

St Joseph's Catholic Church

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT – YEAR C



Sunday 22nd December: FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR C. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 23rd December: Liturgy of 23rd December, 'O Emmanuel'. No Mass today.

Tuesday 24th December: Liturgy of 24th December, CHRISTMAS EVE. Mass at 10.00am.

THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD. Children's Vigil Mass of Christmas at 6.30pm. Christmas Night Mass at 11pm (starting with carols at 10.30pm)

Wednesday 25th December: THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD. Masses at 8.30am and 11am.

Thursday 26th December: ST STEPHEN, the first Martyr, feast. N.B. Mass at 12 noon today.

Friday 27th December: ST JOHN, Apostle, Evangelist, feast. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 28th December: THE HOLY INNOCENTS, feast. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions follow 10.00am Mass.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 22nd December: 8.30am for Colleen Morel RIP (Morel Family Intention)

11.00am for Jeffrey Peck RIP (Peck Family's Intention).

Tuesday 24th December: 10.00am for Barbara Rowlands RIP (Phil Rowland's Intention).

Wednesday 25th December: 8.30am for Nathan Tamar-Agha RIP (his parents' Intention).

11.00am for our parish and its mission.

Thursday 26th December: 12 noon for Frances, Dennis Ignatius, and Des Dougan RIP (Denise Dougan's Intention)

Saturday 28th December: 10.00am for Philip Smith RIP (Jane Smith'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: 15th December: Plate collection £809.62; Candles £33.70; Hall hire £60; Repository sales £69.30. The collection for the Saint Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) raised £1247.76. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 22nd December: Fourth Sunday of Advent (C)

Today's readings remind us that Jesus is reborn every day in ordinary people living ordinary lives, who have the willingness to respond to God's call and the openness to do God's will. The 4th Sunday readings suggest that Christmas should inspire us to carry out God's word as Mary and Jesus did, in perfect, loving obedience to His will, with cheerful kindness and unselfish generosity.

Response to today's psalm: Bring us back, O God; let your face shine forth, and we shall be saved.

11.00am Mass: The Music Group will play at Mass today.

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

Parish Christmas Collection 2024: As an alternative to donating via the 'plate' collection at the Christmas Masses, the following link can also be used to make the traditional Christmas clergy offering:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/newbury-st-joseph-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2024>

Tuesday 24th December: 10.00am Mass of the day; 6.30pm **Children's Vigil Mass of Christmas with music; 10.30pm **Carols** followed by **Mass of Christmas Night** at 11pm.**

Wednesday 25th December: CHRISTMAS DAY. Masses at **08.30am and 11.00am. Response to psalm: 'All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.'**

Thursday 26th December: Feast of St Stephen - Mass at **12 noon** today.

Wednesday 1st January: Feast of Mary Mother of God. Mass of Healing with the Anointing and Blessing of the Sick at **12 noon** at **St Francis de Sales, Wash Common**. All are welcome and please invite any who are sick.

OPENING OF THE HOLY YEAR 2025: Pope Francis will open the Jubilee Holy Year 2025 in St. Peter's Basilica on Christmas Eve. Meanwhile, throughout the world, diocesan bishops will inaugurate it in their Cathedrals on Sunday 29th December. Bishop Philip will do this at the 12 noon Mass that day in St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. All are welcome. The celebration of this Mass constitutes the high point of the Rite of Opening of the Jubilee Year.

BISHOP'S VISIT TO NEWBURY PASTORAL AREA: On 28th November Bishop Philip visited our pastoral area of Newbury and met with Fr Michael and other clergy of our pastoral area churches, along with members of the Evangelisation Strategy Team (EST), to discuss the EST's proposals for the diocesan ten-year mission strategy, '*You Will be My Witnesses*', and its implementation. Bishop Philip noted that this part of Berkshire is growing with many new developments, an area with great potential for the Church, for its growth, its life and mission. The EST has plans for this and is making progress. If you are interested in taking part, please contact the Parish Office. More details in the New Year.

DIVINE INTERVENTION: The 71st official miracle to have happened in Lourdes, and the first person from England, has been officially declared in the case of John (Jack) Traynor by Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool. Jack was a pilgrim on the archdiocese's first official pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1923 and was cured dramatically of epilepsy, paralysis of the right arm and paraplegia during the pilgrimage. "Given the weight of medical evidence, the testimony to the faith of Jack Traynor and his devotion to Our Blessed Lady, it is with great joy that I declare that his cure, from multiple serious medical conditions, is to be recognised as a miracle wrought by the power of God through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes." said Archbishop McMahon. Further details are available at: www.indcatholicnews.com/news/51273

Date for your diary: There will be a Fun Quiz on Friday 7th February in St Joseph's Hall – everyone welcome! Further details to follow in the newsletter later this month.

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.

Compassionate Assistance: The Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) has launched its Emergency Middle East Appeal. The DEC members provide lifesaving aid in Gaza, Lebanon and the West Bank, but now urgently need more funds. Further details and information at: www.dec.org.uk

New Sunday Missal: The CTS New Sunday Missal (People's Edition) with the new translation of The Lectionary, is available to purchase direct from CTS for £19.95 (hard-back edition) at www.ctsbooks.org or from Pilgrim Gifts based in Walsingham via www.pilgrimgifts.co.uk.

From the Diocesan Vocations Team: "*Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.*" Like Mary, you are called to trust in God's plan for your life. If you feel that God is asking you to serve as a priest of religious brother or sister, believe in His promise and follow with courage. 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

Contactless Donations: Please use your debit/credit card or smart phone/device to donate on our *Digital Collection Pads*. 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: Christmas is not a time nor a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be filled with mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. *Calvin Coolidge*

