

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

Sunday 26th January 2025: THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 27th January: Feria of the 3rd Week in Ordinary Time, or St Angela Merici, Foundress, *optional memorial*. No Mass today.

Tuesday 28th January: St Thomas Aquinas, Religious & Doctor of the Church, *memorial*. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 29th January: Feria of the 3rd Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 30th January: Feria of 3rd Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am. Also, Requiem Mass at 12 noon for Diana Amesbury RIP.

Friday 31st January: St John Bosco, Founder, *memorial*. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 1st February: Our Lady on Saturday. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions follow 10.00am Mass.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 26th January: 11.00am for Shirley Ann O'Sullivan RIP (Oliver Conway's Intention).

Tuesday 28th January: 10am for Kathleen Kenny RIP (Claire Stacey's Intention).

Thursday 30th January: 12 noon Requiem for Diana Amesbury RIP.

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. Additions - please inform Fr Michael.

Collections: 19th January: Plate collection £872.19; Candles £8.81; Hall hire £80. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 26th January: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time C – In today's Gospel, Jesus makes his "inaugural address" in the synagogue of Nazareth. The readings challenge us to listen to the Word, accept it into our hearts, then put it

into practice as we live out our lives, thus liberating ourselves and others from all types of bondage.

The annual Second Collection for the Cathedral Church of St John the Evangelist, Portsmouth, Mother Church of our Diocese, is taken at Masses today. The extensive work required over the next few years to the Cathedral's roof, windows, heating and electrical systems mean that this annual collection by parishes has never been more critical or needed. Your support is vitally important. Donations can be made via the digital collection pads in church or on-line via the following link: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/st-johns-cathedral-second-collection-2025>

Response to today's psalm: *Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life.*

11am Mass: Children's Liturgy in the hall for all children of primary school age (in Reception class and above). The **Music Group** play at this Mass today.

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

2pm – 4.30pm: Repair Café at Methodist Church Hall, Newbury RG14 1AN.

Wednesday 29th January: 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.

Thursday 30th January: Mass at 10.00am. Also, **Requiem Mass** at 12 noon for Diana Amesbury RIP.

2.30pm: Film Matinée in St Joseph's Hall, comedy '*Please Don't Eat the Daisies*' with David Niven and Doris Day. All welcome.

Saturday 1st February: 12 noon Baptism of Evelyn Campbell. Congratulations!

Sunday 2nd February: THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD: The Music Group will play at the **11am Mass**.

Friday 7th February: St Joseph's Quiz Night: All are welcome to join our fun quiz night in St Joseph's Parish Hall. Tickets are £8 per person, doors open **6.30pm**, quiz starts promptly at **7pm**. Please bring your own drinks and glasses, plus nibbles. Tea/coffee and

homemade fruit scones on sale during the interval. Please bring cash for the refreshments and raffle. Come as a team of up to 6 people, or join others on the night. Tickets available after both Sunday Masses; online via <https://shorturl.at/ZAo7O> or by emailing Kay Binns kaylbinns@gmail.com

Saturday 22nd February – CAFOD Meeting: Please join us to find out how your donations to CAFOD are making a difference to communities in Kenya. **10:30am to 1pm** at Christ the King Church Hall, Reading RG2 8NR. Everyone is welcome and please book your place so that we have an idea of numbers by emailing Jo on jlewry@cafod.org.uk

Tuesday 25th February – CHARIS Portsmouth: Judith Aylmer, CHARIS Portsmouth Co-ordinator invites you to another online Spirit-filled evening run by **CHARIS Portsmouth** with the theme of *Hope in this Jubilee year* on Tuesday 25th February at 7.30pm on Zoom. The speaker will be Rosanne Walker, the Children and Youth Worker in St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs parish. To register for the evening, please go to this link: <https://bit.ly/40iXWY8> To help build up a picture of prayer groups in Portsmouth Diocese, please mention whether you are a member of a prayer group when registering.

6th - 11th April 2025 - Holy Year 2025 Pilgrimage to Rome: 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. **N.B. Fitness priority outlined in instructions for the pilgrimage: FITNESS:** Rome, a city built on seven hills, is best seen on foot so a reasonable level of fitness is required for sightseeing. Also due to the number of steps in and around the major attractions of Rome, **this tour is unfortunately not suitable for those with walking difficulties.**

12th-19th May 2025 - Medjugorje pilgrimage. £749 including flights, transfers, 4 star accommodation near the centre. Svetlana, an experienced guide, will conduct pilgrims in the town between two hills where it is believed The Virgin Mary has appeared daily to 3 of the original 6 visionaries since June 1981. Many pilgrims describe it as 'Heaven on earth'. Sue Smith agrees, and so has arranged this trip with the ATOL protected company used previously. For more information email info@discoveredmedj.com or Sue Smith on susan.smith313@ntlworld.com

Catholic Young Writer Award 2025 This Award is open to all young Catholics (and pupils at Catholic schools) in England and Wales in secondary years 8-

11 inclusive. There is a cash prize of £50.00 for the best essay, plus a number of runner-up book prizes. Deadline for entries is 30th May 2025. For full details, please go to the Catholic Union of Great Britain website (www.catholicunion.org.uk)

Assisted Dying Bill: Update: The Palliative and End of Life Care Commission launched a call for written submissions ahead of their first oral evidence session which took place last Wednesday, 22nd January in Parliament. Further details are available at: www.palliativecarecommission.uk

Pope Francis Autobiography Published – 'Hope'. Pope Francis' greatly anticipated autobiography 'Hope' was published on 14th January by Viking. The text is written firsthand by the Pope but with the collaboration of Italian writer Carlo Musso. Written over six years, this complete autobiography starts in the early years of the 20th century, with Pope Francis' Italian roots and his ancestors' migration to Latin America. It continues through his childhood, the enthusiasms and preoccupations of his youth, his vocation, adult life, and the whole of his papacy up to the present day. The Holy Father addresses crucial moments of his papacy and various important and controversial questions of our present times.

From Bishop Philip: On Saturday 8th February, to mark Valentine's Day, Bishop Philip invites all engaged couples of our Diocese – those being married in a church either here or abroad – to a Valentine's Day Breakfast at St John's Cathedral. 9.15 am start for coffee and doughnuts; followed by presentation from a newly married couple about their wedding; a break; then a short Service of Blessing, in which each couple will be blessed individually by the Bishop and their engagement rings will be blessed. The service will finish by 11.45 am. If you would like to attend, please let Fr Michael know, or contact Kirsten McGuire (kmcguire@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) by Monday 27th January.

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: Hating people is like burning down your house to get rid of a rat...