

St Joseph's Catholic Church

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4th SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

Sunday 15th March: 4th Sunday of Lent - YEAR A. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 16th March: Monday of the 4th Week of Lent. No Mass today.

Tuesday 17th March: ST PATRICK, Bishop, feast. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 18th March: Wednesday of the 4th Week of Lent, or, St Cyril of Jerusalem, bishop, memorial. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 19th March: ST JOSEPH, Patron, Solemnity. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 20th March: Friday of the 4th Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 21st March: Saturday of the 4th Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 15th March: 11am for Nella Smith RIP (Mary Barnard's Intention).

Tuesday 17th March: 10.00am in Thanksgiving for Night Adoration.

Thursday 19th March: 10.00am for a Private Intention.

Friday 20th March: 10.00am for Arthur, Mary, & Mark Fullerton RIP (Maureen Smith's Intention).

Please Pray for the Sick and Housebound of the Parish:

Carol Bartlam, Batilda Temba, Graham Attridge, Angela Jordan, Margaret Saunders, Elizabeth Skelton, Kate Kennington, 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: 8th March: Plate collection £640.82; Poor Box £11; Candles £28.56. CAFOD £125.02. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 15th March: 4th Sunday of Lent (A) 'Laetare' and Mothering Sunday. "Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday," expresses the Church's joy in anticipation of the Resurrection of our Lord. The readings remind us that it is God who both gives us proper vision in body as well as

in soul and instructs us that we should be constantly on our guard against spiritual blindness.

11am Mass: Our First Holy Communion children and their families participate today.

The **second collection** at Masses today is for the **Diocesan Clergy Assistance Fund**. The Fund supports the welfare, ongoing formation and personal wellbeing of our clergy i.e. provision of spiritual direction, counselling, appraisal, ongoing formation and practical advice. It organises retreats, ministerial formation days, courses and sabbaticals. Donations can be made via the digital collection pads, by scanning the QR code below or the following link:

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/diocesan-clergy-assistance-fund>



N.B. Planned Giving Envelopes for the new Tax Year are available at the back of church.

EASTER CARDS available in the hall after Mass.

Wednesday 18th March: 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.

7.30pm: Parish Finance Committee meeting in St Joseph's Hall.

Thursday 19th March: SOLEMNITY OF ST JOSEPH – Parish Patronal Feast Day: Mass at 10am.

Palm Cross Making Workshops in St Joseph's Hall from 10.30am – 2pm (also Tuesday 24th 12noon – 2pm and Thursday 26th 11am – 1pm). If you are interested in learning how to make crosses from palms, please come along. All welcome.

10.30am Grand/Mothers' Prayers every Thursday at *Newbury Grove Care Home*, 370 London Rd RG14 2QH.

7.30pm: RCIA Meeting in St Francis de Sales' Parish Hall. Topic 'The Sacrament of Reconciliation.'

Friday 20th March: 10.30am Stations of the Cross will follow 10.00am Mass today.

Saturday 21st March: 11.30am: Baptism of Ivo Hartley-Russell. Congratulations!

Sunday 22nd March: 5th Sunday of Lent: New Parish Hall Celebration Shared Lunch. Following 11.00am Mass this Sunday we will enjoy a shared lunch together in our newly refurbished hall to celebrate its completion. There will then be a shared 'buffet'. Any further attendees from 8.30am Mass please inform Anne Robertson of your proposed contribution dish, and from 11.00am Mass inform Maureen Smith or Marian Shaw. For dessert, cakes, scones with jam and cream will be provided and a small donation asked.

Also, **St Cassian's Pastoral Centre Open Afternoon:** 2pm - 5pm in Kintbury RG17 9SR - Come and see what the Centre does as it celebrates 50 years of running retreats for young people! Experience some of the activities run for our schools and enjoy refreshments in the dining room. All are welcome!

Tuesday 24th March: 7.30pm: LENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE in St Joseph's Church for the parishes in the Pastoral Area. This is your opportunity to make your Confession before Easter.

Wednesday 25th March: 'The Hardest Bridge' – an extraordinary true story of forgiveness! 7-9pm at St John's Church, Newbury. A showing of the documentary film that tells the story of how the daughter of a victim of the IRA Brighton bombing in 1984 eventually befriended the bomber who killed her father. The two have since worked tirelessly for reconciliation across the world. **Free entry.** Discussion follows with the director and executive producer.

Thursday 26th March: 2.00pm Rededication of the Grave of Georgiana Douglas, buried in Newtown Road Cemetery, Newbury, on 26th March 1926. She left the money to build St Joseph's Church, and lies alongside her brother. The *Friends of Newtown Road Cemetery* have recently funded the restoration of her grave, and at 2.00pm Fr Michael will dedicate the restored grave on the 100th anniversary of the day of her burial. The *Friends* welcome you to refreshments in the Cemetery Chapel afterwards where they can share what they have discovered about Georgiana. The Cemetery is situated in Newtown Road at RG14 7BT.

Saturday 28th March: 10.30am-4pm. 'Awakening to the Mystery of God' in the scriptures, in the environment, and in each other. A workshop led by Peter Bowie OSB and Martin Webb. At Douai Abbey; tea/coffee provided; £20 contribution on the day; booking and enquiries - email pastoral@douaiabbey.org.uk

300 Club Winners for March: 1st Prize (£100) Adrian Scrope; 2nd Prize (£50) Kay Binns; 3rd Prize (£25) Mary Peck. Congratulations!

Kenya Project: Thank you to all volunteers who have helped this new charity project to assist young women in

Urenga, Kenya! As a result of St Joseph's efforts joining the St Francis de Sales team, 115 new Dignity Packs will be shipped out to Kenya this month. This project for girls is ongoing, and so we urgently need more people to offer to cut the fabric for us. If you can spare some time each week to cut out, please look into the hall after Mass. There is plenty of fabric ready for you to take and cut out at home, then return the following week. We need your help.

Are you Aware? Catholic Social Teaching is rooted in Scripture, formed by the wisdom of Church leaders, and influenced by grassroots movements. It is our moral compass, guiding us on how to live out our faith in the world. Modern Catholic social teaching originates in 1891 with the encyclical, *Rerum Novarum*. Since then, a wealth of teaching continues to shape the Church's response to our modern world. **Seven core principles** drive Catholic social teaching and we are to witness to them: **dignity, solidarity, the common good, the option for the poor, peace, creation and environment, work and participation.**

St Joseph's 2026 Parish Pilgrimage to Lourdes - Tuesday 30th June to Saturday 4th July. Stansted to Lourdes direct. 11.50am outward flight, 16.10pm inbound flight. £799 per person sharing. £39 per night single supplement. Pilgrims will incur additional charge for transfers to/from Stansted, cost TBC. To register interest, please notify the Parish office by email – office@stjosephsnewbury.org.uk

'LIFE' Fundraising Appeal: In order to assist lobbyists fighting the Assisted Suicide Bill and the McArthur Bill, please donate to CNK's (Care, Not Killing) multiple campaigns across the country to keep up the pressure against this deadly legislation. Donate at: <https://www.carenotkilling.org.uk/donate/>

Resurrection Gardens: As part of St Joseph's Easter celebrations, we are planning a display entitled '*Christ is Risen*', featuring Resurrection Gardens. These are small model gardens of Christ's burial site made with natural or craft materials. We ask for the help of parishioners - children and adults - to create this display. If you would like to participate, please speak to Fr Michael, Maureen Smith or Pauline Mason for more information. Thank you.

CHARITABLE ENGAGEMENT: The SVP (St Vincent de Paul Society) and CAFOD are offering a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales. Candidates to be 18-25 years old - priority given to those in their 1st or 2nd university year. The experience runs from 21st to 26th June in London. Applications close 6th April and may be made via: https://svp1.formstack.com/forms/work_experience_application_form_2026

AND A FINAL THOUGHT: Positive anything is better than negative nothing.