



HOLY FAMILY PARISH NEWSLETTER

www.holyfamilyparish.org.uk



St Joseph's & St Elizabeth's edition

Issue #31

4th Sunday of Lent

Year A

14th/17th March 2026

God Sees What We Miss

This Sunday's readings offer two significant narratives—one from the Old Testament and one from the Gospel—that encourage us to reconsider our conventional perspectives. In 1 Samuel 16, Samuel is tasked with selecting a new king. He initially assumes Jesse's eldest son, who possesses impressive physical attributes, is the ideal candidate. However, God intervenes, emphasizing the importance of inner character rather than outward appearance. Ultimately, David, the youngest and least expected, is chosen, highlighting that divine selection does not depend on societal standards of strength or prominence.

Similarly, the Gospel of John recounts Jesus encountering a man born blind. While others overlook or judge him, Jesus recognizes his inherent value and heals him. Through this act, the man gains insight exceeding even that of religious authorities. The overarching message is clear: God perceives differently. God sees beyond surface-level qualities, recognizing potential where others see inadequacy.

This perspective offers hope to anyone who has experienced judgment based on appearance, felt underestimated, or struggled with societal pressures. God evaluates individuals by their integrity, compassion, bravery, and commitment to goodness—not by external achievements or popularity. Selection by God is not contingent upon conventional measures of excellence, but rather upon authenticity and openness.

Challenge of the Week: this week, seek the Grace to:

- Look beyond superficial appearances
- Acknowledge those whom society tends to overlook
- Avoid self-assessment according to worldly values

Allow Jesus to address your "blind spots"—assumptions, fears, and uncertainties—so you may flourish.

1st: 1 Sam 16:1, 6-7, 10-13 Not the appearance not the status but the heart.
Psalm 22(23) R/ The Lord is my shepherd there is nothing I shall want.

2nd: Eph 5:8-14 Step out of the shadows. Walk in goodness, justice, and truth.

Gospel John 9:1-41 From blindness to belief. From darkness to sight.

Mothering Sunday 15th March 2026

May the Lord bless you for every sacrifice, every prayer, and every act of love you have given.

May your days be filled with grace, your home with peace, and your heart with the joy of Christ.

The Strength of Silent Fidelity

This week, we mark the solemnity of St Joseph the husband of Mary, a time to reflect on the profound strength found in silent fidelity. St Joseph's life is a testament to resilience and unwavering faith. Despite his plans being upended time and again, he never succumbed to bitterness. Instead, he adapted to each new challenge, trusted in God's purpose, and moved forward with quiet determination.

St Joseph's journey reminds us that God's most precious gifts often come disguised as disruptions. Rather than resisting change, Joseph welcomed grace even when it overturned his expectations. His example encourages us to embrace the unexpected, recognising that grace can enter our lives in moments of upheaval.

March 2026

March 2026				
Sat	14 th	18:30	Renee & Henry De Souza, SI	Edna & Eric Valentine, SI
Sun	15 th	08:00	Leelamma Joseph & Mariam Mathai, SI	
		09:15	Anne Freeney, RIP	
		11:00	Pat MacCarry, SI	Stanley, A
		17:00	Mass of the Parish of Holy Family	
Tue	17 th	10:00	Cyril Maguire, SI	
Wed	18 th	10:00	Alice Swales, A	Anna Rondina, SI
		12:00	Funeral Lorainne Madison	
Thu	19 th	10:00	Feast of St Joseph	
Fri	20 th	10:00	Coleman Family, FM	
Sat	21 st	10:00*	Herbert and Silvia Bianco, FM	
		18:30	Neil Coomey, A	
Sun	22 nd	08:00	Michael & Margaret Philip, A	Margaret & Adrian Beckett, SI
		09:15	Edwin Ainscough, RIP	
		11:00	Pat MacCarry, SI	Anna Rondina, SI
		17:00	Mass of the Parish of Holy Family	

Adoration*9-10am | **Confessions** Sat after 10am Mass / before 6.30pm Mass

A: Death Anniv; FM: Foundation Mass; RIP: Rest in Peace, SI: Special Intention

ST. JOSEPH'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
MILL HILL MISSIONARIES

ST. JOSEPH
THE MIGRANT WORKER

NOVENA MASSES AT
ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH,
MAIDENHEAD SL6 7EG

MARCH 10 - 18 AT 10AM
EXCEPT FOR SUNDAY AT 11AM

SOLEMNITY OF SAINT JOSEPH
March 19 at 10AM

NATIONAL NOVENA TO
ST. JOSEPH

FIND OUT MORE JOIN US IN PRAYER

If you would like to receive a Novena booklet please send a stamped self-addressed envelope to:
Novena Director
St Joseph's Missionary Society
St Colby Daniels Hallenhead
Barnesley SL6 7QZ
or email us at:
novenamh@gmail.com

MARCH 10 - 18, 2026
REGISTERED CHARITY NO: 1148980
www.millhillmissionaries.com

2nd Collection: The Clergy Assistance Fund, which ensures the welfare, ongoing formation & personal support of our clergy via the provision of spiritual direction, counselling, appraisal, ongoing formation and practical advice



☘ THE LIGHT OF ST. PATRICK ☘

On this feast of St Patrick—who brought the light of the Gospel to Ireland in the 5th century—may we rise as he did, strengthened by God in a world longing for hope.

As St Patrick rose each day in God's strength, may you too rise with a faith that steadies you in uncertain times. Let his example inspire you to trust in God's power, drawing courage and resilience from your beliefs.

May God's wisdom guide your choices, and may His loving gaze go before you into a world that longs for light. As St Patrick illuminated Ireland with hope, so may you bring light and guidance wherever you go.



Please note that the office will continue to be partially manned. For any queries, please email the office or contact Fr. Vuni/Fr. Elvis.

(Re-)Join the Parish! Sign up:
www.stjosephsparish.co.uk



St Mary's Catholic Pre-School Sept 2026 intake. Pop into the school for an application form or contact 01628 627013 for an appointment!

St. Mary's School warmly welcomes applicants for **Catholic Foundation Governors** from the Holy Family community - to promote our catholic ethos and obligations, challenge and question data and provide strategic leadership.

Please contact Clerk@Stmarys-maidenhead.org.uk for further information and application pack.

CLASSES/ EVENTS IN SJ CENTRE

See notice board/ website (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 Taichi** in Hall.
- **Thursdays 6pm** Yoga with Una in Hall. All proceeds to SJ!

HAPPENING IN THE PARISH

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

- ❖ **Children's Liturgy – 11am Sunday Mass**
All children from age 3+ welcome to join in.

LENT

- ❖ **Stations of the Cross every Friday** until 27 March: **SJ** - after 10am Mass; **SE** - 12pm followed by Soup lunch at 12.30
- ❖ **Święconka – Polish blessing of the Easter baskets** Saturday 4th April 10am at SJ
- ❖ **Reconciliation:**
 - 🌙 6:30pm Wed 18 Mar STM
 - 🌙 6:30pm Fri 20 Mar Ascot
 - ☀ **10:30am Sat 21 Mar SJ**
 - 🌙 10:30am Tue 24 Mar 6:30pm St EC
 - ☀ 11am Sat 28 Mar St Ed's Windsor
- ❖ **Relaxed Lentern Service – Tuesday 31st March** at STM 6pm
- ❖ **CAFOD's Big Lent Walk:** join individually, as a family or a group - walk 200km in 40 days and raise funds! <https://walk.cafod.org.uk/>

UPDATES

- ❖ **19th Maidenhead (HFP) Scout Group** To support fun and exciting activities for our Squirrels (4-5 years), we need adult volunteers in our leadership team. Please contact group@19thmaidenheadscouts.org.uk
- ❖ **Read:** Stephanie's journey with NET ministry <https://www.flipsnack.com/netministries/mpd-newsletter-team-4>

REGULAR EVENTS

- ❖ **3rd Sundays 3pm Filipino Mass** SJ Church
- ❖ **Mondays 10am Mother's Prayers** SJ Church
- ❖ **1st & 3rd Tuesdays 2.30 – 4.30pm Union of Catholic Mothers (UCM)** SJ St Liz Room
- ❖ **Thursdays Zoom Room: 2pm Rosary 6pm Journey together through Holy scriptures** www.tinyurl.com/2hz5axvp
- ❖ **Fridays 8.45-10:45am Baby & Toddler Group** SEC Centre (term time)

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

- 💧 **Baptism Course 7 Apr 7pm** For expecting parents and parents whose child(ren) is being baptised in M'head
- ♥ **Marriage:** Thinking of getting married? Enquire via our online form!
- ♥ **Retrouvaille** brings hope & healing to relationships. www.retrouvaille.org.uk Tel: 07887 296983
- Confirmation & First Holy Communion Classes:**
 - **FHC Stage 2:** Next class **SJ: 15/03 9.30am**. Please refrain from bringing devices to class/church.
 - 🔥 **Confirmation** Next class **SJ: 21/03 4.45pm** at St. Joseph's. Please bring along your Mass attendance cards.
 - 🙏 **OCIA:** We continue to pray for our candidates as they prepare to be fully initiated on 4 April (Easter Vigil)

Contacts: Office: 01628 783988 Carolyn office@stjosephsparish.co.uk Maria youth@stjosephsparish.co.uk safeguarding@stjosephsparish.co.uk Fr Kevin 07476 367316

Fr Vuni 07888 627223 Tvuni@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk **Fr Elvis 07465 675985** Eberka@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk