

**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.

**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

**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.

**Please note** the church will be closed on Monday 6th February for maintenance work.

**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  
[www.stmarys-maidenhead.org.uk](http://www.stmarys-maidenhead.org.uk)



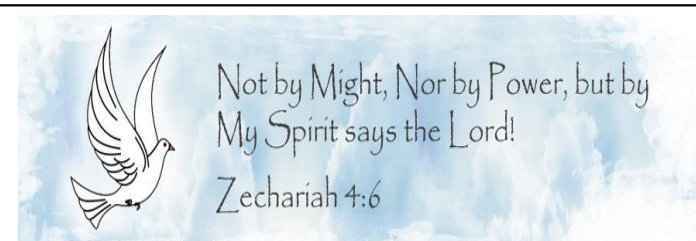
**PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR  
ST.JOSEPH'S, MAIDENHEAD &  
ST.ELIZABETH'S, COOKHAM**

Number 114 – 4<sup>th</sup> / 5<sup>th</sup> February 2017  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time,  
Year A, (psalter week 1)

**Weekly Mass Times and Intentions**

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
Mon	6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10:00	Morning Prayer
Tue	7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10.00	Raymond Pillion, SI
Wed	8 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10.00	Louisa Coleman and The Coleman Family, FM
Thu	9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10:00	Charlotte Ray, SI
Fri	10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10:00	Vincent Ray, SI
Sat	11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	10:00	Holy Souls
		18:30	Manuel Family, FM
Sun	12 <sup>th</sup> Feb	08:00	People of the Parish
		09:15	Liam and Kitty O'Connor, RIP
		10:45	Chris Welaham, RIP

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.



*St Joseph's Maidenhead and St. Elizabeth's Cookham are part of the Great Park Pastoral Area of the Diocese of Portsmouth which includes: St Edmund Campion - Maidenhead: St Edward's - Windsor: St Mark's - Dedworth: St Thomas More - Twyford: Our Lady of Peace - Wargrave*

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> February 2017**



**Matthew 5:13-16**

Following upon the teaching of the Beatitudes, Jesus uses the now familiar metaphors of salt and light to describe the life of discipleship. We take salt and light for granted in our society, but these commodities were more precious in ancient cultures. Just as now, salt was used in Jesus' time for flavouring, as a preservative, and as a healing agent. Similarly, the widespread use of electricity in the modern world makes us less aware of the value and importance of light in our lives.

Still, our familiarity with this passage from Matthew's Gospel speaks well to the abiding power of the imagery that Jesus presented. Jesus' call to be salt for the earth and light for the world powerfully states our mission as Church and as Christians. Our commitment to social justice flows from the exhortation that Jesus gives us in today's Gospel. Some of the activities that this commitment leads us to are given more concrete expression as the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy. When we feed the hungry, clothe the naked, console those who mourn, and so on, we show ourselves to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. When we do these things with the community of faith, the Church, we are indeed acting as "a city set on a mountain" that cannot be hidden

**Please pray for** all those who are sick or housebound within the Parish, including: Mary Toovey, Johnny Pereira, Tony and Rosa Ruffolo, Lena Watson, Maura Gray, Margaret Gallagher, Josie Dooley, Cecilia Leauge, Betty Buckley, Evelyn Withey, Alexandra Donaldson, John Webb, Alex Holden, Maria Wiggins, Joe Ball, Denis Sullivan 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 RIP*, Funeral Mass Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February at 11am in St. Joseph's Church.

*Anna Keohane RIP*, Funeral Mass Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 10am St. Joseph's Church.

*Bridget Puzio RIP*, Funeral Mass Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> February at 1pm in St. Joseph's.

*Eithna Officer RIP*, Funeral Mass Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February at 11.30am in St. Joseph's Church.

We also pray for the soul of Cheryl Manning, Gerard McGuinness and all the recently deceased.

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 £1223.69. White Flower Appeal Collection was £557.53

**Second Collection:** There is a second collection on 12th March for Catholic Education Service

**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:** A reminder that **all** parishioners who are over 18 years will be asked to complete a brief survey starting next weekend 12th February.

**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.

**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.

**Mother's Prayer Group:** meets each Monday at 10.am in St Joseph's church. All welcome.

**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 6th 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.

**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.

**2017 Interfaith Dialogues:** Next meeting Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February in St. Mark's Catholic Church, Dedworth, Windsor 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)

**St Mary's Catholic Pre School** will soon be carrying out their intake for September 2017. If you would like your child to attend the Pre School please apply as soon as possible as there are limited spaces.

**UCM Meeting Feb 7th at 7.30pm.** The showing of the film "Miracle of Fatima" will be at 15 Manor Lane, phone 633681 for any queries.

This year Fr Mark Hogan will again be leading a camp for boys of secondary school age at St. Cassian's, Kintbury, from Sun 23rd to Sat 29th July. There will be plenty of sport, outings, competitions and fun and games to ensure that boys will have a fantastic few days. This will continue to take place within the context of the celebration of the Catholic Faith, including daily Mass and morning prayer. The cost of the camp is £200 (though full and part bursaries may be available). To find out more or to reserve a place, please contact c/o Mr and Mrs Mulkerns, 23 Pardown, East Oakley, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG23 7DY or [dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)