

St Joseph's Catholic Church

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THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD – YEAR C

* HAPPY *
NEW YEAR
* = 2025 = *

Sunday 5th January 2025: THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD - YEAR C. Solemnity. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 6th January: Liturgy of Monday of Christmastide after Epiphany. **No Mass today.**

Tuesday 7th January: Liturgy of Tuesday of Christmastide after Epiphany. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Wednesday 8th January: Liturgy of Wednesday of Christmastide after Epiphany. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Thursday 9th January: Liturgy of Thursday of Christmastide after Epiphany. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Friday 10th January: Liturgy of Friday of Christmastide after Epiphany. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Saturday 11th January: Liturgy of Saturday of Christmastide after Epiphany. **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions follow 10.00am Mass.**

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 5th January: 8.30am for Andrew Karanja RIP (Kangethe Family Intention).

11.00am for Joyce Newman and Bill Newman RIP (Maureen Dixon's Intention).

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: 29th December: Plate collection £864.25; Candles £39.51; Poor Box £19.75; Crib Offerings £170.20. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 5th January: The Epiphany of the Lord (C) The Greek word Epiphany (επιφάνεια), means appearance or manifestation. Multiple revelations of Jesus as God are

celebrated on this Feast of the Epiphany. In the Western Church, the Feast celebrates Jesus' first appearance to the Gentiles, represented by the Magi.

Response to today's psalm: All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

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

Wednesday 8th 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.

Thursday 9th January: 2.30pm: Film Matinée in St Joseph's Hall – all welcome. 'The Apartment' with Jack Lemmon and Shirley Maclaine.

Saturday 11th January: 10.00am – 12noon: First Holy Communion Preparation Session in St Joseph's Hall for all children enrolled in the 2024-2025 programme. The children will participate at 11.00am Mass on 12th January.

The Christmas Crib Collection 2024: Offerings this year go to support the work of the *Knights of the Holy Sepulchre*. The KHS is believed to date back to 1099 A.D., and their mission for centuries has been to support the Christian community in the Holy Land. Today, made up of 30,000 members from 40 countries, lay people, priests and religious, they financially support Christians across the Middle East, and in the Holy Land, helping with projects to stabilise Christian communities, and so ensuring they survive and that the holy sites are still populated by Christians and do not become museums.

A Thank You: Danielle Simpson would like to thank everyone who supported her stall in the hall over recent weeks. A total of £70 was raised (£40 for Christian Aid and £30 for Aid to the Church in Need).

TEACHING POINT: The Christmas feast proper ends on the final day of its octave, the solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God, on 1st January. The 'peak' of the Christmas 'season' is the Feast of the Epiphany, 6th January (transferred to the preceding Sunday) - the end of the 12 Days of Christmas. Tree and other decorations are traditionally kept up at least until this day is over. The

official end of the Christmas season in the current liturgical calendar is the Baptism of the Lord (this year falling on Sunday, 12th January), after which Ordinary Time begins. The nativity scene may be displayed through this day or until the Presentation of the Lord on 2nd February, a feast of Jesus and the end of the ancient Forty Days of the Christmas season.

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

Tuesday 14th January: 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**. Register your free place, via this link: <https://bit.ly/4gPWBP2>

Children's Liturgy of the Word: 11am Mass on 19th January and 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. An activity follows before returning to Mass for the Offertory Procession.

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

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://donate.giveasyoulive.com/charity/st-joseph-newbury-catholic-parish/event/st-josephs-quiz-night> or contact Kay Binns (kaylbinns@gmail.com)

From Bishop Philip: On Saturday **8th February 2025**, 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. Couples are invited for a 9.15 am

start, coffee and doughnuts, after which follows a presentation from a newly married couple, talking about their wedding day. After a break, a speaker from our Marriage and Family Life team, will talk about the joy of Catholic marriage. The morning ends with a short liturgy in the Cathedral, at which couples will receive the bishop's blessing and the blessing of their engagement rings. Pray for all those marrying in our Diocese in 2025, for all married couples, and our families. *For now, save the date!*

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.

Calling all knitters! Stella Maris, the Catholic Seafarers Charity, is asking knitters to make hats for them to distribute to seafarers arriving in our local ports. Working in cold and difficult conditions, and away from families for up to 9 months, this gift not only keeps seafarers warm but shows them that they are remembered and cared for. For patterns and instructions visit <https://stellamaris.org.uk/knitting/> and when finished send to Stella Maris Southampton, c/o St Joseph's and St Edmund's Parish Office, St Edmund's Lodge, The Avenue, Southampton SO17 1XJ. Hats welcomed all year round! Thank you.

From the Diocesan Vocations Team: "They opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." If He is calling you to a vocation that serves the Church, He is asking for the gift of your life to serve His people. Talk to your priest or contact Cn. John Cooke by email (vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or call 01329 318869.

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

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

Parish Collection: Donations can be made online at <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/st-josephs-newbury-catholic-parish>.

AND A FINAL THOUGHT: ... How great it would be if more people were fluent in silence!

With every blessing for a happy & peaceful 2025! - Fr Michael