



HOLY FAMILY PARISH NEWSLETTER



www.holyfamilyparish.org.uk

Most people pray. But we've all experienced the frustration of unanswered prayer. We want to believe God listens and responds - but sometimes, it feels like He doesn't, as if we're on mute. We wonder: is He too busy? Is He even there? Does He care? Jesus understands this disappointment.

In today's parable, a widow persistently pleads with a corrupt judge for justice. She has no one to speak for her, no resources, no influence. Yet she keeps coming. Eventually, the judge relents - not because he cares, but because she wears him down. Jesus uses humour - the idea of a powerful judge fearing a frail widow is meant to make us smile. But the point is serious - if an unjust judge responds to persistence, how much more will our loving Father respond to us? Jesus isn't comparing God to the judge - He's contrasting them. God isn't indifferent or corrupt. God chose us and gave us His Son. Of course He cares about our needs, our families, our health, our hopes. So why does prayer sometimes feel ineffective?

Because prayer isn't just about getting what we want. It's about growing in relationship with God. Like work, family, and friendships, prayer takes effort. God may be using the delay to strengthen us, to deepen our character, to draw us into a richer life of faith. Sometimes we need **persistence in prayer** to:

- ❖ look beyond our own needs and align with God's greater purposes
- ❖ recognise when we're asking for the wrong thing - He knows what's best
- ❖ be more specific - vague prayers are hard to recognise when answered
- ❖ move beyond casual requests - God desires wholehearted relationship, not transactional exchanges
- ❖ cooperate with God - prayer is not begging but joining in His work. Sometimes, we have a part to play before change can come.

So, here's homework for the week: where do you need God's intervention in your life? If you already have a daily time of quiet prayer, bring that need to Him persistently this week, or carve out 5 minutes a day. Ask God to show you how He's working in you, how He's strengthening you. And keep asking.

Oct 2025: Mass Times & Mass Intentions

Sat	18	10:00*	Alfie Gibbs, SI Corinne Noble, SI
		18:30**	Kevin McGarry, RIP
Sun	19	08:00	Gracie Erin Bermas Pool, SI Michael Carrigan, A
		09:15	Richard & Marie-Lou Kellaway 55 th Anniversary 🕒
		11:00	Magaret Joachim, SI
		17:00	Mass of the Parish of Holy Family
Mon	20	10:00	No Mass. Mother's Prayers group in Church
Tue	21	10:00	Ian Raines, A
Wed	22	10:00	Coleman Family, FM
Thu	23	10:00	Bishop Cotter, FM
Fri	24	10:00	Alex Thomas, SI Canon P Curtin, FM
Sat	25	10:00	NO MASS - See News/Events

Adoration before Mass: *9-10am; **5-5.30pm

A: Death Anniversary; FM: Foundation Mass; RIP: Rest in Peace, SI: Special Intentions

Fr Ephraim 07465 675985 eodhiambo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk | Fr Kevin 07476367316 | Fr Liam 07776 580596
Office: Carolyn 01628783988 office@stjosephsparish.co.uk | safeguarding@stjosephsparish.co.uk

St Joseph's & St Elizabeth's edition
Issue #15

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time
18/19th Oct 2025

1st: Exo 17:8-13 Whenever Moses held up his hand, Israel prevailed.

Ps 120 R/ Our help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.

2nd: 2 Tim 3:14-4:2 That the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Acclamation: Alleluia! Alleluia! The word of God is living an active, discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart . Alleluia!

Gospel: Luk 18:1-8 God will give justice to his elect, who cry to him.



Next Sunday 26 Oct 8.30am - 12.20pm
Partial Road closure on Cookham Rd
for a Half Marathon. Please plan your trip
<https://tinyurl.com/4xrkwzsr>

St Vincent de Paul Society M'head

18 Oct 7.30pm 3rd musical Evening at SEC school hall. Tickets £10 pp avail after Sunday Masses or from Siobhan 07816 445 416. BYO wine, beer & glasses. Soft drinks & snacks avail to buy (cash). Contact Peter 07976 625 813 if you would like to take part as a singer, or play an instrument, solo /part of a group!

Join SVP! Help us broaden our reach across the local community. We befriend and have regular contact with the lonely, vulnerable, house-bound, sick, etc. Meetings on first Mondays of the month. Contact Siobhan on 07816 445 416.

2nd Collection: **Missio Sunday** or
online: <https://missio.org.uk/donate/>

Works of Mercy: Visit the Imprisoned

On this "Mission Sunday", we pray for, and support Missionaries who help those "Imprisoned" because of poverty, climate change or domestic circumstances. Let us acknowledge Pope Leo's plea for us to transform entire communities. Through our Baptism, we are called to be Missionaries of Hope among The Peoples". Please support our Missio Appeal with extraordinary generosity and please donate towards Care Packages, with gifts of shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitary items and new/clean clothing for those who are recently released from jail.



HFP: Holy Family Parish; **SJ:** St Joseph;
SEC: St Edmund Campion; **STM:** St Thomas More

PARISH NEWS/ EVENTS

- **Oct every Wed 7pm** in St Elizabeth Room. Talk series by Fr Kevin (part of OCIA programme) on **Social Teaching of the Catholic Church** - how do we live out our Christian faith in a conflicted world? See posters. All are welcome.
- **25 Oct 10am Jubilee Year Holy Doors** Join HFP priests at St James Church Forbury Rd, Reading RG1 3FD to celebrate going through the Holy Doors. There will be penitential service & confession, followed by Mass. All are welcome. There will be no 10am Mass in the Parish on 25 Oct.

- **23 Nov 12-2pm** **St Joseph's Christmas Fayre** If you want a table, contact patriciaray980@btinternet.com (£15/table for own fundraising. Free for church fundraising)

- **Significant marriage anniversaries** We are celebrating the **29 Nov 11am Sacrament of Marriage special Mass followed by refreshments**. RSVP <https://forms.office.com/e/izp8FMaK6Y>

OTHER COURSES / EVENTS

- **Oct-Dec Douai Abbey Days of Reflection.** Please see Vision Group noticeboard for more info. Lifts available on 13 Dec – contact Vision Group.
- **23-26 Oct Retreat for Men** See posters for info/Contact Newton
- **8 Nov 7.30pm Musicals & Opera Night** 36th Annual evening by the Catenians. Claire's Court School. Tickets £30 pp. Tickets from Jonathan manorcott@outlook.com. All profits to CAFOD.
- **10 Nov 4N Jubilee Tour** Westport, Knock & Co Mayo £799.00pp. 01268762 278 / 07740175557 knockpilgrimages@gmail.com
- **15 Nov 10.30am Thanksgiving Mass** by Bishop Egan. St Joseph in Basingstoke RG22 6TY. caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
- Hosanna House Children's Pilgrimage Trust is looking for helpers for some children with additional needs to travel to Lourdes in a group. Contact Pat: group128@hcpt.org.uk
- **28 Nov 10am Supernatural** a day of prophetic preaching. Sign up: <https://coretlumenchristi.churchsuite.com/events/a3vipt9y>
- **This Autumn** why not enjoy a spiritual journey from the comfort of your home? This amazing website offers courses/ studies in the whole area of Prayer and Spirituality. www.epiphanygroup.org.uk/training-courses/introduction-to-ways-of-praying/

COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK *

Gift Aid: **£235** ↓ Non-GA: **£824** ↓
Thank you for Gift-Aid! HMRC added **£58.75!**

* Loose plate + Dona/Sumup

WIN A TRIP TO MEDJUGORJE! Prize for 1 person: 7N B&B, return airport transfer & flights up to €300. Enter at prize draw page www.med-irishcentre.com or WhatsApp 07860 465386 or Email: reservations@med-irishcentre.com

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE PARISH

- ❖ **Saturdays Confessions** after 10am Mass / before 6.30pm Mass
- ❖ **2nd Sundays 2.30-5pm Loss & Bereavement Group** SEC centre
- ❖ **3rd Sundays 3.00pm Filipino Mass** in SJ
- ❖ **Thursdays Zoom Room: 2pm Rosary 6pm Journey together through Holy scriptures** www.tinyurl.com/2hz5axvp
- ❖ **Fridays 8.45-10.45am Baby & Toddler Group** SEC (term time)

CLASSES/ EVENTS IN SJ CENTRE

See notice board/ website for classes

- **Tuesdays: Practical Art** Join U3A untutored Art Group. Bring your art materials and join in the fun every 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 2-4pm in SJ Hall. Contact Peter 01628 674097 for more info.

- **Wednesdays: 5-6pm Taiji** in Hall.

- **Thursdays 7pm Yoga** with Una in Hall (no class 13 Nov). All proceeds to SJ!

- **Art Exhibition** by local artists

31 Oct: 7.00 pm - 9.30 pm

1 Nov: 10.30 am - 7.30 pm

2 Nov: 9.00 am - 1.30 pm



Come see the original painting of St Joseph's by Fr Brian, enjoy refreshments and meet the artists! Limited edition Christmas cards will be available (proceeds to Thames Hospice).

- **8 Nov 11-3.30pm Christmas Gift Market** by Lions Club. lionschristmasmarket@gmail.com

- **28 Nov 7pm International Dinner.** Tickets @ £25 from Annette. All proceeds to a MHM literacy project in Sindh, Pakistan



SACRAMENTALS All **forms** for below can be found here: <https://stjosephsparish.co.uk/newsletter/>

- ♦ **Baptism Course 4 Nov** For parents whose child is being baptised in M'head. Complete form (see link above).

- **First Holy Communion & Confirmation 2026** Registration now closed. Come back Summer 2026.

- ✚ **OCIA 2026** (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) For adults who wishing to explore their faith or considering Baptism and/or Confirmation next Easter. Talk to one of our priests or OCIA catechists. Closing date **24 Nov**

- ♥ **MARRIAGE:** Thinking of getting married? Enquire via our online form! (see link above)

Marriage Care will be holding a **marriage preparation day** for couples getting married in the Catholic Church in **St Joseph's parish hall on Saturday 22nd Nov**. Book: <https://www.marriagecare.org.uk/find-pt-course/>

- ✚ **November: Month of Holy Souls** Our priests will visit and bless the graves of loved ones on Sunday **9 Nov** at Braywick (2pm) & Cookham (3pm).