

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

Sunday 16th February 2025: SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 17th February: Feria of the 6th Week in Ordinary Time, or, **The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order, optional memorial. No Mass today.**

Tuesday 18th February: Feria of the 6th Week in Ordinary Time. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Wednesday 19th February: Feria of the 6th Week in Ordinary Time. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Thursday 20th February: Feria of the 6th Week in Ordinary Time. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Friday 21st February: Feria of the 6th Week in Ordinary Time, or, **St Peter Damian**, Religious, Bishop & Doctor of the Church, *optional memorial*. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Saturday 22nd February: THE CHAIR OF ST PETER, feast. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions follow 10.00am Mass.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 16th February: 8.30am for Beatrice Fava RIP (Fr Michael's Intention).

11.00am in Thanksgiving for Night Adoration.

Wednesday 19th February: 10.00am for Sylvia RIP (Kiki's Intention).

Friday 21st February: 10.00am for Emilie Zott RIP (Monika Rackham's Intention)

Saturday 22nd February: 10.00am for Mike Colbert RIP (Family'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: 9th February: Plate collection £785.22; Candles £22.57; Poor Box £2.60. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 16th February: SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year C

- Today's readings teach us that true happiness, or beatitude, lies in the awareness of who we are and of what we are supposed to do. They remind us that we are children of a Heavenly Father, and that we will be happy in this world and in heaven only when we share our blessings here on earth with our brothers and sisters in need, and work to uplift them.

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

Wednesday 19th 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.

Saturday 22nd February: 12 noon Baptism of Freddie Froude. Congratulations!

CAFOD Meeting: Find out how your donations to CAFOD make a difference to communities in Kenya. **10:30am-1pm** at Christ the King Church Hall, Reading RG2 8NR. All welcome. Book by emailing: jlewry@cafod.org.uk

Sunday 23rd February: We will welcome Fr Brian Oswald MHM to give a **Red Box Presentation** at both Masses. This is not a financial appeal, but a plea for more Red Box Missio holders. 'Missio' is the Pope's charity for world Mission and through the Red Boxes we support the Church around the world where it is young and in need. Please consider supporting this important cause by taking a Red Box or signing up to give via Direct Debit.

Tuesday 25th February – CHARIS Portsmouth: CHARIS Portsmouth invites you to an online evening – Theme: **'Hope in this Jubilee Year,'** on Tuesday 25th February at 7.30pm on Zoom. Speaker - Rosanne Walker, Children and Youth Worker in St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs parish. To register, go to link: <https://bit.ly/40iXWY8> To build up a picture of prayer groups in Portsmouth Diocese, please mention if you are a member of a prayer group when registering.

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Money Coaching Course: CAP Newbury Debt Centre announce CAP Money Coaching courses in Newbury in March - a free service

designed to empower 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 or pensioners. 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.

Saturday 29th March: Pastoral Area Lent Retreat 11am to 3pm at Our Lady of Lourdes, Hungerford led by Fr. Francis Preston SDB assisted by 2 seminarians and including a programme for young parishioners. All are most welcome.

Many Thanks to Kay Binns, Marion Shaw, Annette Haines, Jeremy and Maureen Smith and everyone who helped to make Friday's Parish Quiz Night such a success. A very enjoyable time was had by all and the evening raised **£613** for the parish!

'CAFOD's Big Lent Walk 2025': Challenge yourself to walk 200 kms in 40 days, alone or with friends, to raise funds to help CAFOD fight global poverty and build a better world. Search 'Big Lent Walk' on the CAFOD website for more details and to sign up.

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

World Youth Day Pilgrimage to Rome - 28th July to 4th August. Join Bishop Philip and young people aged 17+ in Rome at the invitation of the Holy Father. Includes the Mass and ceremony at which Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati, diocesan Patron of Youth, will be canonised a saint. The cost (£1,350) includes flights, 7 nights hotel accommodation half board, travel in Rome, entrance and participation fees and more. For more information and pre-booking, contact youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Assisted Suicide Bill Bias: The Committee stage of MP Kim Leadbeater's Assisted Suicide Bill has begun, raising serious concerns about its conduct.

- * The Committee has been 'stacked' with a higher number of MPs who support the Bill.

- * Nearly twice as many witnesses supported assisted suicide than the number who opposed it.

- * Important voices have been excluded, including the Government's chief Suicide Prevention Strategy Advisor, the British Geriatrics Society, and a number of disability rights groups, senior palliative care doctors and legal experts with relevant expertise.

MPs must be aware of the serious issues in the scrutiny of Kim Leadbeater's Bill. It is vital they know our concerns and vote against it at Third Reading. Please take action now and visit www.righttolife.org.uk/ASBillAction to write to your MP - it only takes moments.

2025 Year of Jubilee: Jubilee 2025 celebrates hope and invites Catholics worldwide to deepen their faith. As 2025 is the 1,700th anniversary of the First Council of Nicaea, Jubilee 2025 also celebrates the Christian truth of the Incarnation, that Jesus is both true God and true man, a teaching from earliest times but dogmatically defined at the Council to combat the Arian heresy. The theme "*Pilgrims of Hope*" emphasises the journey of faith and hope to help us all navigate life's challenges. Each weekend throughout the year has a different focus. Further information about the complete year's cycle is available at: www.iubilaeum2025.va/en.html

King and Queen to visit Pope Francis: Cardinal Nichols has welcomed the announcement that King Charles and Queen Camilla will undertake State Visits to the Holy See and Italy in early April 2025. He said, "It presents a wonderful opportunity for us to celebrate the close relationship between the UK and the Holy See."

DIOCESAN HEADTEACHER VACANCY: Mother Teresa Catholic Academy Trust (MTCAT) and St. Anne's Catholic Primary School, Basingstoke wish to appoint a Head Teacher for St. Anne's from Sept 2025. For further information, go to <https://www.st-annes.hants.sch.uk/home/contact-us/vacancies> or contact Barbara Hough, School Business Manager adminoffice@st-annes.hants.sch.uk. Applications close 10th March (noon); shortlisting by Tuesday 18th March.

300 Club – February Draw: 1st prize £100 Della Sheridan; 2nd prize £50 Vincent Butler; 3rd prize £25 Monika Rackham. Congratulations!

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: Advice is what people normally ask for when they already know the answer, but wish they didn't.