

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD – YEAR C

Sunday 2nd February 2025: THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD - YEAR C. Feast. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 3rd February: Feria of the 4th Week in Ordinary Time, or **St Blaise, Bishop & Martyr,** or **St Ansgar, Bishop,** optional memorials. **No Mass today.**

Tuesday 4th February: Feria of the 4th Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 5th February: St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr, memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 6th February: St Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs, memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 7th February: Feria of the 4th Week in Ordinary Time. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 8th February: Our Lady on Saturday or St Jerome Emiliani, Founder, or St Josephine Bakhita, Religious, optional memorials. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions follow 10.00am Mass.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 2nd February: 11.00am for Kathleen Kenny RIP (Coffey Family Intention).

Wednesday 5th February: 10.00am for Tony Kirk RIP (Annette Haines' 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, Kevin McCormack. Additions - please inform Fr Michael.

Collections: 26th January: Plate collection £837.63; Candles £53.55; Poor Box £23.05. Second Collection for St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth £305.92. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 2nd February: FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD – The head of the Holy Family, Joseph, faithfully obeys God's law given through Moses concerning the purification of the mother and the redeeming of the child, by presenting Mary and the baby

Jesus in the Temple. This feast is also known as 'Candlemas' because of the tradition of blessing and distributing candles on this day. This practice is drawn from Simeon's words in the Gospel for this feast, in which he prophesies that the child Jesus will become "a light for revelation to the Gentiles."

Response to today's psalm: The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory!

11am Mass: The **Music Group** play at this Mass today.

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

Wednesday 5th February: 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 6th February: 7pm-8.30pm Webinar on Zoom - '**Opening the doors to freedom from human trafficking**', hosted by the National Justice and Peace Network, to mark the feast day of St Josephine Bakhita, the Patron Saint of Victims of Human Trafficking, which is on 8th February. Anyone wishing to register, please inform the parish office as soon as possible.

Friday 7th February: The recitation of '**First Friday**' Rosary will follow after the 10.00am Mass today.

6.30pm: St Joseph's Quiz Night: All are welcome to join our fun quiz night in St Joseph's Parish Hall. Doors open **6.30pm**, quiz starts promptly at **7pm**. Please bring your own drinks and glasses, plus nibbles. Tea/coffee and homemade fruit scones on sale during the interval. Please bring cash for the refreshments and raffle. Come as a team of up to 6 people, or join others on the night. Tickets (£8 per person) available after both Masses today; online via <https://shorturl.at/ZAo7O> or by emailing Kay Binns kaylbinns@gmail.com

Saturday 8th February: 10.00am-12 noon Preparation session for the **First Holy Communion Group** children in St Joseph's Hall. The children participate in the 11.00am Mass tomorrow, Sunday 9th February.

N.B. Regrettably the **St Valentine's Breakfast** in Portsmouth hosted by Bishop Philip today for engaged couples marrying this year has had to be cancelled.

Saturday 22nd February – CAFOD Meeting: Please join us to find out how your donations to CAFOD are making a difference to communities in Kenya. **10:30am to 1pm** at Christ the King Church Hall, Reading RG2 8NR. Everyone is welcome and please book your place so that we have an idea of numbers by emailing Jo on jlwry@cafod.org.uk

Tuesday 25th February – CHARIS Portsmouth: Judith Aylmer, CHARIS Portsmouth Co-ordinator invites you to another online Spirit-filled evening run by **CHARIS Portsmouth** with the theme of *Hope in this Jubilee year* on Tuesday 25th February at 7.30pm on Zoom. The speaker will be Rosanne Walker, the Children and Youth Worker in St Peter and the Winchester Martyrs parish. To register for the evening, please go to this link: <https://bit.ly/40iXWY8> To help build up a picture of prayer groups in Portsmouth Diocese, please mention whether you are a member of a prayer group when registering.

Radio Maria: Radio Maria England, run by the Dominicans in London, is a 24hr Catholic Radio Station broadcasting programmes promoting and expressing the Christian Faith. It supports Catholics and others in their spiritual life and witness and those who wish to learn more about the Catholic Faith. It is part of the World Family of Radio Maria, formed in 1998 and currently has 77 radio stations across 5 continents with 500 million listeners world-wide. Radio Maria England is a non-profit organization run by a mixture of professionals and volunteers, lay people, clergy and religious. Radio Maria England can be accessed through various platforms:

- DAB+ Digital Radio: London, Cambridge, Liverpool, Bristol, South Birmingham, Norwich, King's Lynn, Peterborough, Stockport, Greater Manchester and Tameside areas.
- Smart-Speakers: ask for 'Radio Maria England'.
- Radio Maria Play App: available for smartphones and tablets.
- Website: RadioMariaEngland.uk
- Podcasts: Anchor, Spotify, Apple Podcasts, Google Podcasts and others.

Our Thanks – St Bernadette: Parishioners, please note that our statue of St Bernadette in the church has been refurbished and restored by Hyacinth Cobb, and is looking better than ever before. Thank you, Hyacinth, for all your care and hard work!

'Antiqua et Nova': Pope Francis warns in this newly issued document on Artificial Intelligence (AI) about the relationship between artificial intelligence and human intelligence - the result of a mutual reflection between the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Dicastery for Culture and Education. The document is addressed especially to "those entrusted with

transmitting the faith," but also to "those who share the conviction that scientific and technological advances should be directed toward serving the human person and the common good." It highlights challenges and opportunities of the development of AI in the fields of education, economy, work, health, relationships, and warfare.

12th-19th May 2025 - Medjugorje pilgrimage. £749 including flights, transfers, 4 star accommodation near the centre. Svetlana, an experienced guide, will conduct pilgrims in the town between two hills where it is believed the Virgin Mary has appeared daily to 3 of the original 6 visionaries since June 1981. Many pilgrims describe it as 'Heaven on earth'. Sue Smith has arranged this trip with the ATOL protected company used previously. For more information email info@discoveredmedj.com or Sue Smith on susan.smith313@ntlworld.com

Assisted Dying Bill: Update: The Palliative and End of Life Care Commission launched a call for written submissions ahead of their first oral evidence session which took place last Wednesday, 22nd January in Parliament. Further details are available at: www.palliativecarecommission.uk

Catholic Young Writer Award 2025 This Award is open to all young Catholics (and pupils at Catholic schools) in England and Wales in secondary years 8-11 inclusive. There is a cash prize of £50.00 for the best essay, plus a number of runner-up book prizes. Deadline for entries is 30th May 2025. For full details, please go to the Catholic Union of Great Britain website (www.catholicunion.org.uk)

Informative Walks: A series of Catholic History Walks around London, led by the author, broadcaster and historian, Joanna Bogle, delve into many famous people, heroes and heroines, Kings and Queens, saints and sinners. For details of the events: www.catholichistorywalks.com

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: Opportunity dances with those already on the dance floor...