

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

105 London Road Newbury Berkshire RG14 1JP

Reg. Charity No. 1199568 'Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth'

Telephone: - 01635 40167

Email: office@stjosephsnewbury.org.uk

Website: www.stjosephsnewbury.org.uk

Safeguarding Minister: Mary Barnard, Officer for Children and

Vulnerable Adults in St Joseph's Parish. Telephone 0777 616 3856

Email: safeguarding@stjosephsnewbury.org.uk

St. Joseph's School Telephone: - 01635 43455

Hall Bookings/Information email: annepaice62@yahoo.co.uk



3rd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

YEAR A



Sunday 14th December: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT, 'GAUDETE SUNDAY', Year A. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 15th December: Monday of the 3rd Week of Advent. No Mass today.

Tuesday 16th December: Tuesday of the Third Week of Advent. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 17th December: Liturgy of the 17th December, 'O Wisdom'. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 18th December: Liturgy of the 18th December, 'O Adonai'. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 19th December: Liturgy of the 19th December, 'O Root of Jesse'. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 20th December: Liturgy of the 20th December, 'O Key of David'. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 14th December: 8.30am for intentions of Imogen Ciochon.

11.00am for Jeff Peck RIP and Maurice Kelly RIP (Marie Peck's intention)

Tuesday 16th December: 10.00am in Thanksgiving for Night Adoration.

Wednesday 17th December: 10.00am for John Welch RIP (Anne Robertson's intention).

Saturday 20th December: 10.00am for Martin Cawte RIP (Jill Cawte's intention)

12noon for the intentions of the Lithuanian Community.

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Fr Padraig Faughnan, Carol Bartlam, Anne Horner, Angela Jordan, Margaret Saunders, Elizabeth Skelton, 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: 7th December: Plate collection £789.06; Candles £84.13; Poor Box £52.12. Thank you for your generosity.

PARISH AUDIT: St Joseph's Parish underwent an audit on 26th November instigated by the diocese – but conducted by an external auditor. This is standard practise for parishes every few years. I am happy to report that the audit went very well – thanks to the hard work of our Parish Treasurer, Teresa Brown, who did a great deal of work in preparing for the audit inspection. On behalf of the whole parish, I wish to thank Teresa for all the voluntary work she does throughout the year, and in ensuring our success at the audit. My thanks, too, to Tracey Goodall who oversees our parish Gift Aid – a vital source of extra parish income – and Phil Hobbs, Chair of our Parish Finance Committee.

Sunday 14th December: THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 'GAUDETE SUNDAY' - Year A.

Today is called *Gaudete* Sunday because today's Mass begins with the opening antiphon: "*Gaudete in Domino semper,*" i.e., "*Rejoice in the Lord always.*" So, to express our joy at the coming of Jesus as our Saviour into our hearts and lives, we light the rose candle in the Advent wreath, and the priest wears a rose-coloured vestment. There is a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Philip today about vocations to the priesthood which can also be found on the Parish Web-site - www.stjosephsnewbury.org.uk Those wishing to respond to the bishop's invitation to meet at 3pm on the afternoon of **Sunday 4th January 2026** in Portsmouth are asked to scan the **QR code** found on this newsletter with their mobile camera.

11.00am - The children of our First Holy Communion Preparation Programme participate in this Mass today.

Tuesday 16th December: PASTORAL AREA PENITENTIAL SERVICE 7.30pm at St Joseph's Church. Your opportunity to make your Confession before Christmas with a variety of priests present to hear them.

Wednesday 17th 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.

Thursday 18th 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, Wash Common. Tonight's topic – *'The Ten Commandments'*.

Saturday 20th December: 12 noon – An additional **Mass** will be celebrated at St Joseph's for the Lithuanian Community in the local area. All are welcome.

Sunday 21st December: (4th Sunday of Advent) Christingle Service, 3pm at St Francis de Sales Church. Children's craft activities, (including making the Christingles and dressing for the Nativity play,) from 2pm in St Francis' Hall. Places are limited, so please contact Trisha Craig (by WhatsApp on 07507 532540) to register and for more details. All are welcome to attend the service.

Exam Invigilators Wanted! Parkhouse School are looking for invigilators on a part-time, casual contract (term-time only), salary £12.65 per hour + holiday pay. Applications close on **Monday 15th December**, with training for successful applicants taking place on Monday 26th January 2026. For further information contact HR Manager, Anna Knight: aknight@parkhouseschool.org

The "O Antiphons" of Advent. The Church has sung the "O Antiphons" since the 8th century. They are antiphons that accompany the *Magnificat* canticle of Evening Prayer from 17th-23rd December. They offer ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfilment of past and present hopes. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. 17th Dec: *'O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!'*; 18th Dec: *'O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!'*; 19th Dec: *'O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!'*; 20th Dec: *'O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!'*

Parish Christmas Collection 2025: 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-2025>

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: – 6.30pm Children's Christmas Vigil Mass with the Music Group; 11.00pm Christmas Night Mass (Starting with carols at 10.30pm). **25th December** – Christmas Day Masses at 08.30am and 11.00am. **26th December** (St Stephen's Day) Mass at 12 noon.

Pilgrimage to Medjugorje 11th-18th May 2026. £799 per person. The price includes return flights from Gatwick, return airport transfers, senior tour guide, fully guided itinerary, 7 nights half board (breakfast and 3-course main meal), shared ensuite rooms, 1 checked-in and 2 cabin bags. Contact: Susan Smith 07737 175476 or Discover Medjugorje 020 39254613 Whatsapp: 07418 610725 email: info@discovermedj.com

From West Berkshire Foodbank: Food and house-hold items will be needed as much as ever over the Christmas period. Donated items can be left in the collection box at the back of church at any time. Your generosity is appreciated.

From the Bamenda Committee: Thank you for all the wonderful donations received for Bamenda Sunday. They help fund projects to support our brothers and sisters in Bamenda who are impacted by the continuing civil conflict. They transform lives. Find out about some upcoming projects on the poster at the back of church.

NEW REFURBISHED PARISH HALL: With work almost concluded, our car park's full capacity has been reclaimed with scaffolding and the temporary toilet cabin now removed. This Sunday at least one toilet should be available in the hall for use. Your patience and forbearance since the project began in May are appreciated. It is hoped that the hall will be available for use from new year!

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: "It is the beautiful act of Advent to awaken the memories of good in each of us, and thus to open the doors of hope." *Pope Benedict XVI*



< QR Code for 4th January 2026