by-case basis - a key reason why many 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.org.uk/petition/>

**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**: Anyone who thinks sitting in church can make you a Christian must also think that sitting in a garage can make you a car.