

**Are you thinking of getting married?** Please note that the Church is now asking for twelve months' notice in order that necessary paperwork and other marriage preparation can be completed. In the first instance, please contact the Parish Office to make an appointment to see Father John.

**Baptisms:** Baptisms are celebrated on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 12.30pm. Parents are expected to take part in a two evening preparation programme held on the 2nd and 3rd Thursdays of each month, 7.45pm to 9.30pm. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

**Marriage Care:** Marriage Preparation Facilitators and a Head of Centre needed. Marriage Care is the largest faith-based relationship support organisation in England and Wales. We are looking for Marriage Preparation Facilitators and a Head of Centre to volunteer with us at our Reading centre and help us in our mission to support couples in the best and worst of times. Please visit: [www.marriagecare.org.uk](http://www.marriagecare.org.uk) or email: [volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk](mailto:volunteer@marriagecare.org.uk) for more information.

**Did you know:** If you are married and you or your partner pays basic rate tax at 20% whilst the other is a Non Tax Payer a concession known as Marriage Allowance was introduced in the last tax year which allows the Non Tax Payer to transfer 10% of their tax free allowance, currently £11,000, to the tax payer resulting in a tax saving of £220. The application can also be backdated to the previous tax year giving a further tax saving of £212. This benefit will not be given automatically and must be claimed by the Non Tax Payer. It is thought that thousands of eligible couples have not registered for this benefit and are losing out on the tax saving. The simplest way to apply is online at [www.gov.uk/apply-marriage-allowance](http://www.gov.uk/apply-marriage-allowance). This will only take a few minutes but you will need the National Insurance numbers of both parties and a means of proving your identity, such as the last four digits of the account where your child benefit, tax credits or state pension is credited or your passport number and expiry date. If one of you was born before 1st April 1935 you will get better tax savings under the existing Married Couples Allowance.

**Brownies:** Looking for something new for 2017? The Brownies that meet in St. Josephs Church are in need of extra adult helpers who ideally would be able to help on a regular basis – Wednesday 6pm term time. As an adult volunteer you'll try new things, learn skills and be a role model for girls. Giving your time helps to make guiding happen! If you're up for new opportunities, challenges and lots of fun then email [maidenhead.brownies@gmail.com](mailto:maidenhead.brownies@gmail.com) to find out more!

**2017 Interfaith Dialogues:** Next meeting Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> January in Maidenhead Gurdwara from 7pm – 9pm. Please see the notice board for dates in February and March or visit the website: [www.wamcf.org](http://www.wamcf.org)

**The Parish Website:** <http://www.stjosephsparish.co.uk/> is being updated regularly. If you would like to update any existing information please do so via the Parish Office.

**Notices for next weekend:** should be posted or emailed to the Parish Office by 12.00pm on Wednesday.

**If you wish to speak to the Parish Priest in confidence on any matter, please contact Shauna at the Parish Office for an appointment. Fr John is always happy to visit you at home if so desired.**

#### Contact Us:

Parish Priest: **Father John Lee**  
The Presbytery, 36 Cookham Road,  
Maidenhead, SL6 7EG  
Tel: 01628 783988  
email [jlee@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:jlee@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Parish Secretary: **Shauna Hamilton**  
Monday to Friday  
09.00 to 13.00  
01628 783988  
email  
[maidenhead@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:maidenhead@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Parish Centre Administrator: **Gloria McQueen**  
Monday to Friday  
09:00 to 12:00  
01628 636312  
email [stjoecentmhead@btconnect.com](mailto:stjoecentmhead@btconnect.com)

St Mary's Catholic Primary School  
Head Teacher: **Mrs Janice Laycock**  
Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7EG  
01628 622570  
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### PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR ST. JOSEPH'S, MAIDENHEAD & ST. ELIZABETH'S, COOKHAM

Number 113 – 28<sup>th</sup> / 29<sup>th</sup> January 2017  
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time,  
Year A, (psalter week 4)

#### Weekly Mass Times and Intentions

Sat	28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10:00	Nigel Cunningham, SI
		18:30	Doreen Kearsley, RIP
Sun	29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	08:00	People of the Parish
		09:15	Hanrahan Family, SI
		10:45	Ben and Shan Muggridge, SI
Mon	30 <sup>th</sup> Jan	10:00	Morning Prayer
Tue	31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	10.00	Terence Hanrahan, RIP
Wed	1 <sup>st</sup> Feb	10.00	Jim Van den Berg, RIP
Thu	2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	10:00	Blaise and Sharon Alvares, RIP
Fri	3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	10:00	Mass for Sick & Housebound
Sat	4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10:00	Masilungan Family, SI and Ines Castro, A
		18:30	Veronica Byrne, RIP
Sun	5 <sup>th</sup> Feb	08:00	People of the Parish
		09:15	Isabella Cruickshams, RIP
		10:45	Gui Roger, SI

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place before the 10:00am Mass Tuesday to Saturday. Confession - Saturday immediately after 10:00 Mass and later between 17:30 and 18:15.



Not by Might, Nor by Power, but by  
My Spirit says the Lord!  
Zechariah 4:6

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2017



*Blessed are  
the peacemakers,  
for they will be  
called  
children of God.  
Matthew 5.9*

#### Matthew 5:1-12

Today's reading is the beginning of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The form of the Beatitudes found here is not unique to Jesus. Beatitudes are found in the Old Testament, in the psalms, and in wisdom literature, for example. They are a way to teach about who will find favour with God.

We quickly note in this reading that the people whom Jesus calls "blessed" and "happy" are not people we think of as blessed or happy . . . the poor in spirit, the meek, the persecuted. This Gospel is one of reversals. Jesus' blueprint for happiness reflects little of what the world might call happiness.

"Blessed" is sometimes translated as happy, fortunate, or favoured. In other words, Jesus is saying that divine favour is upon those who are poor, those who mourn, those who are persecuted. This news might have been welcome—and surprising—to the crowds who heard Jesus that day.

The Beatitudes can be understood as a framework for Christian living. Our vocation as Christians is not to be first in this world, but rather to be first in the eyes of God. By referring to the good things that the faithful will experience, Matthew reminds us that those who act in the manner described in the Beatitudes will find their reward with God.

**Please pray for** all those who are sick or housebound within the Parish, including: Mary Toovey, Johnny Pereira, Tony and Rosa Ruffolo, Lena Watson, Margaret Gallagher, Josie Dooley, Cecilia Leavage, Betty Buckley, Evelyn Withey, Alexandra Donaldson, John Webb, Alex Holden, Maria Wiggins, Anna Keohane, Joe Ball and Vincent Ray.

If you know of anyone who is sick and/or housebound please let Shauna know in the office as soon as possible so that a visit can be arranged. Thank you.

If you are going into hospital or know someone that is, please inform the hospital chaplain on arrival. Please also let Fr John Lee know so that arrangements can be made for a visit.

**Please Pray for the souls of;** Jim Buckley, Funeral Mass Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 11am in St. Josephs Church. Eithna Officer, Funeral Mass Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 11.30am in St. Josephs Church. We also pray for the souls of Cheryl Manning, Gerard McGuinness and Bridget Puzio.

Please pray for all of the Holy Souls who still need your prayers. Just one short prayer will earn you their Eternal gratitude. Imagine what you could do with two prayers. Have you tried this yet? Or are you too busy?

**Choir:** Ben, our choirmaster, will be leaving us in the next few weeks as he and his wife, Shan, will be moving out of the area. We would very much like the choir to be able to continue – singing is such an important part of our liturgy and worship and the choir is a great asset to the parish. Ben has offered to carry on until Easter but would like to hand over responsibility before this if possible, so we are now looking for someone to take over. If you have experience of running a choir and would be interested, or if you know someone who you think might be, please speak to Father John or to Ben.

**Offertory Collection:** Last week's collection was £1147.71

**Children's Liturgy:** The Children's Liturgy is where the children learn, in a way which is meaningful for them, the message of the Gospel their parents are hearing in church. The group are already struggling to have enough volunteers to run the sessions and we are sadly losing 2 more of our team this term. Please will you consider trying to lead one session this year? You will always work with a team of 3, help and support will be on hand and all the plans are provided. Perhaps you have a child doing their First Communion and would like to contribute? Or maybe you are a retired teacher willing to help us out very occasionally? You do not need experience and this could be a wonderful chance for you to try out a new vocation - several of our Liturgists have gone on to be wonderful teachers in schools! Please contact Tricia Weeks, (Tel. 01628 627265) for further details, you will be welcomed with open arms. We really do need your help.

**RCIA:** The Journey of faith – meeting takes place each Wednesday evening at 7.30pm in the presbytery. If you or if you know anyone that wishes to find out more about the Catholic faith, please call the Parish Office for more information.

**Parish Project Survey:** Please find enclosed a letter from Fr John introducing the Gallup Survey project which will commence on the weekend of 12<sup>th</sup> February.

**Please note** the Parish Office will be closed on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> January for a reorganisation.

**A New Year's Resolution:** If you pay income tax and do not Gift Aid your donations register now and allow St Joseph's to claim 25% of your donations from HMRC. Contact the Parish Office for further details or to sign up

**Parish Social:** Keep Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2017 free in your diary for the Parish Social. More details to follow.

**Parish Pilgrimage to Poland in The Footsteps of Saint John Paul II** - 19th-24th April 2017, led by Fr John Lee: If you are planning to join us on the pilgrimage please send the form with the deposit to Pilgrimage People ASAP. Their contact details are: office@pilgrimagepeople.org or on 0800 612 3423. Information packs are available at all Masses this weekend for anyone interested in joining us.

**First Holy Communion 2017:** Can parents please note that the program is now closed for this year. In late summer this year we will take names for the 2018 program.

**CAFOD Portsmouth Supporters' Meeting – Saturday 4 February 2017:** Join us at our next CAFOD Portsmouth Supporters' Meeting on Saturday 4 February 2017 from 10am-1.30pm at St Bede's Catholic Primary School, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX. There will be a special talk on our livelihoods work in Zambia (our Lenten focus) by Mark Chamberlain and a chance to hear an update on all our exciting campaigns from Dan Hale. Please book a place in advance via 01252 329385 or portsmouth@cafod.org.uk Thank you.

**Maidenhead Care:** Anyone thinking of volunteering as a New Year Resolution might like to consider offering a little time to this very worthwhile Good Neighbour Scheme. Even a couple of hours a month would be gratefully accepted as there is always a need. No one is ever pressured to do more than they can offer. There are a few ways of helping. Please contact Patricia Denham on 01628 631424 or look up the website for more information: [www.maidenheadcare.org.uk](http://www.maidenheadcare.org.uk).

**Postage Stamps:** If you have any used stamps please leave them with Joan Boland or Shauna in the office. Last year with your help, Joan was able to pass these on and help raise over £2,500 for charity.

**Keys:** If you have keys belonging to the Parish, can you please return them to the office so they can be registered, numbered and then reissued. This is really important as we need to make our Church more secure.

**Second Collection:** There is a second collection at all Sunday Masses this weekend (28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup>) for White Flower Appeal. The society for the Protection of Unborn children (SPUC) will be holding its annual appeal this weekend. In 2017 SPUC is commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the passing of the 1967 Abortion Act. Over 8.7 million unborn children have lost their lives due to abortion in the last 50 years. Since 1967 SPUC has been working tirelessly to uphold the sanctity of human life from conception until natural death. Please help make 2017 a landmark year in SPUC's historic campaign to win legal protection for unborn children.

**Mother's Prayer Group:** meets each Monday at 10.am in St Joseph's church. All welcome. Please note the meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> January is in the bar area.

**Men's Matters Windsor:** Men's Matters Windsor is a new charity supporting older men in Maidenhead & Windsor who are isolated, feel lonely and experiencing major life changes. From Monday 6<sup>th</sup> February, Men's Matters Windsor has a 'drop-in' centre for men over 50 living in and around Windsor. It is open from 1pm to 3.30pm every Monday at the All Saints Church, Dedworth Road, Windsor SL4 4JW to meet with each other and enjoy a cuppa.

**This year's Lenten Project:** Fr John invites all our parishioners to submit suggestions for this year's Lenten Project to Shauna in the Parish Office by 11<sup>th</sup> February by phone/email.

**Magnificat: Did you know?** This is one of the best publications around for following scripture readings for daily Mass and every Sunday. There are also many interesting articles to help you in your spiritual life. If you would like a copy please get in touch with Shauna in the Parish Office to arrange. The Magnificat is only £4 per month.

**Day by Day:** Available in the church at all times. Please leave the £1 in the candle box.

**St. Bernard's Preparatory School:** Open Morning on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 9.30am – 11.30am and Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 10.00am – 12.00pm

**Fully escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 13th March 2017.** £599 per person sharing. Price includes flights with 15kg checked in bag, all taxes, luxury transfers, 5 nights' in newly refurbished Knock House Hotel with full Irish Breakfast each morning and 4 Course Dinner each evening. All entertainment, excursions and guided tours included. Wheelchair accessible rooms in the hotel. Limited single rooms at supplement of £50. Groups and Individual bookings welcome. Contact Patricia anytime on 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com. Knock Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust Association and is fully protected by ATOL.