



HOLY FAMILY PARISH

NEWSLETTER



www.holyfamilyparish.org.uk

The New Year in the Church begins with the season of Advent: a time to help us prepare for Christmas, when we celebrate the fulfilment of our longing for the Saviour with the birth of Jesus. It's the season begins four Sundays before Christmas and ends on Christmas Eve. The Church's Christmas season begins on Christmas Eve and lasts for twelve days. Advent is a season of anticipation that leads up to Christmas.

During this time, we observe a season of prayer, and reflection — followed by anticipation, hope and joy. Each Sunday during Advent we light a candle on the Advent wreath. The Advent wreath contains five candles. Three of the candles are purple, one is pink/rose and the central one is white. The symbolic meanings of the candles can vary but they are often:

1. **Hope:** expectation of what is to come - the Prophet's Candle (Isaiah)
2. **Love:** also known as the Bethlehem Candle - symbolises Christ's manger
3. **Joy:** this rose candle is often called Shepherd's Candle
4. **Peace:** this purple candle is often called the Angel's Candle
5. **Emmanuel:** God among us: This candle is called the "Christ Candle" and represents the life of Christ that has come into the world.

1st: 2 Isa 2:1-5 A happy future for all who seek the truth & work for peace

Ps 121 R/ Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord!

2nd: Rom 13:11-14 Our salvation is near at hand.

Acclamation: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Show us, O Lord, your mercy, and grant us your salvation! Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matt 24:37-44 Stay awake so that you may be ready.

St Joseph's & St Elizabeth's edition
Issue #21

First Sunday of Advent Year A
29th /30th Nov 2025

First Sunday of the Liturgical Year

Colours of Advent These 3 principal colours of Advent are packed with rich meaning:

Purple symbolises repentance and fasting and also, the colour of royalty.

Rose represents joy and reveals a shift in the season away from repentance and toward celebration.

White represents purity and light. Christ is the sinless, spotless, pure Saviour. He is the light come into a dark and dying world. As we begin this new liturgical year, let us reflect of why we meet as a Community. In our parish community of Holy Family, Jesus Christ meets our five deepest needs:

1. Purpose to live for – Weekly worship helps us focus on God.
2. People to live with - Community helps us face life's problems and joys.
3. Principles to live by - Discipleship and conviction helps fortify our Faith.
4. Profession to live out - Ministry helps exercise our talents.
5. Power to live on - Witness and proclamation helps fulfil our mission.

That is why our churches in Maidenhead and Twyford exists. Today we pray in the Eucharist: come, Lord, show yourself; be visible among us.

Season of Advent Prayer Journey: Daily Scripture & Reflection for the season:
www.onlineprayer.net/adv-cal25/



FAREWELL FR EPHRAIM!

Fr. Ephraim hopes to see you at his farewell party in St. Joseph's Centre after this Sunday's 11am Mass

Farewell and Welcome

We thank God for the witness, wisdom and guidance of Fr. Ephraim over the last few years. His presence in our community has been a true blessing. We pray for your continued happiness.

And as Fr. Ephraim leaves, we welcome 2 Mill Hill Missionaries: Fr. Vuni and Fr. Elvis. Both have extensive missionary experience both in Britain and Africa and we are blessed to have them as part of our Holy Family Community.

Dear Fr. Vuni and Fr. Elvis, a very warm welcome to our parish of Holy Family. We are excited to begin this new chapter with you both. Please know you are stepping into a community that is ready to support you and walk this faith journey together.

Adoration before Mass: *9-10am

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

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

PARISH NEWS/ EVENTS – All are welcome!

- **Children's Liturgy Advent Theme:** 'Jesus's family tree' (aka Jesse tree). At every Advent Sunday, we will read a Bible story about someone on Jesus's family tree and hang an ornament symbolising the story on our Jesse Tree. We invite you to take part with your family: decorate a leaf & take a copy of our colour-in Advent Calendar for use at home! Available from this Sunday!

OTHER COURSES / EVENTS

- **13 Dec Douai Abbey Days of Reflection.** Lifts available on-contact Vision Group (see their notice board).
- **12-14 Dec A Christmas Residential Retreat with the Carmelites** Boar's Hill Oxford. £295. More info: <https://tinyurl.com/5fzjmcwk>
- **8 Mar 26 Escorted Tour: Westport, Knock & Co Mayo** £899.00 pps. Incl: flight from Heathrow, 10kg hold luggage, 5N in 4* hotel, dinner, B&B + leisure facilities, entertainment, excursions & transport. Irish music nightly. Single supplement. 01268 762 278 / 07740 175557 / knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY NEWS

- **7 Dec 12.30pm Igbo Mass** with Fr. Dr. Nathaniel Onwuekwe at St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church (Farnham Road, SL2 3AE). Food and Refreshments after. More info: Fr. Nathaniel 07448 059986; Sr. Chibuakum 07450 328643; Edward 07802 753575
- Carousel Buses has new Service 37, your link from High Wycombe to Windsor via Maidenhead today! 🚍
- **Every Fri 10.30-12pm FREE Sound & Song sessions:** No singing experience needed – just come as you are. 🎵🍰 Cuppa and cake after! Burnham Park Hall, Windsor Ln, Burnham, Slough SL1 7HR Places are limited 👉 Sign up: soundandsong.co.uk/generations

13 Dec 7.30pm Organ recital by candlelight @ St. Elizabeth's Tickets @ £10 includes a glass of mulled wine and seasonal nibbles. On sale from office or contact Andy andy.strowbridge@gmail.com / 07711 147321

Christmas Prayer Cards If you would like a prayer card for your Christmas intentions, please write (not email) your dedication and put in an envelope addressed "**Christmas Flowers**" and leave it with the office by **14 Dec.** Donations will go to Christmas Flowers.



17 Dec 6pm Junior Carol Service by St Mary's in Church. St Mary's School junior children will be singing carols at St Joseph's Church. Please come along and sing some songs with the children, and support our lovely school. Buy a ticket to support the school!

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/stmarys-maidenheadorguk/t-aaqxrja>

Christmas Tree Festival @ St Luke's Church **5-6 Dec:** 10am-7pm; **7 Dec:** 12-6pm Please come along and vote for our tree! Proceeds to Thames Valley. www.stlukeschristmastreettrail.co.uk

⚠ There is a man impersonating a priest and attempting to gain access to families and children. He appears to be of Italian descent, goes by the name Luigi Ramazzotti and claims to be an exorcist. If you have any contact from him, please contact the Police and notify safeguarding@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

SACRAMENTALS

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

❤ **Baptism Course 2 Dec** For parents whose child is being baptised in M'head

❤ **MARRIAGE:** Thinking of getting married? Enquire via our online form!

Contacts: Fr Ephraim 07465 675985 eodhiambo@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

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⌚ Fr Kevin 07476367316

Carolyn office@stjosephsparish.co.uk

safeguarding@stjosephsparish.co.uk

REGULAR EVENTS IN THE PARISH

- ❖ **Loss & Bereavement Group last session 14** Dec 2.30 in SEC hall. Befriending support available in the Parish via SVP (Society of St Vincent de Paul) - contact the office for their number. Alternatively, contact Cruse Bereavement Support (a national organisation) on 01344 411919
- ❖ **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 (some are privately run)

- **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
- **Wednesdays: 5-6pm Taiji** in Hall.
- **Thursdays 7pm Yoga** with Una in Hall. All proceeds to SJ!

Over the next few weekends look out for the "Lego Christmas Story Trail" posters. Scan the QR code, click, point, and watch! There will be five story posters for you to find between now and Christmas! Can you scan and watch them all?



Works of Mercy: Give Alms to the Poor

On the First Sunday of Advent, we light the Candle of Hope as we await the promised birth. As the weather gets colder, let us consider the dignity of all people, and generously support our local community through gifts of clothing, food and funds. Our Hope, this Advent and towards the end of the Jubilee Year, is that we can improve the wellbeing and comfort of all the Poor, Homeless and Needy in our Holy Family Parish.