

Weekly Mass Times, Intentions and Parish Diary

Sat	13 th May	10:00	Fernandes Family, SI
		18:30	
Sun	14 th May	08:00	People of the Parish
		09:15	Herbert & Margaret Tremeer, RIP Sonia Wall, RIP
		09:30	First Holy Communion Session in Centre
		11:00	Vera Wheatley, RIP
Mon	15 th May	10:00	Mothers Prayers meet in Church
Tue	16 th May	10:00	Angela Gilmore, RIP
Wed	17 th May	10:00	Brett Sivyer, RIP
Thur	18 th May	10:00	Pathmawathi Sakunthala and Velauthar Kopalapillai Thillainayagam, RIP
		19:30	Ascension Thursday in St Elizabeths Church
Fri	19 th May	10:00	Pauline Kaznowski, RIP Josephina and Nicholas Fernandes, SI
Sat	20 th May	10:00	
		11:00	First Holy Communion
		18:30	
Sun	21 st May	08:00	People of the Parish
		09:15	Deceased members of the O'Mahony Family
		11:00	

Sunday Mass times: 6.30pm (Saturday vigil), 8.00am & 11am at St. Joseph's, Maidenhead; 9.15am at St Elizabeth's, Cookham.

Sick and Housebound: If you know anyone that is unable to come to Church and would like a visit from the priest either for a blessing, hear confessions and to receive Communion please let Shauna in the office know.

During Covid Fr John started a weekly **Rosary group** via zoom. We are delighted to say we are re starting this again every Thursday at 2pm. When you log into zoom, please insert 862 8616 8309 as the meeting ID. No password is required.

If you're away from your church or the Diocese, you can still keep in contact with all the latest news from the Bishop or the Diocese via: E- News <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/communications/news/enews/> (subscription service)

Parish Priests:

Father Ephraim Odhiambo

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Mon, Tue, Thu & Fri: 9am – 1pm

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Head Teacher of St Mary's Catholic Primary School:

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Cookham Road, Maidenhead

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Safeguarding Team

If you have any queries on safeguarding issue, please speak to one of the team, George Lam and Bernice Fernandes or get in touch with the Parish Office 01628 783988 or email the team.

E: safeguarding@stjosephsparish.co.uk



**PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR ST. JOSEPH'S, MAIDENHEAD
& ST. ELIZABETH'S, COOKHAM**

Number 370 14th May 2023

6th Sunday of Easter – Year A

St Teresa of Avila, a Spanish woman, born in the 16th century wrote a beautiful prayer that has been adapted:

***Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do well.
Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet,
You are his eyes, you are his body.
Christ has no body now but yours,
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which he looks with compassion on this world.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.***

Jesus speaks in the gospel about being still alive, even after his death. Mostly we find Jesus alive in the love of others. The energy of love that is connected to the energy of God, for God is love. Other times we find God close to us in prayer; but where we can sense him alive mostly is in the ordinary and extraordinary loves of every day, in marriage, family, friendship and care for others.

Many of us do not realise that in this way we have been Christ-bearers. In listening to another, in care of all sorts, in putting ourselves out for the other, in working for justice and for peace, the Spirit of God is alive and people are touched by God's love through the co-operation of ordinary men and women.

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (Jn14:15)

Readings:

1st Reading: **Acts 8:5-8, 14-17.** *Philip's mission in Samaria shows the joy of the original Gospel faith.*

Responsorial: **Psalm 65: 1-7, 16, 20.** R./: *Let all the earth cry out to God with joy.*

2nd Reading: **1 Peter 3:15-18.** *Peter prepares us for persecution, reminding us of the suffering of Christ.*

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia, alleluia Jesus said: Alleluia!**

Gospel: **John 14:15-21.** *The Spirit of truth is in those who love God. Our love of God should show in our actions.*

Deceased:

Angela Gilmore, RIP, Funeral Mass will take place on Monday 22nd May at 12.30pm in St. Joseph's Church.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

May their souls and the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

MARY - FULL OF GRACE Our next monthly Talk will be presented by Dr. Judith Thomas. How can we let Mary and the amazing story of salvation speak to us? How can the 'Magnificat', the song of Mary, challenge and confront us today? Please join one of the sessions:

Saturday 20th May at 10.00 am St. Mark's Church, Dedworth Road, Windsor

Monday 22nd May at 10.00 am St. Edmund Campion Church, Maidenhead (after the 9.30 am Mass)

All welcome

Feast of the Ascension of the Lord: (18th May 2023).

Ascension Day is traditionally celebrated the 40th day after Easter Sunday, that commemorates Jesus Christ's ascension into heaven. 40 days after the resurrection, Jesus and his disciples went to the Mount of Olives, near Jerusalem. The Bible says Jesus promised the disciples that they would soon receive the Holy Spirit and asked them to remain in Jerusalem until the Spirit had come. As he blessed them, he began to ascend into heaven to take his seat at the right hand of God. The Ascension is meaningful to us Christians as it signifies the end of his work on Earth and allowed him to go prepare a place for us his followers in heaven.

Masses are: 9.30am at St. Edmund Campion; 10am at St. Joseph's; 7.30pm at St. Elizabeth's

Financial Contribution: To contribute to St Joseph's and St Elizabeth's. You can **donate direct to our Parish bank account** and setup a monthly standing order for regular donations with these details: Name: **CDP Maidenhead St Joseph, Sort-code: 30-93-04 Account no.: 00882667.** Credit/Debit card donation via the 'SumUp' device in the church. **Thank you.**

House Blessing: House blessings (also known as house healings, house clearings, house cleansings and space clearing) are rites intended to protect the inhabitants of a house or apartment from misfortune, whether before moving into it or to "heal" it after an occurrence. It is also there asking God's protection and blessing upon each member of the family.

In Christianity, house blessing is an ancient tradition dating back to the early days, that is usually performed by a priest who sprinkles holy water and blessed salt as he walks through every room of the house, accompanied by the occupants of the house, whilst praying for the occupants.

Leader: "Peace be to this house and: to all who dwell here, in the name of the Lord.

All: Blessed be God forever.

If you would like your home/apartment/room blessed, then please contact one of the priests and a time and date can be arranged. The blessing ritual takes about 20 minutes, and it is lovely if all occupants of the home are present.

A big, big "THANK YOU" to everybody who took part in "The Big Help Out" to tidy up around St Joseph's on Coronation Bank Holiday Monday. The Army of willing volunteers, led by Father Noah, removed dozens of bags of debris, litter and weeds from around the Parish Centre and Car Park, in a co-ordinated effort to tidy up our environment. Brushes, blowers, hoes, hedge-trimmers, rakes, loppers, secateurs, trowels and shovels were all expertly wielded in order to remove weeds, moss, rubbish and to tame overgrown shrubs. Thanks, too, to the volunteers who provided very welcome tea, coffee and a variety of cakes and snacks to revive the mini army. The Big Help Out is the initiative of HM King Charles, to encourage people to volunteer to help their local community, firstly on Monday 8 May - and then to continue to volunteer in the future. Keep an eye on the Parish Newsletters for other Help Out days. Everyone welcome! Thank you once again and God Bless your work.

Coronation Celebration Street Party. On Sunday, 7th May, about ninety parishioners and friends gathered together with our priests in St Joseph's Hall, to celebrate the Coronation weekend. Everyone donated the delicious food and there was a great selection of savoury and sweet treats to enjoy. The hall was decorated with patriotic bunting, a large flag and a poster of King Charles and Queen Camilla. There was a huge celebration cake and two beautiful floral displays, all safely guarded by two toy royal corgis! The previous day's Coronation was shown on the screen as people helped themselves from the buffet tables. Just before the cutting of the cake, and to recognise the reason for the event, everyone stood to join in two rousing verses of God Save The King. It was a delightful and festive event made possible by the generous goodwill of all those attending and supported by everyone who helped set up, serve, wash the dishes and clear up. Thank you to all who attended and marked this historic event in such a traditional way!

May – The Month of Mary

Regina Caeli

V. O Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.

R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

V. Let us pray: God our Father, you give joy to the world by the Resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, Through the prayers of his Mother, the Virgin Mary, bring us to the happiness of eternal life. We ask this through

our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.

R. Amen

The Memorare Prayer

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the word incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen



The Parish Team wishes to invite all our volunteers from St Elizabeths and St Joseph's Churches to a lunch party on **Sunday 4th June after 11am Mass** in the Parish Centre. With the help of the Vision Group, we are organising this special event as our way of saying thank you for all of your help. We very much appreciate it.

Due to Shauna moving back to Ireland in July a vacancy has now arisen in the Parish office:

A vacancy has arisen for an Administration and Finance Officer to work full time 35 hours per week to provide administrative and finance services to the Parish Priest and the parish, support the administration of day-to-day parish work and provide a sympathetic focal point for enquiries.

If you would like to join our busy parish team please contact: recruitment@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for a job description and details of how to apply. Closing date for applications: Noon on 19th May 2023 with interviews to take place over Monday 22nd and Tuesday 23rd May.

Baptismal Course: The Baptismal Course is available for all Parents whose child is being Baptised at either St Joseph's, St Elizabeth's or St Edmund Campion. The course is a 90-minute preparation and guidance. It is held at St Joseph's the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm. The next meetings are: Tuesday 6th June and Tuesday 4th July

The Vision Group have committed at least £500 per annum to the Closer to Christ campaign. Our idea is that all parishioners can be involved in this by contributing to fund-raising events. The first event is a Tabletop Sale on 18 June after 11am Mass. To book a table for £10 please see Trisha Ray or email Patriciaray980@btinternet.com. No clothes or food please.

First Holy Communion: We congratulate the children who will receive their First Holy Communion next Saturday 20th May at 11am. We pray that the Lord will keep them faithful to him in the years ahead and to be glad to receive him in the Blessed Sacrament. Likewise, we thank our wonderful group of catechists who gave up their Sundays to instruct them; many of them with young families and other commitments, but who said **'YES, I believe in them'**. That is a wonderful gift. To the parents who got involved as well, and all others (you!) who helped them in their preparation for the sacrament.

PILGRIMAGE to Our Lady's Shrine, Banneux, Belgium, for the 90th anniversary of the Apparitions, 70th Anniversary of 'Pilgrimage GB') and for the Feast of the Assumption, **11th-16th August 2023**. A coach will leave from St. Edmund Campion Church, Maidenhead SL6 4PY. Accommodation and full board (including travel and excursions): staying at the Hospitalité is £420. (Single room supplement +£100).

The Hospitalité is very spacious and can accommodate all pilgrims, especially those who are sick, disabled or elderly. It also includes a full catering and medical staff. *(There is a hotel next door for £650 sharing and single room supplement +£200).*

Fr. Liam Cummins (St. Edmund Campion Parish) will be the Spiritual Director for this pilgrimage and has been going to Banneux since 1996.

If you are interested and you would like more information or to reserve a place before June 30th, please contact Lisa Pirie, pilgrimage director, on 07500288384; banneuxndgb@gmail.com or Father Liam, on 07776580596 (email him on lcummins@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). Also Goggle 'Our Lady's Shrine, Banneux', for history and more detail. The GB pilgrimage has been going for 70 years and it looks like this will be the last official trip from England, so get on board!

The Bereavement support Group would like to invite those of you who are grieving after a bereavement to join us for an informal meeting at St Edmund Campion parish Hall with tea and cake on Sunday 21st of May at any time between 2.30pm and 5pm this a opportunity to meet others in similar position and to consider seeking support through small group meetings, one to one or just to be able to share with each other you would be very welcome.

Christian Aid Week: 14-20 May 2021 The climate emergency is one of the greatest injustices we face. Together we stop this climate crisis. <https://www.christianaid.org.uk>