

St Joseph's Catholic Church

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PALM SUNDAY - YEAR A

Sunday 29th March: PALM SUNDAY - YEAR A. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Monday 30th March: Monday of Holy Week. No Mass today.

Tuesday 31st March: Tuesday of Holy Week. No

Mass today due to the Chrism Mass (Portsmouth). There is a 10.00am Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Thatcham, today.

Wednesday 1st April: Wednesday of Holy Week. Mass at 10.00am.

Thursday 2nd April: HOLY THURSDAY. Mass of the Lord's Supper at 7.30pm (i.e. no 10.00am)

Friday 3rd April: GOOD FRIDAY. 10.00am Stations of The Cross; 10.30am-11.00am Confessions; 3pm the Celebration of the Lord's Passion.

Saturday 4th April: HOLY SATURDAY. 11.30am Service of the Blessing of Easter Food; 8.00pm THE EASTER VIGIL.

Mass Intentions:

Sunday 29th March: 8.30am for Angela Rosa Fernandes-Pereira RIP (Pereira Family Intention).

11.00am for Frances Early RIP (Family Intention).

Wednesday 1st April: 10.00am for Frances Dougan RIP (Denise Dougan's Intention).

Thursday 2nd April: 7.30pm for Denis Corrigan RIP (Sharon Ogden's Intention).

Saturday 4th April: Dennis Delahunty RIP (Joyce Delahunty'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: 22nd March: Plate collection £1712.82; Poor Box £16; Candles £33.39; CAFOD £50. Donations for cakes and scones at our parish lunch raised just over £60. Thank you for your generosity.

Sunday 29th March: PALM SUNDAY (A). Weather permitting, Masses will commence outside the church with the blessing of palms. What we commemorate and relive during this week is not just Jesus' dying and rising, but our own dying and rising in Jesus, which will result in our healing, reconciliation, and redemption. Attentive participation in the Holy Week liturgies will deepen our relationship with God, increase our faith, and strengthen our lives as disciples of Jesus.

11am Mass: Children's Liturgy for children of primary school age in Reception Class and above. **The Music Group** will play today.

Tuesday 31st March: N.B. No 10.00am Mass today at St Joseph's. There is a 10.00am Mass at Our Lady of the Assumption Church, Thatcham, today.

11.00am THE CHRISM MASS at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. This Mass is one of the principal expressions of the fullness of the bishop's priesthood and signifies the closeness of priests and deacons with him. At this Mass, the Oil of Catechumens and the Oil of the Sick are blessed, and the Sacred Chrism is consecrated for use during the coming year. All are welcome.

Wednesday 1st April: 10.00am Mass. 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.

2nd – 4th April: THE EASTER TRIDUUM - The three big liturgies on these days are effectively one single Act of Worship over Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil on Holy Saturday where catechumens and candidates are received into full communion with the Catholic Church. We are encouraged, if possible, to attend the whole act of worship – the Thursday *Mass of the Lord's Supper* at 7:30pm, *Liturgy of Good Friday* at 3:00pm, and the *Holy Saturday Vigil* starting at 8:00pm.

Thursday 2nd April: HOLY THURSDAY. No 10.00am Mass.

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.

7.30pm: The Mass of the Lord's Supper – followed by watching at the Altar of Repose until 10.00pm. Our **Eucharistic Ministers** are invited to renew their ministry commitment at the Mass this evening.

Friday 3rd April: GOOD FRIDAY - (A Day of Fasting and Abstinence). 10.00am

Stations of the Cross in church; **10.30am-11.00am Confessions.**

3.00pm: The Liturgy of the Lord's Passion. The annual collection today for the **Holy Places** taken today supports the Christian community in the Middle East. Donations can also be sent by scanning the QR code on the newsletter or at <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/holy-places>



Saturday 4th April: HOLY SATURDAY. 11.30am The Service of Blessing of Easter Food. All welcome.

8pm THE EASTER VIGIL. This is the most important liturgy of the Church's year, and the first Mass of Easter. (No other Sacraments are permitted to be celebrated today).

Sunday 5th April: EASTER SUNDAY. Masses at 8.30am and 11.00am.

Resurrection Gardens: Please bring your miniature Resurrection Easter Gardens to the church for display this week, or on Holy Saturday or Easter Sunday please! Thank you.

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>

TEACHING POINT: The Church uses veils on crosses and statues during the final two weeks of the season of Lent to draw attention to the fact that something very beautiful is hidden from view, but not permanently. The unveiling before the Easter Vigil is a great reminder that we live in a 'veiled' world, in exile from our true home. It is only through our own death that the veil is lifted and we are finally able to see the true beauty of everything.

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 (14th) - 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!

Bishop's Statement on Decriminalisation of Abortion:

Last week, the House of Lords backed legislation to decriminalise abortions up to birth. The current legal limit of 24 weeks will remain for doctor-induced abortions, but it will soon be legal for mothers themselves to abort their unborn child at any moment up to full term. When first legalised in 1967, abortions in England and Wales were few, yet by the end of the 1990s, almost 175,000 a year were taking place. Today there are over 300,000 a year – one in every three babies conceived. Abortion has been normalised. As Catholics, we know that every human being has been created and willed by God. We must calmly but insistently work to protect the unborn child in the womb and to protect women from abortion. We must continue to witness to the truth about human life and campaign to change people's hearts and minds. Bishop Philip's full statement can be found on the Parish website www.stjosephsnewbury.org.uk

Debt Management & Money Coaching Course: CAP (Christians Against Poverty) are running a new course, **Wednesday 15th, 22nd and 29th April**, 10.00am-12 noon at Newbury Baptist Church. It is an excellent course for anybody wishing to take control of their personal finances. To register, call David Clark on 07803 838917.

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: In the stillness of Holy Week, let your heart awaken to the whispers of grace.