

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD – YEAR C



Sunday 12th January 2025: THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD - YEAR C. Feast. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 13th January: BEGINNING OF ORDINARY TIME. Feria of 1st Week in Ordinary Time or St Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church (optional memorial). No Mass today.

Tuesday 14th January: Feria of 1st Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 15th January: Feria of 1st Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 16th January: Feria of 1st Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 17th January: St Anthony of Egypt, Abbot, memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 18th January: Our Lady on Saturday or Feria of 1st Week in Ordinary Time. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions follow 10.00am Mass.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 12th January: 8.30am for Gail Sackloff RIP (Paul Cunane's Intention).

Thursday 16th January: 10.00am in Thanksgiving for Night Adoration.

Saturday 18th January: 10.00am Votive Mass for Christian Unity.

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

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. Additions - please inform Fr Michael.

Collections: 5th January: Plate collection £694.26; Candles £27.47; Poor Box £26.00; Crib Offerings £159.39. December totals: Standing Orders £2596.50; contactless £1,151.33 (including £211 donations for SVP). Thank you for your generosity.

THANKS! I would like to express my profound thanks and appreciation for the kindness, good wishes, and generosity to me of so many in the parish over the Christmas and New Year period. All such expressions and support are very much appreciated. *Fr Michael*

Sunday 12th January: FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD:

The feast is the occasion of the first public revelation of all the Three Persons in the Holy Trinity, and the official revelation of Jesus as the Son of God to the world by God the Father. Hence, it is described by all four Gospels. It marks the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

Response to today's psalm: Bless the Lord, O my soul! My God, how great you are!

11am Mass: Our candidates preparing for 1st Holy Communion will take part in Mass today.

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

Tuesday 14th January: 7.30pm Parish Finance Committee Meeting in the Parish Hall.

Come to Work in Our Catholic Schools: If a Catholic currently teaching in a non-Catholic setting, have you thought of applying to work in one of our schools? If unclear about how a Catholic school might differ, or how to apply, questions will be addressed in an hour-long online webinar presented by Catherine Hobbs, Director for Education and Robert Dare, Diocesan Schools Support Officer, starting at **7.00pm** today. Register your free place, via this link: <https://bit.ly/4gPWBP2>

Wednesday 15th January: 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 18th January: 'A Year of Hope: An Introduction to the Jubilee Year' with the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD).

On-line from 10:30am - midday. 2025 is a Jubilee year, but what does that mean? Catholic talk show host and author, Nana Churcher, and CAFOD's Simon Giarchi will host Fr Jan Nowotnik (Director of Mission for the Bishop's Conference), Christine Allen (CAFOD's Director) and Kayode Akintola (CAFOD's Head of Africa) for discussion on the Jubilee. Includes a special appearance by Catholic band Ooberfuse. All welcome. Register for free at: cafod.org.uk/jubilee

Start of the Annual Octave of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, (18th to 25th Jan) is an international ecumenical celebration. At its heart is the Nicene Creed. Reflecting this, the scripture readings for this year focus on belief. We are invited to reflect on the story of Martha's confession of faith in Jesus as narrated in John 11:17-27. Each of us is called to sit with Jesus' provocative question to Martha: "Do you believe this?"

Sunday 19th January: PEACE SUNDAY: 11am Mass: **Children's Liturgy** in the hall for all children of primary school age (Reception Class and above).

Monday 20th January: 7.30pm Confirmation Preparation Session at St Francis de Sales Parish Hall, Wash Common, for all enrolled in the programme. Please remember to bring your Bible!

Sunday 25th January: The Great Story of Jesus Day Retreat. New Year retreat delivered by Sr Margarida Mondral (Verbum Dei Community), and others. Revisit the core of our faith: the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and new life with the Holy Spirit (helpful for newly received Catholics). **10am-4pm** at St Peter's Pastoral Centre, St Peter's Church, Jewry Street, Winchester SO23 8RY. To book, go to <https://bit.ly/4gJcBIO> - if you have enquiries, please contact lnahajski@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Children's Liturgy of the Word: The next session after today will take place during the 11am Mass on **26th January**. All children of primary school age (in Reception class and above) welcome, but child protection guidelines prevent those younger taking part. No younger siblings accompanying those at primary school – please! All catechists are DBS checked to work with children. After a welcome and prayer, the children say sorry prayers and listen to a reading, after which they discuss its relevance to their lives. As activity follows before returning to Mass for the Offertory Procession.

Friday 7th February: St Joseph's Quiz Night: All are welcome to join our fun quiz night in St Joseph's Parish Hall. Tickets are £8 per person, doors open **6.30pm**, quiz starts promptly at **7pm**. Bring your own drinks and glasses, plus nibbles. Tea/coffee and homemade fruit scones on sale during the interval. Come as a team of 6, or join others on the night. Please book your tickets via

<https://shorturl.at/ZAo7O> or contact Kay Binns (kaylbinns@gmail.com)

Marriage Difficulties? 'Retrouvaille' (means - to *rediscover love or relationship*) is a Catholic ministry for marriages in difficulty. Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille helps couples through difficult times in their marriages. There is no group therapy or group work. This programme has helped 10s of 1000s of couples experiencing difficulties in their marriage. For confidential information about Retrouvaille, or to register for the next programme commencing via Zoom – 27th February to 2nd March 2025, call or text 07887296983 Email info@retrouvaille.org.uk. Website: www.retrouvaille.org.uk

From Bishop Philip: On Saturday **8th February**, to mark Valentine's Day, Bishop Philip invites all engaged couples of our Diocese – those being married in a church either here or abroad – to a Valentine's Day Breakfast at St John's Cathedral. 9.15 am start, coffee and doughnuts; followed by presentation from a newly married couple about their wedding; a break; then a short Service of Blessing, in which each couple will be blessed individually by the Bishop and their engagement rings will be blessed. The service will finish by 11.45 am. If you would like to attend, please let Fr Michael know, or contact Mrs Kirsten McGuire by Monday 27th January (kmcguire@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

Holy Year 2025 Pilgrimage to Rome 6th - 11th April 2025:

We are invited to join the parish of St Mary's, Hampstead, on this pilgrimage the week before Holy Week. Full programme includes General Audience with Pope Francis, visits to the major basilicas, catacombs, the Venerable English College and its villa at Palazzola, Castel Gandolfo (the papal summer residence) etc. Flights, full board approx. £1400. Email Fr Michael for more details.

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.

If you would like to receive a copy of this newsletter by email each week, please contact the parish office.

AND A FINAL THOUGHT: ... Don't live life looking into the rear-view mirror. Look forward through the windscreen. Walking daily with Christ will take you to your destination.