

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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1st SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A

Sunday 30th November: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year A. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 1st December: St Edmund Campion, Priest & Martyr, memorial. No Mass today.

Tuesday 2nd December: Tuesday of the First Week of Advent. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Wednesday 3rd December: St Francis Xavier, Priest, memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 4th December: Thursday of the First Week of Advent, or, **St John Damascene**, priest & Doctor of the Church, *optional memorial*. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Friday 5th December: Friday of the First Week of Advent. **Mass at 10.00am.**

Saturday 6th December: Saturday of the First Week of Advent, or, **St Nicholas**, bishop, *optional memorial*. **Mass at 10.00am** followed by **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.**

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 30th November: 8.30am for the Holy Souls RIP
11.00am for a Private Intention.

Tuesday 2nd December: 10am for the Holy Souls RIP.

Wednesday 3rd December: 10am for the Holy Souls RIP.

Thursday 4th December: 10am for the Holy Souls RIP.

Friday 5th December: 10am for the Holy Souls RIP.

Saturday 6th December: 10am for the Holy Souls RIP.

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Fr Padraig Faughnan, Carol Bartlam, Angela Jordan, Margaret Saunders, Oliver Avery, Kate Kennington, Jean O'Neill, 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: 23rd November: Plate collection £796.30; Candles £29.37; Poor Box £1.00; Repository £205.00. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 30th November: FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT, Year A.

We are entering the Advent season. Advent means 'coming'. We are invited to meditate on Jesus' first coming in history as a baby in Bethlehem, his daily coming into our lives in mystery through the Sacraments, through the Bible, through the worshipping community, and finally, his *Second Coming* at the end of the world to reward the just and to punish the wicked.

2.00pm – 4.30 pm REPAIR CAFÉ. 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: www.repaircafe.org/en/cafe/newbury-and-thatcham-repair-cafe

Tuesday 2nd December: 12.00 noon **Funeral Service** for Chief James Emruobowasan RIP.

Wednesday 3rd December: Open Church 12.30pm – 2pm. The church will be open for quiet prayer and reflection. All are welcome at any time while the church is open as usual on Wednesday next week.

Thursday 4th December: 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 Meeting at St Francis de Sales' Parish Hall. Tonight's topic – *'The History of the Catholic Church'*.

Friday 5th December: The Holy Rosary will follow directly after 10.00am Mass.

3.30pm – 5pm: St Joseph's School Christmas Fair. All are welcome!

Saturday 6th December: Handel's 'Messiah', 7.30pm Douai Abbey, by the *Schola Cantorum* of the Cardinal

Vaughan School with the *St James Baroque Ensemble*. Tickets £20 from www.scholacantorum.co.uk

Sunday 7th December: SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT Year A.

5pm: Concert, 'Soul Reason for the Season' with singers and the Watership Brass at St John's Church, St John's Road, Newbury RG14 7PY. Tickets in aid of the *Newbury Soup Kitchen*.

Saturday 13th December: Douai Abbey Pastoral Programme - **Advent Reflection Day: 10.30am – 4pm** (arrivals and coffee from 10am). Led by Barbara Priest, an Anglican lay minister, and oblate of Douai Abbey. In the dark of winter, we find the promise of light. Come and rest in this gentle Advent season of waiting for the Light of the World. Bring own lunch. For bookings/enquiries, email pastoral@douaiabbey or visit Abbey website. A contribution of £20 is payable on the day. Coffee and tea are provided.

ADVENT CALENDAR! The Catholic Union Advent Calendar, featuring daily contributions from leading Catholic figures in public life, is available to download free at: www.catholicunion.org.uk/advent-2025/

Newbury Christians Against Poverty: November's course in Newbury is fully booked but if you would like to check availability on other courses, please go to www.moneycoaching.capuk.org

'In Unitate Fidei': A new Apostolic Letter issued by Pope Leo marks his forthcoming visit to Turkey on the 1700th Anniversary of the Council of Nicaea which formulated the Creed. It comprises 12 points to "*encourage the whole Church to renew her enthusiasm for the profession of faith (the Creed)*." Pope Leo's upcoming trip to Turkey will take him to İznik, once known as Nicaea, for the 1700th anniversary of the first Ecumenical Council. The Council aimed to address theological disputes and establish a unified Christian doctrine, and its outcomes included affirming Christ's divinity and formulating the Nicene Creed.

The Assisted Suicide Bill: The Government has announced that it is allocating ten more days for the assisted suicide bill to be debated in the Lords. In addition to two dates already given in December, the Bill's seismic issues will now be scrutinised on: 9th 16th, 23rd, 30th, January, 6th and 27th February, 13th, 20th, 27th March, 24th April. This represents an extra eight Fridays on which the House of Lords is conducting business - a large percentage of Fridays between New Year and Easter. Parliamentary experts point out that the Lords usually sit only one Friday a month (about ten a year). The more scrutiny it receives, the more glaringly obvious its flaws will become. This also gives more time to lobby peers. Please keep writing as many letters as possible, and thank peers who have been speaking out against it.

'Leo from Chicago': A new documentary 'Leo from Chicago', traces the history and explores the roots of Robert Francis Prevost (Pope Leo XIV) in his native United States, including rare interviews - including his own brothers, Louis and John. The documentary dives deep into who Robert Francis Prevost was, and is. Available to watch on 'YouTube'.

Pilgrimage to Knock, Ireland: 8th-13th March 2016. Escorted Tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo. £899.00 per person. Price includes flight from Heathrow or Luton, 10kg hold luggage, 5 nights' in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Full use of leisure facilities. All entertainment, excursions and transport included. Visit Knock Shrine, Ballintubber Abbey, Fr. Peyton Centre & Kylemore Abbey. Irish music nightly. Single supplement on Enquiry. Contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

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.

From West Berkshire Foodbank: The Harvest donations received from churches, schools and the community weighed over 12 tonnes (comparable to the weight of 2 male African elephants!). THANK YOU! See posters at the church entrances for details of the '**Reverse Advent Calendar**' and '**Alternative Secret Santa**'. Donations can be left in the collection box at the back of church (on, or before, Sunday 21st December please).

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: The Lord is like a builder. You know he is coming back, but you don't know when...

CHRISTMAS CARDS ARE AVAILABLE FOR SALE IN CHURCH AFTER SUNDAY MASSES!