

**Cleaning of the Church:** Cleaning of St. Joseph's Church this Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto:maidenhead@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

##### Parish Centre Administrator: Gloria McQueen

Monday to Friday  
09:00 to 12:30  
01628 636312  
email [stjoecentmhead@btconnect.com](mailto: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](http://www.stmarys-maidenhead.org.uk)

##### Finance Officer: Louise Wood

Monday to Friday  
09.00 to 13.00  
01628 783988  
email [maidenheadfo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:maidenheadfo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

##### Parish Pastoral Council

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

##### 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 153, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017  
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent, Psalter Week 1, Year B

#### Weekly Mass Times and Intentions

Sat	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dec	10:00	Michael Clarke, A
		18:30	Kenneth Haines, RIP
Sun	3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	08:00	People of the Parish
		09:15	Jim Buckley, RIP
		10:45	Mary Bourke, A
Mon	4 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:00	Mothers Prayer Group
Tue	5 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11:00	Requiem Funeral Mass Mary Theresa Jamieson RIP
Wed	6 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:00	Hanrahan Family, SI
Thu	7 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:00	Mabel Kate Snudden, FM
Fri	8 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:00	James Coady, FM
Sat	9 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10:00	Carmen Duthie, RIP
		18:30	Marie Clarke, RIP
Sun	10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	08:00	Agnes Matthews, RIP
		09:15	People of the Parish
		10:45	Manuel Mateo, A

**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.

**CTIM 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.

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017**

**When you did  
awesome deeds  
that we  
did not expect,  
you came down,  
the mountains quaked  
at your presence.**

Isaiah 64.3



**Mark 13:33-37**

**What I say to you I say to all: Keep awake!**

#### Thought for the day

Beginning again is an invitation to look in two directions. What happened for me in the last year, both in my ordinary life and in my life as a believer, a person of faith? For what do I ask forgiveness? For what do I give thanks? We also look forward and the new beginning gives us a chance to start again on the way of discipleship. Both thanksgiving and renewal are to be found in today's readings. The Gospel is in invitation to wake up, to keep watch, to live fully the present moment under God, in whom we live and move and have our being. Amen.

#### Prayer

Wake us up, O God, and rouse us from the slumber of the everyday that we may recognise you in every moment and in every person each day of our lives.

**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!

**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;** Zaza Delaney, RIP and Mary Walton, RIP, Joan Pauline Horwood, RIP, who are recently deceased.

*Mary Jamieson, RIP, Requiem Mass, Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December, 11.00am in St. Joseph's Church*

*William Franks, RIP, Requiem Mass, Friday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 10.00am 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.

**Children's Liturgists** - a reminder that there is a short **meeting, Sunday 3rd December**, immediately after the 10.45 a.m. Mass in the Bar area. It is important that ALL leaders, helpers and register takers attend. Please bring your diaries. Any new helpers and parishioners with suggestions are very welcome at the meeting. Please contact Tricia Weeks on 01628 627265 for further details.

**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.

**Offertory Collection:** Last week's collection was £1033

**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.

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

## 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.

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

**3<sup>rd</sup> Dec:** Advent Taize Service at 6pm in St Joseph's Church

**10<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Evening prayer and Benediction at 6pm in St Elizabeth's

**17<sup>th</sup> Dec:** Advent Carol Service at 5.30pm in St Joseph's followed by refreshments

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

**Candles, music and stillness – Advent Taize Service, 3rd December 6pm at St Joseph's:** Taize is a place in France where a community of monks have created a place of pilgrimage and stillness. Three times a day, everything on the hill of Taizé stops, and the bells call everyone to church for prayer. Thousands of mainly young people from all over the world pray and sing together with the brothers of the community. The famous Taize music is very easy to sing, and is based upon single lines of Scripture, repeated over and over until they enter your heart and become a prayer.

Our candlelit Advent Taize service will last about 45 minutes and is open to people of all ages. During the service, we will sing some Taize songs, hear a short Bible reading and have some time for prayer and reflection. This is a perfect opportunity to step out of the busyness of the season, and enjoy a moment of stillness in a beautiful and simple style.

We welcome any singers to come and help to lead the chants. If you would like to get involved, please arrive at 4.45pm for rehearsal.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> December 12 – 2 in the bar area**
- **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 12 – 2 in the bar area**
- **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> December 4pm (before the Advent Carol Service at 5.30pm)**
- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> December 5pm (for 6.30pm Christmas Eve Mass)
- Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> 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. Otherwise, we look forward to seeing you on the 3<sup>rd</sup>!

**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](mailto:helen.meanwell@btopenworld.com)

**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.