

St Joseph's Catholic Church

Parish Priest: Fr. Michael Fava CBE

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5th SUNDAY OF LENT - YEAR A

Sunday 22nd March: 5th Sunday of Lent - YEAR A. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 23rd March: Monday of the 5th Week of Lent or St Turibius of Mogrovejo, memorial. No Mass today.

Tuesday 24th March: Tuesday of the 5th Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am.

Wednesday 25th March: THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD, Solemnity. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 26th March: Thursday of the 5th Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am.

Friday 27th March: Friday of the 5th Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am.

Saturday 28th March: Saturday of the 5th Week of Lent. Mass at 10.00am followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Confessions.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 22nd March: 8.30am for Evelyne Mekho RIP (Shawqi Tamar-Agha's Intention).

11am for John Galvin RIP (the late Oliver Conway's Intention).

Friday 27th March: 10.00am for David Stopher RIP (Fenisia and David Stopher's Intention).

Saturday 28th March: 10.00am for Michael McNair-Wilson RIP (Deidre McNair-Wilson'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: 15th March: Plate collection £830.69; Poor Box £4.20; Candles £50.60; Repository £90. Diocesan Clergy Assistance Fund £278.09. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 22nd March: 5th Sunday of Lent (A). The central theme today explores how death, and the hope of our resurrection, challenges us to be alive to spiritual hope.

Jesus challenges us, so that he may raise us up at our death to inherit eternal life with him.

Following **11.00am Mass: New Parish Hall Celebration Shared Lunch**. We will enjoy a shared lunch together in our newly refurbished hall to celebrate its completion. All welcome!

EASTER CARDS available in the hall after Mass.

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

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: (ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD) 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.

7pm – 9pm: 'The Hardest Bridge' at St John's Church, Newbury. An extraordinary true story of forgiveness! 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: 10.30am Grand/Mothers' Prayers every Thursday at *Newbury Grove Care Home*, 370 London Rd, Newbury RG14 2QH. For more information, speak with Fr Michael or Elizabeth Matias after Mass.

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.

Friday 27th March: 10.30am Stations of the Cross will follow 10.00am Mass today.

2.30pm: Film Matinée in the Hall – *'Fatima'*, the new 2020 feature film about the Marian apparitions in Portugal in 1917. All are welcome.

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

REMEMBER – The clocks go **FORWARD one hour** overnight tonight. Do not be late for Mass tomorrow!

Sunday 29th March: PALM SUNDAY. 11am Mass: Children's Liturgy in the hall for children of primary school age in Reception Year and above. The **Music Group** will play at Mass today.

Fr Padraig Faughnan's Funeral: His Requiem Mass will be at **11.00am on Wednesday 15th April** at St Joseph's. His body will be received into the church at 4.30pm the previous afternoon – all welcome for the short rite of reception. The Funeral Directors have set up an on-line 'Tribute Page' of photographs. If you have good photos of Fr Pat, please forward them to - peter@wbfd.co.uk

Prayer Initiative for Peace: Christians around the world have pioneered a rota for Peace Prayers, asking that people in different countries commit to praying for peace for one minute at the same time every day. Christians in the UK are asked to **pray for one minute each day at 9pm**. You are urged to set an alarm on your phone to remind you to pause for one minute of prayer every day. The power of such prayer around the world is immense!

From the Diocese – Easter Offerings: As is customary at Easter, offerings can be made directly to your parish clergy through the plate, or card pad collection at Easter Sunday Masses, or via the following link specifically for Saint Joseph's, Newbury -

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/newbury-st-joseph-catholic-parish-easter-collection-2026>

Bamenda News: Spring 2026: 'Thank you for your continued prayers and contributions that help support our brothers and sisters in our twinned diocese of Bamenda. From 15-18 April 2026 Pope Leo will visit Cameroon, his first major papal visit to Africa. Archbishop Andrew Nkea said *"The Pope comes as a messenger of peace, an ambassador of reconciliation, and a promoter of justice."* We pray for the success of this visit and for lasting peace in the region. For the latest updates on projects in Bamenda go to <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/bamenda-news-spring-2026/>

MARRIAGE SUPPORT: If you are just in a rut or for more serious issues – *Retrouvaille* could be the solution. www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

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.carenokilling.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

From West Berkshire Foodbank: Donated items can be left in the box at the back of church at any time, ready for collection on Wednesday 1st April. Your generosity is appreciated.

St Joseph's Hall: Interested in hiring St Joseph's Hall for an occasion or a class? Please contact the parish office to enquire about availability, and to book. A provisional cost of £25 per hour has been set at present, subject to confirming the new heating and utility costs following the hall's major refurbishment. Office Tel: **01635 40167**; E-mail office@stjosephsnewbury.org.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: A smile is a curve that sets most things straight.