

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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SOLEMNITY OF ST EDMUND OF ABINGDON

YEAR C

Joint Principal Patron of the Portsmouth Diocese.

Sunday 16th November: ST EDMUND OF ABINGDON, Bishop, Joint-Principal Patron of Diocese. *Solemnity.* **Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.**

Monday 17th November: Feria of 33rd Week in Ordinary Time, or **St Elizabeth of Hungary**, Religious, or **St Hilda**, Abbess, or **St Hugh of Lincoln**, Religious, Bishop, *optional memorials.* **No Mass today.**

Tuesday 18th November: Feria of 33rd Week in Ordinary Time or **Dedication of the Basilicas of St Peter & St Paul, Rome**, *optional memorial.* **Mass at 10.00am.**

Wednesday 19th November: Feria of 33rd Week in Ordinary Time. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Thursday 20th November: Feria of 33rd Week in Ordinary Time. **N.B. Mass at 9.30am today.**

Friday 21st November: The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, *memorial.* **Mass at 10.00am.**

Saturday 22nd November: St Cecilia, Virgin, Martyr, *memorial.* **Mass at 10.00am** followed by **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament** and **Confessions.**

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 16th November: 8.30am for the Holy Souls RIP.

11.00am in Thanksgiving for Night Adoration.

Tuesday 18th November: 10am for the Holy Souls RIP.

Wednesday 19th November: 10am for the Holy Souls RIP.

Thursday 20th November: 9.30am for the Holy Souls RIP.

Friday 21st November: 10am for a Private Intention.

Saturday 22nd November: 10am for the Holy Souls RIP.

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Fr Padraig Faughnan, Margaret Saunders, Kate Kennington, Deidre McNair-Wilson, 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: 9th November: Plate collection £498.56; Candles £29.24; Poor Box £2.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 16th November: ST EDMUND OF ABINGDON (Joint Principal Patron of the Diocese) – Solemnity.

Edmund was a teacher of mathematics and dialectics, a Doctor of Divinity, a wonderful preacher, and was appointed as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1233.

11am: This year's First Holy Communion candidates and their families will join us at this Mass.

Wednesday 19th November: 12.30pm – 2pm: The church will be open for quiet prayer and reflection. All are welcome at any time whilst the church is open.

Thursday 20th November: N.B. Mass today will be at 9.30am not 10.00am.

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.

7.30pm: RCIA Program continues at the Parish Hall, St Francis de Sales, Wash Common. Session 5 – The Eucharist.

Friday 21st November: YOUTH CLUB 6 - 8pm for Year 4 and above, at St Francis de Sales' Parish Hall. Activities: Making lanterns to take part in Newbury Festival on Light on 14th December; decorating glass Prayer Jars; making Advent cards to prepare for Christmas; biscuit and cake decorating. Tuck Shop available (£1 maximum), subs £2 per child. For more information contact Ann Haynes on 0777912 58363. Email - annhaynes07@hotmail.co.uk

Saturday 22nd November: 11.30am: Baptism of Sofia Fitipaldi. Congratulations!

Also, 22nd November: Douai Abbey Autumn Pastoral Programme: 10.30 – 4pm (arrivals and coffee from 10am) *Wider Horizons of the Spirit: Themes from an Indian Journey* – reflection on a year in India in the 1980s, living with Fr Bede Griffiths at Shantivanam Ashram,

and travels to the source of the Ganges. Questions addressed: How does Christianity relate to Hinduism & Buddhism? How to encounter Christ in the context of these and other faiths? Do we need a new ecumenism? How do we live with religious faith – Christian and otherwise – in a secular world today? Led by Fr Peter Bowe OSB. Also - Saturday 13th December - *Advent Reflection Day*. Bring own lunch. For bookings/enquiries, email pastoral@douaiabbey or visit the Abbey website. A contribution of £20 is payable on the day. Coffee and tea are provided.

Sunday 23rd November: CHRIST THE KING (Solemnity) Year A. The last Sunday of the Church's liturgical year.

Saturday 29th November: 7.30 pm at St Nicholas Church, Newbury. NCS 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

PLEASE! – A LITTLE OF YOUR TIME! A Maintenance Committee composed of parishioners drawn from each church community is needed for our new greater Sacred Heart Parish. I desperately need two or three persons from our Parish by the end of December, to sit on the Committee (with a degree of interest in this area) who would be prepared to:

1. Review matters of building repair and maintenance as they arise.
2. Decide which category the matter falls under; urgency; scale of work entailed.
3. Identify appropriate resources available. This would be an ongoing process of gradually gathering a 'bank' of people and reputable firms.
4. If judged appropriate, fellow parishioners could be asked to undertake smaller tasks; the Committee could recommend a local tradesman or firm to the Co-ordinating Pastor or Priest-in-charge, who, in turn, could instruct the Parish Secretary/Administrator to obtain a quote. For larger projects, recommendations and quotes from three reputable firms are required from which one is selected.

Committee members need to meet in person only three or four times a year, but conduct most of their conversation by email/phone/ zoom. Do you have talents that you can offer – even for just 6 months, or 1 year? Please speak with Fr Michael.

'Mater Populi Fidelis' ("The Mother of the Faithful People"): A new document of the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, approved by Pope Leo XIV, offers clarifications on titles applied to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and calls for special attention to the use of the

expression, "Mediatrice of all graces." It reaffirms Catholic doctrine, which has always emphasised that everything in Mary is directed towards the centrality of Christ and His salvific work.

Newbury Christians Against Poverty: A free "Money Coaching" course is being held at 7pm on Wednesday 19th and 26th November at St. Nicholas's Church Hall in Newbury. If struggling to manage finances and spending, please consider this course - it's fun, educational, and offers an online tool to help produce and manage a personal/family budget. The build-up to Christmas is a particularly appropriate time to consider spending and budgets. Registration at: <https://moneycoaching.capuk.org/join-course/526f1c3c-2a99-4bfb-aa10-217dc163bd15>

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.

NEURODIVERSITY AND OUR FAITH RESEARCH: The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales and Birmingham Newman University are conducting research into Neurodiversity and our Faith. They would like to hear from any adult neurodivergent Catholics or caregivers of neurodivergent Catholics as their experiences will help the Conference become more inclusive and responsive to their needs. To find out more and to complete the short surveys, please visit: www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergent-catholic-surveys/.

300 Club – November: The winners of the November draw are – 1st prize £100 Monika Rackham; 2nd prize £50 Penny Kain; 3rd prize £25 Penny Kain. Congratulations!

REFURBISHMENT OF THE PARISH HALL: While work concludes, parking is available in Hawthorn Road, opposite the church, 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: If you have been criticising yourself for years and it hasn't worked, try approving of yourself and see what happens.