

# St Joseph's Catholic Church

**Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE**

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## **SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR B**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May: 6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER – Year B.**  
**Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> May: Monday of the 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter. No Mass.**

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May: Tuesday of the 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter.**  
**Mass at 10.00am.**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May: Wednesday of the 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter. Mass at 10.00am.**

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD, Solemnity. Masses at 10.00am and 7.30pm.**

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May: Friday of the 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter after Ascension or St John of Avila, Priest, Doctor of the Church, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.**

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May: Saturday of the 6<sup>th</sup> Week of Easter after Ascension. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions follow 10.00am Mass.**

### **Mass Intentions:**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May: 08.30am for intentions of Saloma Isibor  
11am for Rosa Angela Maria Pereira RIP (Mr & Mrs Pereira's Intention).

Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May: 10am for George Fava RIP (Fr Michael's Intention).

### **Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:**

Yvonne Bradley, Pat and Ron Bird, Theresa Cassidy, James Pringle, Joshua David, Colin Devery, Marie O'Sullivan, Kathleen Fitzsimmons, Liliana Ramalingam, Terry Hamill, Rita Zollo. Additions - please inform Fr Michael by phone or email.

**Collections:** The plate collection for 28<sup>th</sup> April was £1538.37 (includes tithed donation); Candles £64.68; poor box £11.45; papers £54.98. Thank you for your generosity.

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> May: 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (Year B)** The Gospel today, taken from the final discourse Jesus had with his disciples on Holy Thursday, focuses on love. Here we have Jesus repeating his command to love, but this love is not romantic love. This is a sacrificial love where one gives of oneself, completely and without counting the cost.

**8.30am Mass:** The **Baptism** of Saloma Isibor will take place during this Mass.

**Tea and coffee** will be served in the hall after both Masses. All are welcome. If you would like to join the rota for tea/coffee preparation, please sign up on the sheet in the hall or let Fr Michael know.

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May: 7.30pm: Parish Finance Committee Meeting** in the parish hall.

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May: 12.30-2pm:** The church will be open for an hour and a half on Wednesday afternoon for quiet prayer and reflection. All are welcome to come along at any time whilst the church is open.

**7.15pm: Bible Study** with Fr Peter Codd at Our Lady of Lourdes, Hungerford. All are welcome.

**N.B.** There will be **no** meeting for the **Adult Formation Group** this evening, as Fr Michael has a prior commitment. Next meeting Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> May.

**7.30pm: Bible Society Romans Course:** The sixth session of this 10-week course looking at St Paul's letter to the Romans will take place on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm at Newbury Methodist Church. Everyone is very welcome. If you are interested in attending, please contact Rosie Greenhalgh ([rosie.greenhalgh@ntlworld.com](mailto:rosie.greenhalgh@ntlworld.com)).

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May: THE ASCENSION OF THE LORD. Solemnity & Holy Day of Obligation. Masses at 10.00am and 7.30pm.**

**2.30pm: Film Matinée** in St Joseph's Hall. '**A Good Woman**', witty comedy with Scarlett Johansson.

**Grand/Mothers' Prayer Group 2.30pm – 4.00pm** at Newbury Grove Care Home, 370 London Road RG14 2QH to pray for the needs of our children and grandchildren, and for a strengthening of faith. Refreshments provided. If interested, please just come along.

**Saturday 11 May: 10.30am – 4pm Workshop at Douai Abbey RG7 5TQ: Death & Dying** (*walking the path, accompanying Others*) led by Fr Peter Bowe & Revd Ann Fulton - for those facing end of life, families, carers and bereaved. Contribution £25 made on day please (lunch, coffee & tea incl.); £15 bring own lunch. To book, please email [guestmaster@douaiabbey.org.uk](mailto:guestmaster@douaiabbey.org.uk).

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May: 8.30am** Baby and Toddler Group in the Parish Hall after Mass.

**11am: Children's Liturgy** will take place in the hall for all those of primary school age. There will be a **second collection** at both Masses today for **World Communications Day**. Pope Francis' message for World Communications Day 2024 follows the theme 'Artificial Intelligence and the Wisdom of the Heart: Towards a Fully Human Communication'. He asks how we can remain fully human and guide this cultural transformation to serve a good purpose? You can read the full message here <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wcd24-papal-message/>. This second collection assists the Church to support this theme and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with people throughout the world.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May: Youth Club:** The Youth Club has booked a paddle boarding evening at The Waterside Centre, Newbury, from 5.45pm to 8pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May. The cost is £12, which includes tuition and use of equipment. Places are limited so please contact Ellen to reserve a place or for more details: [ellenmclinch@gmail.com](mailto:ellenmclinch@gmail.com)

**SUDAN EMERGENCY:** Bishop Paul Swarbrick, the Bishops' Conference's Lead Bishop for Africa, and Bishop Nick Baines, his Church of England counterpart, have issued a joint statement on the conflict in Sudan, saying the war is "a forgotten conflict with no winners". The war has triggered the world's largest hunger crisis, coupled with the worst ongoing displacement crisis worldwide. The World Food Programme report that there are now 10.5 million people, far more people than the entire population of London, displaced, with over 25 million people in need of humanitarian aid. Nearly 15,000 have already been killed, and 26,000 more have been injured, with women and children bearing the brunt of unspeakable violence. A new poll by CAFOD, however, has found that only 5% (one in twenty) of British adults think that Sudan is currently experiencing the world's largest humanitarian crisis. Donate at – <https://cafod.org.uk/give/donate-to-emergencies/sudan-crisis-appeal>

**Youth Pilgrims for Lourdes: 22<sup>nd</sup> July – 26<sup>th</sup> July 2024.** Why not give something back by joining the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes, leaving on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July and returning on Friday 26<sup>th</sup>? You could help by assisting some of our pilgrims by pushing wheelchairs, offering a steadying arm and a warm smile! Youth pilgrims are an essential part of the pilgrimage serving our pilgrims, and hugely enjoy the experience. For details about joining, contact [lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). The pilgrim fare is £780 but there is the potential for funding.

**A NEW SAINT:** Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati will be canonised in 2025 during the Jubilee Year, the centenary of his death. Frassati, who died aged 24, is beloved by many Catholic young people today for his enthusiastic witness to holiness. A citizen of Turin, he was an avid

mountaineer known for his charitable outreach. At age 17, he joined the St. Vincent de Paul Society and dedicated much of his spare time to taking care of the poor, the homeless, and the sick, as well as demobilized servicemen returning from World War I. He was also involved in the Apostleship of Prayer and Catholic Action. On a photograph of what would be his last climb, Frassati wrote the phrase "Verso L'Alto," which means "to the heights." This phrase has become a motto for Catholics inspired by Frassati to strive for the summit of eternal life with Christ. Frassati died of polio on July 4, 1925. His doctors later speculated that the young man had caught polio while serving the sick.

**TEACHING POINT:** May, known as "**Mary's Month**," is when special devotions are encouraged in honour of Our Lady. Why in May? In ancient Greece and Rome, May was dedicated to pagan goddesses connected to fertility and springtime. This led Western culture to view May as a month of life and motherhood. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, Rome devoted the month of May to Mary, and the practice soon spread throughout the Church. In 1945, Pope Pius XII solidified May as a Marian month when he established the feast of the Queenship of Mary on 31<sup>st</sup> May. After Vatican II, this feast was moved to 22<sup>nd</sup> August, but 31<sup>st</sup> May became instead the feast of the Visitation of Mary. This May, then, let us frequently call on the help of Mary's prayers, especially by attending Mass and by reciting the Rosary.

**SPONSORSHIP PLEASE:** Teresa Dykes (aged 82) is doing a 'wing walk' on top of a bi-plane to raise funds for young people to go to the Youth Festival in Medjugorje in August to enjoy its fun and blessings. To sponsor her, go to: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/catholic-youth>. Further detail on the event from Sue Smith - [susan.smith313@ntlworld.com](mailto:susan.smith313@ntlworld.com)

**ST JOSEPH'S PARISH HALL:** The hall is often available for your bookings for social events, classes, or activities. Reasonable hire rates. Please contact Anne Paice to book on email: [annepaice62@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annepaice62@yahoo.co.uk)

**Contactless Donations:** Please use your debit/credit card or smart phone/device to donate on our *Digital Collection Pads* for Sunday collections. Simply choose the amount you wish to donate and hold your card onto the reader. 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:** Being asked on 'Desert Island Discs' what book you would bring when stranded, would seem to be a no-brainer. It must surely be: '*How to Build a Boat*'.