



# HOLY FAMILY PARISH



## NEWSLETTER

[www.holyfamilyparish.org.uk](http://www.holyfamilyparish.org.uk)

What do you give the person who has everything? It's the sort of question that comes up every year as we start thinking about Christmas again. Those annoying people have everything so they need nothing, which means you can't surprise or delight them with anything because they already have it. It's a bit like that with the Pharisee in the Gospel today. God can do nothing for him because he doesn't admit of any need. He is a self-made man in his own eyes. He has done it all himself: "I did it my way", and his prayer amounts to boastfully listing his achievements before God so that God has nothing to add.

If he has no weaknesses, God cannot strengthen him, if he has no wounds, God cannot heal him, if he has no sins God cannot forgive him. Of course, he does have all these needs but since he doesn't acknowledge them he doesn't let God in. He, in his own mind, is saying, in effect, that he has no need of what God has to offer and while his words look and sound like a prayer, they really only amount to an arrogant boast: "Look at me; see how perfect I am, and all achieved by my own efforts".

If we are sincere in wanting to let God into our lives, we must first be aware of our weaknesses and our need for his help, that alone and unaided, we can do nothing. This is the true meaning of humility: knowing our need of God and God will respond to the prayer of the humble person, like the tax collector in the story. As the first reading puts it today, 'the humble man's prayer pierces the clouds'.

*Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice!*

*Turn to the Lord and his strength, constantly seek his face*

St Joseph's & St Elizabeth's edition

Issue #16

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

25/26th Oct 2025

**1<sup>st</sup>: Sir 35:15-22** The prayer of the humble pierces the clouds.

**Ps 34 R/ The lowly one called, and the Lord heard him.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>: 2 Tim 4:6-18** There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness.

**Acclamation:** **Alleluia! Alleluia! God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** **Luk 18:9-14** The tax collector went down to his house justified, rather than the Pharisee.

### COLLECTIONS LAST WEEK \*

Gift Aid: £304 ↑ Non-GA: £617.93 ↓

**Missio: 819.63**

\* Loose plate + Dona/Sumup

We approach the month of Holy Souls with **the Solemnity of All Saints on 2 Nov**, followed by the Commemoration of all the Faithful Departed on **All Souls' Day on 3 Nov at 10am & 7pm**. You are invited to present names of family & friends who died in the last 12 months in the envelopes provided, and we will have a **special Remembrance Mass & candle lighting** for families of the living and the dead on **15 Nov 10am**. November is also a good time for people to visit and pray at the graves of their loved ones. Our priests will visit and bless the graves of loved ones on **9 Nov at Braywick (2pm) & Cookham (3pm)**.

### Works of Mercy: Visit the Imprisoned

Our Catholic Social Teaching reminds us that we are ALL created in God's Image. God is present in every human person and we should respect the dignity of all our brothers and sisters. When The Lord says: *I was hungry; I was naked; I was imprisoned, what did you do for me?* Hopefully, we will respond with enthusiasm - I fed You; I clothed You and I visited You with my prayers, my donations and my compassion.

Please continue to donate towards Care Packages for prisoners with gifts of shower gel, toothpaste, toothbrushes, sanitary items and new/clean clothing for those who are recently released from jail. Thank you for your support and care for those who are imprisoned in whatever way

### Oct 2025: Mass Times & Mass Intentions

Sat	25 <sup>th</sup>	10:00*	NO MASS – See News/Events
		18:30**	Keziah Oliveira, SI Kevin McGarry, RIP Muriel D'Souza, A
Sun	26 <sup>th</sup>	08:00	Agostinho Moreira da Costa, SI Michael John Carrigan, A
		09:15	Duncan Adamson, A
		11:00	Mala, Lala, Priya & Helena Fernando, A
		17:00	Antonio Cruz & Natalia D'Cruz, A
Mon	27 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	<b>No Mass.</b> Mother's Prayers group in Church
Tue	28 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Eleanor Thomas, SI Deceased members of Brady family
Wed	29 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	<b>Coleman Family, FM</b>
Thu	30 <sup>th</sup>	10:00	Katy Singeisen, SI
Fri	31 <sup>st</sup>	10:00	Dean Joseph, SI <b>Maria Coleman, FM</b>
Sat	1 <sup>st</sup>	10:00	

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

Confessions on Saturday after 10am Mass / before 6.30pm Mass

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

Fr Ephraim 07465 675985 [eodhiambo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:eodhiambo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) | Fr Kevin 07476367316 | Fr Liam 07776 580596

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

## PARISH NEWS/ EVENTS – All are welcome!

- Going through the Holy Doors at St James Church Forbury Rd, Reading RG1 3FD with penitential service, confession, & Mass.
- The Children's liturgy team** wishes all families a blessed half term break and will welcome the children back on 9 Nov
- 29 Oct 7pm** in St Elizabeth Room. Last talk of Fr Kevin's series on **Social Teaching of the Catholic Church**.

## 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.
- 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.
- 15 Nov 10.30am Thanksgiving Mass** by Bishop Egan. St Joseph in Basingstoke RG22 6TY.  caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
- 29 Nov 10am Supernatural** a day of prophetic preaching. See <https://coretlumenchristi.churchsuite.com/events/a3v1pt9y>
- This Autumn** why not enjoy a spiritual journey from the comfort of your home? See courses/ studies at [www.epiphanygroup.org.uk/training-courses/introduction-to-ways-of-praying/](http://www.epiphanygroup.org.uk/training-courses/introduction-to-ways-of-praying/)

**Be part of a child's village** Be a foster parent Email [info@lafosteringse.org.uk](mailto:info@lafosteringse.org.uk), call 0300 1312797, or for more info, see [achievingforchildren.org.uk/contact-fostering](http://achievingforchildren.org.uk/contact-fostering)

**Volunteer Treasurer to support Bega kwa Bega Uganda, a Parish charity,** [www.bkguganda.org](http://www.bkguganda.org) Urgently looking for someone with accountancy experience to oversee and manage the financial aspects of our charity after our Treasurer passed away recently. Contact Kathy Russell on 07954 221 954 or [karussell43@aol.com](mailto:karussell43@aol.com)

## REGULAR EVENTS IN THE PARISH

- 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](http://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](mailto: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).
- 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/>

# Advent & Christmas 2025



## RECONCILIATION SERVICE

St Francis of Assisi Ascot 6 Dec 10:30 - 11:00  
St Thomas More Twyford 10 Dec 18:30 - 19:00  
St Edward's Windsor 13 Dec 11:00 - 11:30  
St Edmund Campion 17 Dec 18:30 - 19:00  
St Joseph 20 Dec 10:30 - 11:00



Please place your Advent Calendar gifts in the boxes provided.  
**Last day of collection: 23 Nov**  
Thank you for your support!