

St Joseph's Catholic Church

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8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

Sunday 2nd March 2025: EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - YEAR C. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 3rd March: Feria of the 8th Week in Ordinary Time. **No Mass today.**

Tuesday 4th March: Feria of the 8th Week in Ordinary Time, or, **St Casimir, Prince of Poland, optional memorial.** **Mass at 10.00am.**

Wednesday 5th March: BEGINNING OF THE SEASON OF LENT. ASH WEDNESDAY, Day of Fasting and Abstinence. **Masses at 10.00am and 7.30pm.**

Thursday 6th March: Thursday after Ash Wednesday. **Mass at 10.00am**

Friday 7th March: Friday after Ash Wednesday. Ss Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 8th March: Saturday after Ash Wednesday. St John of God, Founder, optional memorial. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions follow 10.00am Mass.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 2nd March: 11.00am for Margaret Hitchon RIP (Hitchon Family's Intention).

Tuesday 4th March: 10.00am for Christopher Aston RIP (Mike Parry's Intention).

Friday 7th March: 10.00am for the Intentions of Beata Ciochon.

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

John Horner, John Appicella, 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 February: Plate collection £719.95; Candles £25.88; Poor Box £18.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 2nd March: EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Year C: Today Jesus offers practical points of Christian

living and challenges us to use our words as he used his — to heal, to restore, and to bring life, joy, and hope. We are also instructed to share our Christian life and love by our words, and to avoid judging others and damaging their good reputation.

Pastoral Letter from the Bishop. Bishop Philip today issues a letter for Lent. (Available for reference on the parish website).

Fr Brian Oswald MHM thanks everyone in the parish for our welcome last weekend. If you still want to take a Red Box, or learn more about 'Missio' and the Mill Hill Missionaries, please contact the parish office. More information (and how to set up a Direct Debit) at missio.org.uk/redbox

11am Mass: Children's Liturgy in the hall for all children of primary school age (in Reception Class and above). The **Music Group** play at this Mass today.

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

Wednesday 5th March: ASH WEDNESDAY (start of Lent): Masses with distribution of Ashes, at **10.00am and 7.30pm** (a day of fasting and abstinence).

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 7th March: Holy Rosary recited after 10.00am Mass today.

Women's World Day of Prayer: - 10.30am Service at Newbury Methodist Church, 56 Northbrook Street, Newbury, RG14 1AN. All are most welcome.

Sunday 9th March: An update will be given at Masses today on the amalgamated parish to comprise Newbury, Wash Common, Hungerford and Thatcham.

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. Full programme on posters in the church.

Thank you! An anonymous parishioner has very generously donated funds for the new **Sign** for our church

on London Road. We are very grateful for this kind and helpful gesture intended to heighten our church profile to passers-by.

'CAFOD's Big Lent Walk 2025': Starting on Ash Wednesday, a team of Confirmation candidates from St Joseph's and the West Berkshire Pastoral Area will be taking on the challenge to walk 200km in 40 days in raise money for CAFOD and SCIAF to help fight global poverty. If you would like to sponsor our young people, please go to <https://parishes.walk.cafod.org.uk/teams/west-berkshire-confirmation-groups-big-lent-walk>

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) Money Coaching Course: CAP Newbury Debt Centre announce 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, pensioners. Hosted at St. Nicolas' Church Hall, on **Wed 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.

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. Includes the Mass at which Bl. Pier Giorgio Frassati, diocesan Patron of Youth, will be canonised a saint. Cost (£1,350) includes flights, 7 nights accommodation half board, travel in Rome, entrance and participation fees and more. For information and pre-booking, contact youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Walkers! A selection of walking/rambling books is available in the hall after 11.00 Mass – please just make a small contribution in the tea/coffee collection.

TEACHING POINT: The General Instruction on the Roman Missal: "A genuflection, made by bending the right knee to the ground, signifies adoration, and therefore it is reserved for the Most Blessed Sacrament, as well as for the Holy Cross from the solemn adoration during the liturgical celebration on Good Friday until the beginning of the Easter Vigil ... All who pass before the Most Blessed Sacrament genuflect, unless they are moving in procession" (No. 274). When we enter church, we enter God's house. Genuflecting before the tabernacle acknowledges God as our host, and expresses thanks for the invitation that draws us into communion with his Son.

Celebrating Hope In '*Spes non confundit*' Pope Francis writes in his Jubilee document about the gift of the indulgence, 'a way of discovering the unlimited nature of God's mercy. Not by chance, for the ancients, the terms 'mercy' and 'indulgence' were interchangeable, as expressions of the fullness of God's forgiveness, which knows no bounds.' Guidelines on the granting and use of indulgences are available to help the faithful embrace this unique grace, and provide a simple outline on how the faithful can obtain this plenary indulgence, without travelling to Rome or other pilgrimage centres. See the Vatican website <https://www.vatican.va> – search '*Spes non confundit*' - Bull of Induction for the Jubilee Year 2025.

PILGRIMAGE WALKS: Details of a national Jubilee walking 'Pilgrimage of Hope' have been published, together with information about Diocesan Pilgrim Ways at: www.pilgrimways.org.uk

Assisted Suicide Bill: The Committee scrutinising the Bill has rejected proposals to strengthen the safeguards despite warnings from leading psychiatrists concerned about the "haste" of the legislation which, they argue, could pressurise the vulnerable to end their lives. The Committee rejected amendments to strengthen the Bill and voted down: 1) raising the bar on mental capacity; 2) an amendment to prevent illegal encouragement of someone to seek assisted suicide; 3) an amendment to protect those feeling they are a burden. Bill supporters also spoke against attempts to protect prisoners and the homeless where suicide rates are already high.

Catechists' Lent Formation and Networking sessions: The diocese will host three online events during Lent for Catechists across the diocese. They offer a chance to connect with other catechists, share experiences, and find inspiration to hand on the faith in our parishes. Each event begins at 7:30 PM - for one hour. Choose from the 3 events based on your area of catechesis: **Thurs 13th March** (Children's Liturgy & First Holy Communion); **Thursday 20th March** (Marriage Preparation & Baptism); **Thursday 3rd April** (Confirmation & RCIA). To sign up, go to <https://forms.office.com/e/VkCdJ1SWzA>.

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.

AND A FINAL THOUGHT: Here is the test to find whether your mission on earth is finished - if you're alive, it isn't.