

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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CHRIST THE KING - YEAR C

Sunday 23rd November: CHRIST THE KING, solemnity.

Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 24th November: St Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest & Companions, Martyrs, memorial. No Mass today.

Tuesday 25th November: Feria of 34th Week in Ordinary Time or St Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin, Martyr, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 26th November: Feria of 34th Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 27th November: Feria of 34th Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 28th November: Feria of 34th Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 29th November: Our Lady on Saturday, or Feria of 34th Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 23rd November: 8.30am for Tom Clarke RIP (Deidre Surtees' Intention).

11.00am for Arthur Rackham RIP (Monika Rackham's Intention).

Monday 24th November: 10am for the Holy Souls.

Tuesday 25th November: 10am for intentions of Cliff Robertson.

Wednesday 26th November: 10am for the Holy Souls.

Thursday 27th November: 10am for Tessa Scott RIP (Adrian Scrope's intention).

Friday 28th November: 10am for the Holy Souls.

Saturday 29th November: 10am for Frances Dougan (Denise Dougan's Intention).

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Fr Padraig Faughnan, Oliver Avery, Margaret Saunders, Kate Kennington, Jean O'Neill, Angela Jordan, Philip Rowlands, Jonathan Sheridan, Deanna Knight, Eric and Beryl Thompson, Lesley Smith, Larry Bretz, Yvonne Bradley, Pat and Ron Bird, Theresa Cassidy, Joshua David, Marie O'Sullivan, Liliana Ramalingam, Terry Hamill, Rita Zollo. Additions - please inform Fr Michael.

Collections: 16th November: Plate collection £580.09; Candles £47.28; Poor Box £11.00; Repository £28.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 23rd November: OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE, Solemnity.

The readings describe the enthronement of the victorious Christ as King in Heaven in Glory. This year marks the 100th anniversary of Pope Pius XI's 1925 institution of today's Feast of Christ the King with the proclamation, "*Pax Christi in regno Christi*" (the peace of Christ in the reign of Christ). This means that we live in the peace of Christ when we surrender our lives to him every day, accept him as our God, Saviour and King and allow him to rule our lives.

Wednesday 26th November: 12.30pm Funeral Service for Thomas Clinton RIP.

NB: No Open Church this week. The church will be open as usual on Wednesday next week.

7pm – 8.30pm: Choir rehearsal in church. Thinking about joining the choir? Please just come along. All welcome!

Thursday 27th November: 10.30am Grand/Mothers' Prayers every Thursday at *Newbury Grove Care Home*, 370 London Rd, Newbury RG14 2QH to pray for the needs of our children and grandchildren, and for a strengthening of faith. New attendees are particularly welcome at present. For more information speak with Fr Michael or Elizabeth Matias after Mass.

Saturday 29th November: 12 noon: Baptism of Gabriella Maj. Congratulations!

Sunday 30th November: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A. The first Sunday of the Church's liturgical year.

Saturday 29th November: 7.30 pm at St Nicholas Church, Newbury. ADVENT CONCERT – BACH'S CHRISTMAS ORATORIO. Tickets available at www.newburychoral.org.uk

Sunday 30th November: 2.00pm – 4.30 pm REPAIR CAFÉ NEWBURY & THATCHAM. Methodist Church Hall, Newbury RG14 1AN. Bring along your broken items for

repair, reduce waste and stay for a chat over coffee, tea & biscuits. Voluntary contributions welcome. For more information visit www.repaircafe.org/en/cafe/newbury-and-thatcham-repair-cafe

2nd & 3rd December: Invitation to Two Christmas Nativity Plays at St Joseph's School. The Nursery & Reception will perform 'Seeing the Stars' on **Tues 2nd Dec at 2pm, and Wed 3rd Dec at 9.30am**. Years 1 and 2 will perform 'The Sleepy Shepherd' on **Tues 2nd Dec at 9.30am and on Wed 3rd Dec at 2pm**. Parishioners are invited to attend either Nativity, on 2nd Dec or 3rd Dec. Please contact the School Office to book a place by Friday 28th November by emailing office@stjosephs.wberks.sch.uk or call 01535 43455. Posters in the church!

Saturday 6th December: Handel's 'Messiah', 7.30pm Douai Abbey, by the *Schola Cantorum* of the Cardinal Vaughan School with the *St James Baroque Ensemble*. Tickets £20 from www.scolacantorum.co.uk

Saturday 13th December: Douai Abbey Pastoral Programme - **Advent Reflection Day: 10.30am – 4pm** (arrivals and coffee from 10am). Led by Barbara Priest, an Anglican lay minister, and oblate of Douai Abbey. In the dark of winter, we find the promise of light. Come and rest in this gentle Advent season of waiting for the Light of the World. Bring own lunch. For bookings/enquiries, email pastoral@douaiabbey or visit Abbey website. A contribution of £20 is payable on the day. Coffee and tea are provided.

Newbury Christians Against Poverty: November's course in Newbury is fully booked but if you would like to check availability on other courses, please go to www.moneycoaching.capuk.org

Catholic Bishops of England and Wales' Statement: on pending parliamentary bills - "2025 is marked by an assault on the value of human life. We express deep sadness at the continued passage through Parliament of the *Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill* which could legalise assisted suicide. If passed, this act would devalue life and put the lives of the vulnerable at risk. We have expressed our concerns on many occasions, highlighting the danger of coercive control and the pressure that will be put on vulnerable people who are ill, as well as the threat to the survival of care homes and hospices who oppose this legislation, especially where the mission and values of those institutions prevent them from facilitating assisted suicide.

We are also alarmed by the amendment to the *Crime and Policing Bill* which proposes decriminalising abortion up to birth in some circumstances. This amendment will further endanger the life of the unborn child."

'Leo from Chicago': The Vatican has issued a film documentary 'Leo from Chicago', with interviews, footage, and images that trace the history and explore

the roots of Robert Francis Prevost (Pope Leo XIV) in his native United States, including rare and intimate interviews with those who know him best — including his own brothers, Louis and John. The documentary dives deep into who Robert Francis Prevost was, and is. Available to watch on 'YouTube'.

2026 Pilgrimage to Assisi, 14th – 19th June: This pilgrimage/holiday offers the opportunity of enjoying both the city of Assisi and the beautiful countryside of Umbria. Visits and excursions to religious and cultural sites in the area. Cost: £1075 per person (sharing) / £1195 per person (single occupancy) inclusive. Flights are Heathrow – Perugia return (20 minutes from Assisi). Full details from Fr Michael by email if requested.

From West Berkshire Foodbank: The support you have shown over Harvest has been an answer to prayer. Stock levels in the warehouse had reached a worrying level after the Hungry Holidays initiative but you have made a fantastic response. Over autumn the Harvest donations received from churches, schools and the community weighed over 12 tonnes (comparable to the weight of 2 male African elephants!). THANK YOU! See posters at the church entrances for details of the '**Reverse Advent Calendar**' and '**Alternative Secret Santa**'. Donations can be left in the collection box at the back of church (on, or before, Sunday 21st December please).

REFURBISHMENT OF THE PARISH HALL: Parking is available in Hawthorn Road, but may be subject to parking fines (please check parking signage carefully).

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:

"Christian love breaks down every barrier, brings close those who were distant, unites strangers, and recognises enemies. It spans chasms that are humanly impossible to bridge and penetrates to the most hidden crevices of society. Of its nature, Christian love is prophetic: it works miracles and knows no limits. It makes what was impossible happen. Love is above all a way of looking at life and a way of living it. A Church that sets no limits to love, that knows no enemies to fight but only men and women to love, is the Church that the world needs today". **Pope Leo XIV**. From the Apostolic Exhortation '**Dilexi Te**' (On Love for the Poor) 2025.

CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN CHURCH AFTER SUNDAY MASSES!