

Cleaning of the Church: Cleaning of St. Joseph's Church this Wednesday 13th December. Please join in if you can. We are desperately looking for new volunteers especially for the Friday group that cleans the church only once a month at 11am. New rota is available. Anyone willing to help please contact Eleanor on 0752 6526052.

Food share: Thank you to those who continue to contribute food for The Homeless. With Christmas in mind more donations are needed now more than ever.

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 evenings 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.

House Masses: Fr John Lee is more than happy to celebrate a House Mass for any family or group of families who would like one. If you are interested, please email Fr John or telephone the Parish Office.

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

Assistant Priest: Fr John Chadwick

The Presbytery, 36 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7EG
Tel: 01628 783988

Parish Administrator: Shauna Hamilton

Monday to Friday
09.00 to 13.00
01628 783988
email maidenhead@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Centre Administrator: Gloria McQueen

Monday to Friday
09:00 to 12:30
01628 636312
email stjoecentmhead@btconnect.com

Head Teacher: Mrs Sandra Barry

St Mary's Catholic Primary School
Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7EG
01628 622570
www.stmarys-maidenhead.org.uk

Finance Officer: Louise Wood

Monday to Friday
09.00 to 13.00
01628 783988
email maidenheadfo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Pastoral Council

Andrew Strowbridge (Chairperson) Eleanor Chinkondenji (Vice Chairperson) Shauna Hamilton (Secretary), Fr John Lee, Fr John Chadwick, Andrew Adamson, Francoise Rogoszewski, Gloria McQueen, Norma Machray, Anthony Marques, Yvonne Piekut and Don Leanage

Safeguarding Team

If you have any queries on safeguarding then please speak to one of the team, Louise Wood, George Lam and John Lynn. Contact Louise on 07783 684281 or get in touch with the Parish Office.

If you have any concerns / issues that you feel should be discussed, please contact the office.



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

Number 154, 9th & 10th December 2017
2nd Sunday of Advent, Psalter Week 2, Year B

Weekly Mass Times and Intentions

Sat	9 th Dec	10:00	Carmen Duthie, RIP
		18:30	Marie Clarke, RIP
Sun	10 th Dec	08:00	Agnes Matthews, RIP
		09:15	People of the Parish
		10:45	Manuel Mateo, A
Mon	11 th Dec	10:00	Mothers Morning Prayer Group
Tue	12 th Dec	11:00	Ana Simoes and Mario Simoes, RIP
Wed	13 th Dec	10:00	Family, Friends and St. Joseph's Community of the late Cornelius Hayes
Thu	14 th Dec	10:00	Kyra Abrew
Fri	15 th Dec	10:00	Requiem Funeral Mass William Franks, RIP
Sat	16 th Dec	10:00	Valerie Verbinnen, RIP
		18:30	Anthony Felton, RIP
Sun	17 th Dec	08:00	Tommy Doyle, RIP
		09:15	People of the Parish
		10:45	Francoise Rogoszewski, T

Sunday Mass times: 6.30pm (Saturday vigil), 8.00am & 10.45am at St. Joseph's, Maidenhead; 9.15am at St Elizabeth's, Cookham.

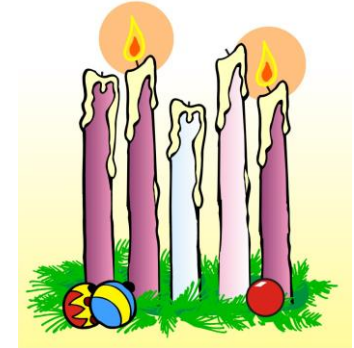
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament takes place before the 10:00am Mass Tuesday to Saturday. Confession - Saturday immediately after 10:00 Mass and later between 17:30 and 18:15.

The Rosary will be prayed after each weekday Mass. The intention: For an end to terrorism, conflict and violence of every kind and for Peace in the World

Mother's Prayer Group: Meet every Monday in the Church. You are invited to leave your petitions in the Blue Book on our Lady's altar and they will be prayed for on a Monday.

Sunday 10th December 2017

John proclaimed, "The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals."
Mark 1.7



Mark 1:1-8

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God

Thought for the day

As Christmas approaches, we could ask ourselves: how can we prepare to celebrate the birthday of our Saviour? The proclamation of John the Baptist points to the preparation that really counts, conversion of heart and life. The deeper meaning of metanoia is a change of vision, a radically new outlook, in the light of the Gospel. God is our compassionate father, our Abba, who desires nothing less than our hearts, our whole selves. We are accepted and loved by him, while we are still sinners (Rom 5:8). Receiving his forgiving love means a revolution in values, beliefs and direction in life.

Prayer

Loving God, as we your children prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus our Saviour, help us to prepare our hearts too. May the coming birth of the Son of David encourage us to true repentance and genuine conversion of heart. Amen.

Bible Weekend: A BIG thank you to ALL those who helped to make our Bible Weekend such a great success! A special word of thanks to all those who took on areas of responsibility - administration and planning; catering; liturgy and decoration - and who were so generous with their time, interest and energy. A great team effort!

Parish Social Saturday 16th December 2017: By popular demand **STEPHEN & MEGAN** are back to play their unique brand of music for us. Tickets are £15.00, including a hot meal are now on sale from both the Parish and Centre Offices. All proceeds go to The Margaret Clitherow Trust.

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 Leange, Betty Buckley, Alexandra Donaldson, John Webb, Maria Wiggins, Denis Sullivan, Veronica Heaver, Vincent Ray, Sakunthala Thillainayagam, Joan Lennarz, Moira Erskine, Pauline and Frank Allen, Derek and Bernadette Clarke, Alf and Joan White, Christopher and Catherine Browne.

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 note that under the Data Protection Act, hospital staff cannot disclose patient information. We rely on Parishioners to keep us in the loop.

Please pray for the souls of; Joan Pauline Horwood, RIP, and Mary Jamieson, RIP, who are recently deceased. *William Franks, RIP*, Requiem Mass, Friday 15th December, 10.00am in St. Joseph's Church
Francis Flynn, RIP, Requiem Mass, Thursday 21st December, 2.00pm in St. Joseph's Church

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?

Thursday St Joseph's Prayer Group is taking a break until January 2018.

Do you support Catholic Schools and the right of Catholics to send their children to them? Then we need you to make your voice heard.

The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics.

Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

Don and Cecilia Leange were very honoured to have Father John celebrate Mass at their house on Friday 17th November. It was a very holy and blessed experience for their family and the few close friends present. Three people who were there spoke of experiencing a special moment during the service when they felt uplifted, reflecting on Christ's promise that when there are two or more people gathered in His name He would be present also. We hope that many more people in the community will be able to take part in similar spiritual services.

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. We can leave in the sacristy or post out to you. The Magnificat is only £4 per month. December is now available.

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.

Portsmouth Diocese is sending a group of 18-30s to World Youth Day, Panama in January 2019 (21st-27th). Anyone who would like to go should express their interest by emailing youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk no later than 15th January. The cost is in the region of £1800, and support will be given for seeking sponsorship and fundraising.

St Joseph's Church Rotas:

Readers Rota: The next rota for Jan to Mar 2018 is available in the Sacristy. **If you cannot fulfil your duty, please find a substitute – this also applies to those reading the Bidding Prayers at 10.45am**

Eucharistic Minister's Rota: The next rota for Jan to Mar 2018 is available in the Sacristy. If you are available over Christmas

Offertory Collection: Last week's collection was £1144

Looking towards Advent and Christmas

Advent & Christmas: Please take home a Christmas card after Mass this Sunday. This card has all the times of Liturgies and Masses for the Advent and Christmas season.

Churches Together in Maidenhead Christmas Cards: now available for distribution in the entrance lobby and back corridor. If possible, please take a bundle and distribute and deliver to a street near you

Early Christmas Gift from Bishop Egan: You are welcome to take a copy of 'Rediscover Jesus: An Invitation' by New York Times bestselling author Matthew Kelly. Please collect your copy after Mass this Sunday.

Sunday Evening Liturgy in Advent: There will be an evening liturgy during Advent. Everyone is welcome.

10th Dec: Evening prayer and Benediction at 6pm in St Elizabeth's

17th Dec: Advent Carol Service at 5.30pm in St Joseph's followed by refreshments

17th Dec: Filipino sponsored Mass at 7pm in St Joseph's followed by refreshments. All welcome

Evening prayer and Benediction, 10th December 6pm at St Elizabeth's Church, Cookham: based on the Holy Hour that is celebrated in St James Church, Medjugorje

Advent Carol Service: Please join us at 5.30pm on Sunday 17th December. It will be St Joseph's version of the traditional Nine Lessons and Carols. There will be a mixture of readings and carols both to join in and to listen to. Children from St Mary's will read the Nativity and sing their own carol and it is hoped that members of some of our ethnic groups will also contribute. After the service there will be a collection for the Parish St Vincent de Paul Society, assisting members of our community that need help.

Calling all musicians and singers!

You are all invited to bring your musical gifts to make Christmas a special and beautiful season. The 'Christmas Choir' will be leading music for the Advent Carol Service and all Christmas Masses at St Joseph's – you can come and sing/play at any services you are already planning to attend.

You will need to commit to joining us for the following rehearsals at St Joseph's:

- **Sunday 10th December 12 – 2 in the bar area**
- **Sunday 17th December 4pm (before the Advent Carol Service at 5.30pm)**
- Sunday 24th December 5pm (for 6.30pm Christmas Eve Mass)
- Sunday 24th December TBC (for Midnight Mass)

If you have any questions, please speak with Lisa or Susan after the 10.45 Sunday Mass or through the Parish Office.

Christmas Flowers: Anyone wishing to sponsor flowers on the windows or the alter please put your dedication and a donation marked FAO Joan Boland in the office. Thank you

Advent and Christmas for all Children.

Christingle: All children are invited to take part in the Christingle Liturgy on Sunday 17th December during the 10.45 a.m. Mass.

Christmas Eve – Children's Nativity: All children are most welcome to dress up as angels / shepherds / kings / donkeys / sheep etc for the Christmas Eve Mass at 6.30pm. Do come and celebrate with us! More details next week or contact Helen on 01628 623707 or helen.meanwell@btopenworld.com

Please Take Me Home! I have lots of useful information that you can read during the week. Many Thanks
Your Weekly Newsletter.