

Pastoral News:

Prayer & Praise with Bishop Philip every Thursday during lockdown from 7.30pm - 8.30pm via the Cathedral Live Stream.

Message from SPUC: The Department of Health is holding a public consultation on whether to continue the practice of allowing abortion providers to send abortion pills to women so that they can perform their own abortion at home. We need as many pro-life people as possible to complete the Department of Health's questionnaire in order to help stop dangerous DIY abortions becoming permanent. The Society for the Protection of Unborn Children (SPUC) has prepared a briefing which gives a step by step guide to completing the consultation questionnaire. Please go to: <https://www.spuc.org.uk/Get-Involved/Campaigns/England-DIY-Abortion-Consultation>. The consultation ends on 26 February 2021.

Retrouvaille 2021 virtual course 25th Feb-28th Feb. COVID 19 has created a very challenging time for many marriages. Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples. For confidential information about Retrouvaille', or to register call or text 0788 7296983 or 0797 3380443. Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

Offertory Collection 14th Feb 2021

Main Envelopes	£ 15.00
Loose Cash	£ 195.35
Online	£ 30.00
Standing Orders	£ 705.52

Thank you all for your kind donations

Offertory envelope and GIFT AID: As we near the approach to the end of this financial year, please can you inform the office if you still require offertory envelopes for the coming financial year 2021/22. Also if you wish to join our gift aid scheme and set up a regular donation, please let the Parish office know and the relevant form will be emailed to you.

Community Support

Readifood (Reading's Foodbank): You can drop off the items in the Advent room. Information on list of items can be found on <https://readifood.org.uk>. Also, needed are donations of Toiletries eg Toothpaste & Toothbrushes, Soap, Shower Gel, Shampoo, Conditioner, Deodorant and Household Cleaning Items.

CIRDIC: Items for packed lunches are needed to feed the homeless. Please take them directly to CIRDIC (St Saviours Church Hall, 1, Berkeley Ave, Reading RG1 6JT) from 8.30am on Mondays, Tuesdays or Fridays. Please contact Mabel at enquiries@cirdic.org.uk or text 07817 373773 to arrange delivery first.

Catholics in Royal Berkshire Hospital

Contact duty priest: 0118 3227105.

Chaplaincy at the RBH is covered and shared by Fr. Pat Madden and the priests from the FSSP. Fr. Pat covers every Monday from 12 Noon until Thursday 12 Noon. The priests from FSSP cover from Thursday 12 Noon until Monday 12 Noon. Priests on call are only allowed into the hospital to give the last rites in danger of death as this is the Hospital policy due to the ongoing current COVID 19 pandemic

Reading Catholic Churches

Christ the King, Whitley	Fr. Pat Madden
St. John Bosco, Woodley	Fr. Bill Wilson
St. James	Fr. Chris Heaps
English Martyrs, Tilehurst	Cn. Michael Dennehy
St. Joseph, Tilehurst	Fr. Peter Glas
St. William of York	Fr. Mathew Goddard / Fr. Patrick O'Donohue
Our Lady & St. Anne, Caversham	Msgr. Patrick Daly

Emergency numbers for a Priest –

Please call your own priest first

0118 931 4469
0118 969 3423
0118 957 4171
0118 957 2149
0118 942 8632
0118 966 5284
0118 947 1787

Our Lady of Peace & BI Dominic Barberi

338 Wokingham Road Earley Reading RG6 7DA Website www.olop.org.uk
Portsmouth Diocesan Trust Registered Charity No 246871

Parish Priest	The Rev Fr Stan Gibziński fatherstan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Secretary	Rachel Alexander 0118 966 3711 earley@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Safeguarding Officer	Mable Thyveetil 07726 589624
Parish Team	earley.matters@gmail.com
Hall Bookings	Margaret Dias 07763 681072 hallbookingsolop@gmail.com



The Parish office is open Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 11am-2.00pm

1st Sunday of Lent

Year B

21st Feb 2021

1st Reading Genesis 9:8-15: God's covenant with Noah after he had saved him from the waters of the flood.

2nd Reading 1 Peter 3:18-22 The water is a type of the baptism which saves you now.

Gospel Mark 1: 12-15 Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels looked after him.

Repent and believe in the Gospel

We have just entered Lent by the words, "Repent, and believe in the Gospel" pronounced on each one of us individually. It happened at the very moment when ash was put on our forehead. In this way, we have been invited to open our hearts and to surrender them to Christ; we are invited to allow Him to touch our weaknesses and to focus on Him.

Lent is then both: a discomfiting and healing exercise. The beauty of Lent is expressed in the deep discovery of the Love of God, thus preparing us to celebrate the Passion, the Death and the Resurrection of Christ. This calls us to participate in the Stations of the Cross, make a good examination of conscience with true contrition, a good confession and the decision to improve our life's standards.

In the words "Repent and believe", we are saying that it is important to hear our very name being called by Jesus in the depth of our hearts. With complete confidence, we shall then unravel our sinfulness to God and start the penance, practising spiritual sacrifices, more intense fasting time and acts of charity. It is important to start from bringing our misery to God to asking Him and our neighbours for forgiveness before we approach the Altar.

The dynamic words "Repent and believe", in Lent we hear a lot about the dust and mud of our sins and guilt, as well as the truth that we belong to God. We hear that God desires our return to Him. We shall return to God as sinners but above all as His beloved children.

In this way, we, all of us, will tune our hearts with the Church; we shall start Lent as a liberating journey from Egypt to the Promised Land, from the slavery of sin to the dignity and beauty of God's children; from the Biblical foreign countries to the Fatherland (the journey of the Prodigal Son).

Fr Stan

Psalm Response: Your ways, Lord, are faithfulness and love for those who keep your covenant.

Date & Dedication	Time	Mass Intentions etc
Sat 20th Feb	No Mass	
Sun 21st Feb 1st Sunday of Lent	*8.30am *11.00 am	Deceased members of Chander & Majcherczyk family George Johnson RIP
Mon 22nd Feb The Chair of St Peter	7.30pm Extraordinary Form	Fr Edward Stachwaska RIP
Tues 23rd Feb	Daily Mass without congregation 1.00pm - 4.00pm	Thanksgiving Dr Alexander The church is open for private prayers
Wed 24th Feb	6.30am 1.00pm - 4.00pm	Thanksgiving for Emma's recovery The church is open for private prayers
Thur 25th Feb	Daily Mass without congregation 1.00pm - 4.00pm	Intention available The church is open for private prayers
Fri 26th Feb	10.00am 11.00am -4.00pm 4.00pm *7.00pm	Holy Souks Adoration 24 hours Passion of Christ Stations of the Cross followed by Passion of the Cross Adoration
Sat 27th Feb		Overnight Passion of the Cross Adoration till 4.00pm
Sun 28th Feb 2nd Sunday of Lent	*8.30am *11.00 am	Anne Colin & Kane's Intention

* Mass / Service will be live streamed via YouTube (olop earley).

Please note that the dispensation from obligatory attendance of Sunday Mass remains valid.

Sunday Masses can be booked via our website www.olop.org.uk (latest by 8.00pm Friday) or by calling the Parish Office on 0118 9663711. If you are booking via telephone, then please call by Friday 3.00pm at the latest as messages will not be accessed after this time.

Please note: Weekday mass on Monday, Wednesday and Friday are open to the congregation and booking is not necessary.

**Church is open for private prayer : Tuesday - Thursday : 1.00pm - 4.00pm
Friday with Adoration from 11.00am -7.00pm.**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation is available on request. Please contact Fr Stan by email fatherstan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Please maintain a safe distance.

Anniversaries: Please keep in your prayers

20th Feb: Stanley Tompkins (1989); Beatrice Ntang (2010); **21st Feb:** Gerard Cashman (2013);

22nd Feb: Frances Newman (1983); and Gerald O'Sullivan (1992).

23rd Feb: Edgar Wheeler (1994); Peter Anderson (2013);

24th Feb: Tadeusz Wielogorski (2006);

26th Feb: Jane (Jean) Bartington (2008);

28th Feb: Mary Andrews (2015);

Please pray for members of the parish and their family who are sick or housebound, especially Margaret Browne (Parishioner).

Lent preparation

From Wednesday 24th Feb during Lent - Candlelight Mass at 6.30am. (No booking needed for this Mass).

Lenten talk by Fr Stan: Fr Stan will upload his reflection on St Joseph every Wednesday during Lent.

Angelus Prayer at 12 noon during Lent: A message will be put up in our Whatsapp group at 12 noon. We will pray for an end to this pandemic and for each of us to grow in faith and holiness.

Stations of the Cross every Friday in Lent at 7.00 pm. *This service will be live streamed.*

Friday 26th Feb - Sat 27th Feb- 24 hours Passion of Christ at our church. We will have our normal daytime Adoration on Friday from 11.00am and the 24 hours Passion of Christ will start at 4.00pm with Holy Mass and finish on Saturday 27th Feb with Holy Mass at 4.00pm. You are welcome to join the Adoration at any time. Please register your interest with the Parish Office.

CAFOD Lent Fast day on Friday 26th Feb and Sunday 28th Feb is collection for CAFOD Lent day. This week our parish is marking CAFOD's Family Fast Day, a day on which we are invited to pray, fast & donate. Envelopes are in the Advent room. Your gifts today will help vulnerable communities around the world have access to clean water and provide other vital support. Donate online at cafod.org.uk/lent or by phone 0303 303 3030 or by using a CAFOD envelope. You can also give via text. Text LENT 5 to 70460 to donate £5 or Text LENT 10 to 70460 to donate £10* or LENT 20 to 70460 to donate £20

The Sacrament of Reconciliation during Lent: Father Stan will be available from 1.00pm - 4.00pm every Friday during Lent for outside confession. No need to book, please come over to the parish office and let Rachel know that you are here for reconciliation. Fr Stan will come over and meet you by the grotto.

Lenten Retreat every Monday during Lent: 'Finding Hope in Scripture', led by the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph. Register here to participate: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEtc-2grjkiGtU8vPFJea2ktvR5U0MZ1mrL>

Lenten Read: Book recommended by Fr Stan - "The Fourth Cup. Unveiling the Mystery of the Last Supper and the Cross" by Scott Hahn. His re-discovery of the Holy Mass has had a profound effect in his spiritual life.

Parish News:

Temporary suspension of 5.00pm Sunday Mass: Since the lockdown restrictions have been in place, our numbers for 11.00am and 5.00pm mass are very low. Last week we only had 2 people for 5.00pm Mass. In view of low numbers, it's been decided to temporarily suspend 5.00pm Mass.

BILL MCMAHON - RIP We pray for the repose of the soul of Bill who died recently on 13th January 2021. Bill's Funeral took place on 5th February in the church of St Patrick's, Cloonfad, County Mayo, Ireland, followed by burial in the family grave plot at Tulrahan cemetery in Claremorris, County Mayo, Ireland.

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) is open to people who are discerning whether to join or come into full communion with the Catholic Church; new sessions to start soon. To find out more, please see Fr. Stan after Mass or contact the Parish office.

Missio Red Box: We are pleased to confirm that Kate Gorman is our Parish representative for the Missio Red Box. If you are keen to continue or start new contribution to the Mill Hill Missionaries then please contact Parish office for more information.

Helping those most Vulnerable in our Parish. If you know of anyone, or are yourself lonely and/or vulnerable, please consider giving details to the parish office.

The Parish Bereavement Support Group can be contacted via the Parish Office.