

St Joseph's Catholic Church

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SOLEMNITY OF Ss PETER & PAUL - YEAR C

Sunday 29th June: Ss PETER & PAUL - YEAR C. Apostles. Solemnity. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 30th June: Feria of the 13th Week in Ordinary Time, or, **First Martyrs of the Church of Rome**, optional memorial. **No Mass today.**

Tuesday 1st July: Feria of the 13th Week in Ordinary Time, or **St Oliver Plunkett**, Bishop & Martyr, optional memorial. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Wednesday 2nd July: Feria of the 13th Week in Ordinary Time. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Thursday 3rd July: **ST THOMAS**, Apostle, feast. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Friday 4th July: Feria of the 13th Week in Ordinary Time, or **St Elizabeth of Portugal**, optional memorial. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Saturday 5th July: **Our Lady on Saturday**, or **St Anthony Zaccaria**, Founder, optional memorial. **Mass at 10.00am.** Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions follow 10.00am Mass.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 29th June: 8.30am for Tom Clarke RIP (Deidre Surtees' Intention).

11.00am for Patrick and Mary Early RIP.

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Angela Jordan, Jonathan Sheridan, Philip Rowlands, 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: 22nd June: Plate collection £1116.95; Candles £27.36; Poor Box £2.00; Other £1.10. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 29th June: SOLEMNITY OF ST PETER & ST PAUL –

Apostles. They were the principal pillars of the Church, and the Princes of the Apostles – hence why we celebrate the feast of their martyrdom, replacing the normal readings for the Thirteenth Sunday (C) in Ordinary Time. There will be the annual Second Collection for 'Peter's Pence' at both Masses. With this donation, you offer

tangible support as the Holy Father takes his first steps as Pope. Offerings are directed to Church needs, humanitarian initiatives and social promotion projects, as well as to the support of the Holy See. You can also give at <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/peters-pence-second-collection-2025>

11am: Children's Liturgy in the sacristy/outdoors. The **Music Group** will sing at this Mass.

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

12.30pm: St Francis de Sales Parish Garden Picnic. This will take place in the garden at St Francis de Sales at 12.30pm, after the 11am Mass. Please bring along your own picnic, soft drinks are provided. All are welcome.

Wednesday 2nd July: The church will be open today for quiet prayer during the usual Wednesday times of **12.30 – 2pm**. All are welcome to drop in.

Thursday 3rd July: 10.30am Grand/Mothers' Prayers every Thursday at *Newbury Grove Care Home*, 370 London Road, Newbury RG14 2QH to pray for the needs of our children and grandchildren, and for a strengthening of faith. New attendees always welcome. For more information, speak with Fr Michael or Elizabeth Matias after Mass.

Friday 4th July: Recitation of the Holy Rosary will follow directly after 10.00am Mass.

Sunday 6th July: Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

11am: Final First Holy Communion Group Mass and Celebration to follow. Our parish **Confirmation** candidates from 10th June are also welcome at this Mass to receive their certificates.

Also, today, **Mayor of Newbury Summer Variety Concert: 2pm-5pm** at the **Corn Exchange**. Tickets £6.50 per person available from the Corn Exchange box office, by calling 01635 522733 or at www.cornexchangenew.com

Monday 7th July: Called and Gifted Information Evening from 7.00pm – 8.30pm on-line. To register, please email calledandgifted@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk with your name and parish.

Thursday 10th July: The Diocesan **Formation for Mission Team** would like to invite all catechists in the Diocese to a series of events in 2025 for prayer, formation and networking. The first, **Forming for Life in Christ**, is an opportunity to meet on-line and build a community of support with other Catechists, helping each other to better participate in Jesus' mission of introducing disciples to His filial relationship with the Father. The session will run from **8pm – 9pm**. For further information and to register, please email ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. An in-person **Diocese Catechist Day** will be held on **Saturday 11th October**.

Friday 11th July: 10:30am - 5:00pm: *Leadership and Legacy: The Future of Women in the Church* – a one-day conference at New Hall Boreham House, Chelmsford, hosted by New Hall School in collaboration with *The Tablet*. This event will bring together voices from across the Catholic tradition to reflect on the evolving role of women in the Church. For more information or to purchase tickets, please go to www.thetablet.co.uk/events

Saturday 26th July: Jubilee Year Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimage. The walk will start at Burghfield Bridge, Theale at 10.00am, walking to St. James & St William of York Church, Forbury Rd, Reading for Mass at 1pm - preceded by Adoration and the Sacrament of Reconciliation at 12.30pm. The walk will be led by Tony Vickers, currently the Chairman of West Berkshire Council. Afterwards, pilgrims will picnic in the park and visit nearby Reading Abbey where the last abbot, Blessed Hugh Faringdon was martyred. More details to follow.

Thank you! Your donations for tea, coffee, and refreshments after Sunday Masses make a big difference to the parish. Over recent years these funds have paid for: the re-decoration and new flooring for our sacristies; purchased a freezer for the hall; helped paint and carpet the presbytery; and annually sponsor someone to enable them to attend the Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes. These are remarkable achievements, for which we are all hugely grateful!!

300 Club Lottery 2025/2026: Thank you to all participants in the 2024/25 lottery. The first draw of the 2025/2026 lottery will take place in September. From next Sunday, application forms will be available to buy tickets for the coming year. To buy one or more tickets, please complete an application form before returning it, together with a cheque or cash (or ask for details to make an electronic bank transfer) to the parish office before the end of August.

NEW DIOCESE OF PORTSMOUTH WEBSITE! Our diocese has this week launched its new website. Please go to – <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk>

Ecumenical Prayer Walks in Newbury: CTNA (Churches Together in Newbury Area) are doing Prayer Walks in Newbury on the following dates: Thursday 3rd July 7pm; Wednesday 9th July 7pm; Saturday 19th July 11am; Friday 25th July 2pm. Walks all begin at Newbury Baptist Church in Cheap Street. All welcome!

Catholic Response to the vote for Assisted Suicide Bill: To see the statement of Cardinal Vincent Nichols, and that of Archbishop John Sherrington (Bishops' Conference lead for Life issues), go to the Bishops' Conference website at: www.cbcew.org.uk

Abortion up to birth - how did your MP vote? Did your MP vote for abortion up to birth? Use this web tool to find out, and then send an email to encourage them to vote the right way if the amendment/other abortion amendments return from the Lords for votes in the Commons.

Please take action now and email your local MP: www.righttolife.org.uk/uptobirthvote

West Berks Foodbank – Hungry Holidays: Thank you for your generous support of this initiative. Donations of items on the Foodbank shopping list (available at the back of church) can be left in the collection box at the back of church or at collection points in local supermarkets.

REFURBISHMENT OF THE PARISH HALL: Please allow priority for parking for older parishioners, the disabled and families with young children. N.B. If parking in Hawthorn Road, opposite the church, you 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.

Prayer for our new Greater Parish of the Sacred Heart: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, we praise you, we bless you, we thank you for your infinite love. Thank you for blessing us with the gift of faith. Thank you for blessing us with our brothers and sisters in our church communities, and for calling us all to join together in one faith community – the Parish of the Sacred Heart. Deepen our love and understanding of each other and of you. Fill our hearts with the desire to joyfully and humbly serve you in each other, and in those among whom we live, so that our new parish reflects your own unity and love; proclaims the Good News of Jesus; and draws other to know, love and serve you. Amen.

AND A FINAL THOUGHT: ... The answers are all out there - each of us just need to be asking the right questions.