

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – YEAR C

Sunday 6th April: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR C.

Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 7th April: Monday of the 5th Week of Lent, or, St John Baptist de la Salle, memorial. No Mass today.

Tuesday 8th April: Tuesday of the 5th Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 9th April: Wednesday of the 5th Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 10th April: Thursday of the 5th Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 11th April: Friday of the 5th Week of Lent, or, St Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr, memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 12th April: Saturday of the 5th Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 6th April: 8.30am for Amala Rani RIP (Vijay Samuel's Intention).

11am for Mary Kirk RIP (Annette Haines' Intention).

Wednesday 9th April: 10.00am for intentions of Teresa Tomaszewski (Pauline Mason's Intention).

Saturday 12th April: 10am for Christina Granville RIP (Deidre McNair-Wison's Intention).

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Alan Hobbs, Jonathan Sheridan, Eric and Beryl Thompson, 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: 30th March: Plate collection £810.64; Candles £40.36; Poor Box £5.95; Clergy Assistance Fund £356.15; Walsingham Shrine £10; CAFOD £20. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 6th April: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT Year C: God is ready to forgive sin, give us a second chance, bind up broken lives, and restore us to His friendship. We are therefore challenged to show the same mercy to others

and to live as forgiven people, actively seeking reconciliation with God and one another. The central theme of all three readings is a merciful God's steadfast love.

11am Mass: Children's Liturgy in the hall for all children of primary school age (in Reception Class and above).

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

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

Tuesday 8th April (also Thursday 10th): Palm Cross Making Workshops in St Joseph's Hall from 11.30am – 1.30pm (Tuesday and Thursday) and 5pm – 7pm on Thursday. If you are interested in learning how to make crosses from palms, please come along. All are welcome.

Wednesday 9th 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.

Friday 11th April: 10.30am: Stations of the Cross in church following 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 St John Henry Newman's 1865 poem. Tickets (£16.50 or £5.50 for under 16s) are available via newburychoral.org.uk.

Sunday 13th April: PALM SUNDAY: 11am Mass: **Children's Liturgy.** The **Music Group** will play today.

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.

Tuesday 15th April: 11.00am CHRISM MASS at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth at which all ordained clergy renew their ordination vows. The bishop also blesses the holy oils (the Oil of the Sick, the Oil of Catechumens and Sacred Chrism) to be used in all the sacraments such as Baptism, Confirmation and the Anointing of the Sick.

The Sacred Chrism is breathed upon by the Bishop in an act emulating Christ's actions as He breathed upon His apostles to "receive the Holy Spirit." The oils are then used in our parishes for the coming year. All welcome.

7.30pm: LENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE for the West Berks Pastoral Area at St Joseph's for all our local church communities, offering the opportunity to make your Easter Confession. Priests will be present from all local parishes to hear Confessions.

Thursday 17th April: HOLY THURSDAY – No 10am Mass.
10.30am: 'The Wonder of the Shroud', a showing in the parish hall of the video lecture by Fr Martin Haigh OSB on the Shroud of Turin exploring the compelling evidence for its authenticity, and what it reveals about Our Lord's crucifixion and death.

7.30pm: MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER.

Friday 18th April: GOOD FRIDAY: 10am: Stations of the Cross in church.

10.30am: CTNA (Churches Together in Newbury Area) Ecumenical Service at St. Nicolas' Church, Northbrook St followed by a Walk of Witness through Northbrook Street to the Methodist Church. All are welcome.

3pm SOLEMN CELEBRATION OF THE LORD'S PASSION.

Saturday 19th April: HOLY SATURDAY: No 10am Mass.
10.00am Stations of the Cross, followed by **11.30am: Polish Service of the Blessing of Bread and Easter Food.** All welcome.

8pm: THE EASTER VIGIL Join us for the most important Liturgy of the Church year.

Sunday 20th April: EASTER SUNDAY: Masses at 8.30am and 11am. **N.B. There will be no Tea/Coffee after the 8.30am Mass on Easter Sunday.**

From the Diocese – Easter Offerings: As is customary at Easter, offerings can be made directly to your parish clergy through the plate collection on Easter Sunday, or via the following link specifically for St Joseph's Newbury: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/newbury-st-joseph-catholic-parish-easter-second-collection>

REFURBISHMENT OF THE PARISH HALL: Thanks to the generosity of three local families (who wish to remain anonymous) and some local charitable trusts, we are now fully funded to start work on refurbishing the Hall very soon. The contract is scheduled to start early May, and should be completed by late October. The Hall will not be available for functions during that time.

The works will require external scaffolding and excavation to improve drainage and some disruption will reduce parking available particularly at weekends and on Holy Days. The contractors will minimise disruption, but the goodwill and cooperation of parishioners is needed. At such times younger members of the congregation and those with teenage children will be asked to park in neighbouring streets and nearby car parks, leaving the

reduced parking spaces at Church for older parishioners, the disabled and families with young children.

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.

Saturday 3rd May: Diocesan Formation Day for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion from 10am – 2pm at St Bede's Church, Popley Way, Basingstoke RG24 9DX. Talks and reflections, including a session on taking Holy Communion to the sick and housebound. Please bring your own lunch; tea and coffee will be provided. Those interested should register via liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. There will also be a day for Ministers of Children's Liturgy on Saturday 7th June and a Readers' Day on Saturday 18th October, further details to follow.

Saturday 10th May: 10am – 1pm: LAUDATO SI' 10TH ANNIVERSARY: Join CAFOD and Caritas in a joint celebration for the 10th anniversary of the publication of Laudato Si' at St Peter's, Winchester. The session will be packed with practical information and opportunities to ask questions on how we can make a difference in our lives and that of our parish, including CAFOD's LiveSimply Award. For more information and to register visit <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk>. Everyone welcome.

Saturday 21st June: SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS: Celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years? If so, Bishop Philip invites you to a celebratory Mass at St Bede's Church, Basingstoke on 21st June at 11am - followed by a buffet lunch. A wonderful celebration and witness to Marriage! To attend, contact the St Joseph's parish office or email anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

CAFOD Myanmar Earthquake Appeal: Following the earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church to support families affected. Donations will provide water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to the Earthquake Appeal in church or donate online at cafod.org.uk/myanmar or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.

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.

AND A FINAL THOUGHT: "All people are born as originals but many die as photocopies!" Blessed Carlo Acutis 1991-2006, to be canonised a saint on 27th April 2025.