

St Joseph's Catholic Church

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER – YEAR C

'Habemus Papam!' – Pope Leo XIV

Sunday 11th May: 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER - YEAR C.
Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 12th May: Monday of the 4th Week of Easter, or, Ss Nereus & Archilleus, martyrs, or, St Pancras, martyr, optional memorials. No Mass today.

Tuesday 13th May: Tuesday of the 4th Week of Easter, or, Our Lady of Fatima, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 14th May: ST MATTHIAS, Apostle, feast. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 15th May: Thursday of the 4th Week of Easter. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 16th May: Friday of the 4th Week of Easter. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 17th May: Saturday of the 4th Week of Easter, or, St Dunstan, Bishop, optional memorial. Mass at 10.00am. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions follow 10.00am Mass.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 11th May: 8.30am for George Fava RIP (Fr Michael's intention).

11.00am for Patricia Vidot RIP (Veronique Gedeon's intention).

Friday 16th May: 10.00am in Thanksgiving for Night Adoration.

Saturday 17th May: 10.00am for Beatrice Mary O'Sullivan RIP (Marie O'Sullivan's intention).

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Angela Jordan, Jonathan Sheridan, Philip Rowlands, Eric and Beryl Thompson, 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. Additions - please inform Fr Michael.

Collections: 4th May: Plate collection £763.25; Candles £38.34; Poor Box £4.50; Repository £30.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 11th May: 4th SUNDAY OF EASTER – 'GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY' is the *"World Day of Prayer for Vocations"* when we reflect on Jesus as the Good Shepherd. A shepherd leads, nurtures, comforts, corrects, and protects his flock - responsibilities that belong to all Church leaders, parents, civil leaders, and those who are in charge of others.

Seminarian in training for Portsmouth diocese, **Nathan King**, will speak at Masses today about vocations to the priesthood and the religious life. There will be a **Second collection** at both Masses for the **Clergy Training Fund**. Donations can also be made via <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/clergy-training-fund-second-collection-2025>. The Fund supports our seminarians, including the 11 currently in formation for priesthood in our diocese, for the duration of their 6 - 7 year journey to ordination. It costs around £30,000 a year to train them. These are the men who will baptise and catechise the coming generations, and care for us on our pilgrim way: our generosity today is a legacy to the Church of tomorrow.

Tea and coffee will be served in the church after 8.30am and 11.00am Masses. All welcome.

4pm - St Edmund Campion Pilgrimage Mass to be held at Lyford Grange, near Wantage (OX12 0EQ). The Jesuit priest Edmund Campion was captured at the Grange before being put on trial and executed for the faith on 1st December 1581. The annual pilgrimage sees Masses celebrated between now and July at sites marking his journey to trial and death in London.

Christian Aid Week is 11th – 18th May.

Wednesday 14th May: 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 17th May: 10.00am-12 noon First Holy Communion Preparation Session. N.B. BY ARRANGEMENT, THIS SESSION WILL TAKE PLACE AT ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL TODAY due to the unavailability of the Parish Hall.

Also on **Saturday 17th May: Douai Abbey Pastoral Programme Workshop: Living in a Sainted Land** led by Br Simon Hill OSB. Discovering great saints of the Thames

Valley & Wessex: Birinus, bishop of Dorchester; Frideswide, foundress of an Oxford monastery c.700; Swithun, Anglo-Saxon bishop of Winchester; Edmund Rich of Abingdon, archbishop of Canterbury c.1250 & Hugh Cook Farrington, last abbot of Reading. A contribution of £30 (to include lunch, coffee and tea) or £15 (bring your own lunch) payable on the day. All booking and enquiries to pastoral@douaiabbey.org.uk. Further information is available at www.douaiabbey.org.uk

BILL ON ASSISTED SUICIDE: The Third Reading and vote on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill is likely to take place on **Friday, 16 May**, at which time a decision will be made on whether to legalise assisted suicide and make this Bill law. Please contact your MP now – even if you have already done so in the past – to voice your opposition. Assistance with contacting your MP on-line is available via the website of the charity *Right to Life* or you may wish to make use of the template letter available at the back of church.

MAY – THE MONTH OF OUR LADY: a specific month when devotions are made in honour of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Over time, many Western cultures came to view May as a month of life and motherhood but it was not until the 18th century that May received a particular association with the Virgin Mary and various private devotions to Mary quickly became widespread in this month. In 1945, Pope Pius XII decreed May as a Marian month when he established the feast of the Queenship of Mary on 31st May. After Vatican II, this feast was moved to 22nd August, but 31st May became instead the feast of the Visitation of Mary.

THANKS FROM THE HOBBS FAMILY: The family of Alan Hobbs whose funeral took place on Friday 2nd May would like to thank parishioners for their cards of sympathy, attendance at Alan's funeral, and to all who helped on the day - particularly Fr. Michael, the choir, and the ladies in the hall who assisted so kindly.

REFURBISHMENT OF THE PARISH HALL: The building works have now commenced. Since parking spaces are now fewer, please allow priority for older parishioners, the disabled and families with young children. **N.B.** If attempting to park in Hawthorn Road, opposite the church, you may be subject to parking fines (please check parking signage carefully). On-street parking is available on Newport Road and Doveton Way (5 minutes' walk from St Joseph's).

WEST BERKSHIRE FOODBANK: The Foodbank is currently looking for signposting volunteers to work in their distribution centres across the local area. Full details can be found on their website. Volunteers will greet clients, give them a drink and sit and chat with them whilst making up a shopping list of needed items, which will then be packed for them to take away. Being a friendly

listening ear is very important. Email hr@westberks.foodbank.org.uk

Saturday 7th June: Caritas: Charity and Volunteer Networking Event at St John the Baptist Parish in Andover (SP10 3AD), 2.30pm – 4.30pm. Meet people in the Diocese passionate about social justice and supporting their community; different charities offering volunteering opportunities; explore ideas for your parish with staff and volunteers running projects in the Diocese; visit the Andover foodbank; learn how Caritas can support your parish or school to help your community. All welcome. Parking available at the parish and nearby; and less than 10-minute walk from the station. For more information visit <https://caritasportsmouth.org.uk> or email caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Also on Saturday 7th June: Diocesan Formation Day for Ministers of Children's Liturgy. There will also be a day a Readers' Day on Saturday 18th October, further details to follow.

Saturday 21st June: SIGNIFICANT WEDDING ANNIVERSARY MASS: Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years? If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. This will take place at St Bede's Church in Basingstoke on Saturday 21st June at 11am. This will be followed by a buffet lunch. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage. If you would like to attend, please contact the St Joseph's parish office or send an email to anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Jubilee 2025 – Youth Pilgrimage to Rome. To celebrate Jubilee Year Youth Week 2025, Bishop Philip invites anyone 17+ to take part in the Diocese of Portsmouth Youth Pilgrimage to Rome - **28 July and 04 August**, coinciding with the World Youth Day. A full programme in Rome led by Bishop Philip; visits to the Vatican; World Youth Day Jubilee events. Cost - £1,350 per person for a shared room (b'fast & evening meal); includes flights; transport in Rome; and 20kg of luggage. For more information, see poster in church or email youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Book soon as places are limited.

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: Nobody is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it to anyone else.