

St Joseph's Catholic Church

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C

Sunday 30th March: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C.
Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 31st March: Monday of the 4th Week of Lent. No Mass today.

Tuesday 1st April: Tuesday of the 4th Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 2nd April: Wednesday of the 4th Week of Lent, or, St John Payne, martyr. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 3rd April: Thursday of the 4th Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am

Friday 4th April: Friday of the 4th Week of Lent, or, St Isidore of Seville, Doctor of the Church. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 5th April: Saturday of the 4th Week of Lent, or, St Vincent Ferrer, religious. Mass at 10.00am.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 30th March: 11am for Frances Early RIP (Rosie Byrne's Intention).

Tuesday 1st April: 10am for Frances Dougan RIP (Denise Dougan's Intention).

Wednesday 2nd April: 10am for Anna Tettamanzi RIP (Family Intention).

Thursday 3rd April: 10am for Desmond Seward RIP (Stella Lesser's Intention).

Friday 4th April: 10am for Denis Corrigan RIP (Sharon Ogden's Intention).

Saturday 5th April: 10am for the Intentions of Fr Peter Codd.

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: 23rd March: Plate collection £721.71; Candles £48.12; Poor Box £22; Walsingham Shrine £288.10. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 30th March: (Laetare and Mothering Sunday)

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT Year C: *Laetare Sunday* (Rejoice Sunday) anticipates Easter joy, and invites us to rejoice by being reconciled with God through repentance and the confession of our sins and by celebrating our coming home to be with our loving and forgiving God. *Laetare Sunday* is also **Mothering Sunday** – and we wish all mothers a very happy day! In mediaeval England, this day was a holiday when people went home to the mother church in which they were baptised. As families gathered, they gave gifts to their mothers. Please remember to say a prayer for your mother and grandmother.

Tea and coffee will be served in the hall after the **8.30am** Mass.

Fr Peter's 'BIG' Birthday! All are invited to celebrate Fr Peter Codd's birthday today in the hall following the **11am** Mass. Please join us to mark this happy occasion for Fr Peter who assists in our parish so generously.

The **second collection** at Masses today is for the **Diocesan Clergy Assistance Fund**. This contributes to the work of the Clergy Support Team responsible for looking after the welfare, ongoing formation and personal support of our clergy. Donations also via the following link:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/clergy-assistance-fund-second-collection-2025>

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

Tuesday 1st April: 7.30pm: Parish Finance Committee meeting in the hall.

Wednesday 2nd April: 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 3rd April: 2.30pm: Film Matinée in the hall. *'Roman Holiday'*, with Audrey Hepburn. All welcome.

7.30pm – 8.30pm: Diocesan Catechists' Lent Formation and Networking Session (Confirmation & RCIA) – on-line.

To sign up, to go
<https://forms.office.com/e/VkCdj1SWzA>

Friday 4th April: 10.30am: Recitation of the Rosary in church following Mass.

Sunday 6th April: 5th SUNDAY OF LENT: 11am Mass: Children's Liturgy. The Music Group will play at this Mass.

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.

Tuesday 15th April: 7.30pm: LENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE at St Joseph's for the parishes of our Pastoral Area, offering the opportunity to make your Easter Confession. Priests will be present from all local parishes to hear Confessions.

LENT AND HOLY WEEK MASS TIMES & LITURGIES for all of the churches in our Pastoral Area can be found on the parish website and on posters at the church entrances.

Etiquette in Church – a 7th 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 will now travel to, and from, Gatwick Airport and 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 Lent Appeal – Thank you! Thank you for giving generously to CAFOD's Lent Appeal. In troubling times for our world, your donations this Family Fast Day help people like Lokho in Kenya build a safety net and prepare for whatever comes. In giving to support our sisters and brothers, we are truly pilgrims of hope in the Jubilee year. Find out more at cafod.org.uk/lent

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>

Continued Prayers for Pope Francis: While Pope Francis was discharged from hospital last Sunday and now convalesces at the Casa Santa Marta residence at the Vatican, the faithful are urged to continue prayers for his ongoing recovery.

From West Berks Foodbank: Tickets for the Grand Raffle are now on sale. There are some amazing prizes to be won including 2 VIP tickets to Wimbledon, a brand-new mountain bike and a champagne dinner for 2 at The Braywood. Please buy a ticket to help those in need in our community - £1 per ticket via <https://www.peoplesfundraising.com/raffle/west-berks-foodbank-grand-raffle>.

'CARE – NOT KILLING' PETITION: Assisted dying may not be available in England and Wales until at least 2029 after MPs approved an extension of the rollout period. An initial two-year "backstop" will now increase to four years after the change was proposed by Kim Leadbeater, the Labour MP behind the Assisted Dying Bill. The four-year delay, passed by the committee scrutinising the legislation, now means the law is unlikely to be operational until at least 2029 – the year by which the next general election must take place. The threat the Bill poses, however, is still very real.

By signing this 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/>

CATHOLIC WITNESS: The Lord Mayor of Westminster, the Catholic Cllr Robert Rigby, has formally been invested as a Knight of St Gregory (Papal Knight). Recognising service in public life and to the Church, this prestigious honour was first created in 1831: www.indcatholicnews.com/news/51984

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: Life is not about having everything. It is about finding meaning in everything.