

St Joseph's Catholic Church

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5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

Sunday 9th February 2025: FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 10th February: St Scholastica, Virgin, memorial. No Mass today.

Tuesday 11th February: Feria of the 5th Week in Ordinary Time, or, Our Lady of Lourdes, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 12th February: Feria of the 5th Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 13th February: Feria of the 5th Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 14th February: ST CYRIL, Religious, & St METHODIUS, Bishop, Patrons of Europe, feast. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 15th February: Feria of the 5th Week in Ordinary Time, or Our Lady on Saturday. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions follow 10.00am Mass.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 9th February: 11.00am for John Galvin RIP (Oliver Conway's Intention).

Tuesday 11th February: 10.00am for the Intentions of Sebastian Ciochon and Family.

Thursday 13th February: 10.00am for the Intentions of Kazimierz Ciochon.

Saturday 15th February: 10.00am for Colleen Morel RIP (Marcia Morel'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: 2nd February: Plate collection £701.59; Candles £38.13; Poor Box £27.50. January totals: Standing Orders £1,882.50; contactless £1,695.00 plus £56 for second collection for St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 9th February: FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year C (Racial Justice Sunday)

The 2025 theme of **Racial Justice Sunday** is '*Pilgrims of Hope: Our journey together towards racial justice*'. Bishop Paul McAleenan (Lead Bishop for Racial Justice) reflects 'Just as pilgrims must prepare for their journey and be properly equipped, we, too, need all that is necessary to propel us towards racial justice – the mind of Christ'.

Today we discern God's call to each of us to become His disciple with a mission. We are asked to recognise God's Holy Presence and acknowledge our unworthiness to become humble instruments in His hands, as did the prophet Isaiah (first reading), St. Paul (second reading), and St. Peter (the Gospel). Today's readings also teach us that God has His own criteria for selecting people to be His disciples, ministers, and prophets.

11am Mass: Our candidates preparing for First Holy Communion will take part in Mass today.

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

Tuesday 11th February: The memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes today is customarily designated as a **World Day of Prayer for the Sick**. Please pray for the sick of our parish.

2.30pm: Film Matinée in St Joseph's Hall. All are welcome.

Wednesday 12th February: 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.

National Marriage Week 7th-14th February: Bishop Bosco MacDonald, Lead Bishop for Marriage and Family Life, has said we should all be working towards a society that values marriage. "We can offer our contribution towards a culture that respects and values marriage, knowing that it's the foundation for a happy and healthy society." Pope Benedict XVI once said, "Marriage is a way to save ourselves and our society, because marriage is a source of hope, strength, and new beginnings for everyone involved."

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 jljewry@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.

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Money Coaching Course: CAP Newbury Debt Centre announce that CAP Money Coaching courses are beginning in Newbury. Money coaching is a free service designed to empower people of all ages with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to better manage their finances. Anyone can benefit – from seasoned budgeting experts to those struggling to get to grips with their spending as families, students, pensioners - anyone. The first course is being run by members of Newbury Baptist Church, and hosted at St. Nicolas' Church Hall, on **Wednesday 19th and 26th March at 7pm**. To book a free place or for further information contact Colin Cunningham at colincunningham@capuk.org or on 07393 496480.

Sincere Thanks!: to the anonymous parish donor who has made it possible to purchase new Mass Books for Year C with the new translation of the Lectionary to replace those made redundant by the recent change. God bless you for your generosity.

PARISH PILGRIMAGE TO LOURDES 30th June – 4th July 2025: £839 including flights (Heathrow to Toulouse), transfers, full board, and daily programme of events. (£39 per night single supplement; 10 Euros Sanctuary supplement). Please speak with or contact Anne Paice for further information or to book - email: annepaice62@yahoo.co.uk

TEACHING POINT: From the Diocese - When we receive Our Lord in Holy Communion, we should receive Him in the way we encounter a loved one: with reverence, care, gentleness and humility. The Catechism of the Catholic Church notes that in the holy Eucharist, "Christ, God and man, makes himself wholly and entirely present" (1374). Communion is received in the Latin Church either on the tongue or in the hand. The minister holds up the Host and says, "The Body of Christ", and the communicant answers, "Amen", then receives and consumes. To

receive on the tongue the head should be held erect but tilted back slightly. The tongue should extend over the bottom teeth. To receive in the hand, a kind of 'throne' should be made for the Lord, with one palm held firmly in the other. Communion should be consumed before you leave the vicinity of the minister and immediately after saying "Amen".

'Intinction', i.e. where the communicant receives a host, and dips it into the chalice themselves is not in accord with the Roman tradition of receiving Holy Communion. This is due to the principle that sacraments are never 'self-administered,' but are 'received.' The chalice is usually administered by a deacon or priest, or by a duly instituted acolyte or another extraordinary minister of Holy Communion. If communicants have concerns about sharing an infection they may have with others, they are asked to refrain from receiving the chalice.

Assisted Suicide Bill: Cardinal Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, has called the way in which the assisted suicide bill is being handled "deeply irresponsible" and a "shambles". Speaking to 'Christian Fellowship' he expressed concern that MPs had only spent a few hours debating assisted suicide, when they spent more than a hundred times longer debating banning fox hunting in 2004. The Hunting Act 2004 passed after 700 hours of parliamentary debate and a government inquiry – the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) bill, passed on 29th November 2024 by 330 to 275 after five hours of debate. He said, "The radical change in the law now being proposed risks bringing about for all medical professionals a slow change from a duty to care, to a duty to kill."

Diocesan Vocations Team: "They left everything and followed him." As we celebrate National Marriage Week, we honour the beauty and commitment of married couples who follow Christ together. Just as the apostles left behind their former lives to follow Jesus, couples are called to embrace their vocation of marriage with faith and trust, journeying together toward holiness. Take this opportunity to renew your marriage vows in your heart.

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: If we could kick the person in the rear responsible for most of our troubles, none of us would be able to sit for a month.