

St Francis de Sales Church
 Warren Lodge, Warren Road, Wash Common,
 Newbury RG14 6NH
 Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Priory Road,
 Hungerford, RG17 0AF
 Web Site: www.stfrancisdesales.org.uk
 Registered Charity Number 246871
 Parish Priest: Revd Zbigniew Budyn
 telephone: 01635 40332
 Email: washcommon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



Mass Times and Intentions St F - St Francis; OLOL - Our Lady of Lourdes

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT- YEAR A

	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Feast of the Day</i>	<i>Mass Intention</i>
Sat Dec 13	5:15 pm 6:00pm	St F	Adoration & Rosary MASS	Lucy Tyler RIP
Sun Dec 14	09:00 am	OLOL	MASS	Benjamin
	11:00 am	St F	MASS	Jan Gajda RIP
Mon Dec 15				
Tues Dec 16	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	St F	NO MASS	
Wed Dec 17	9:30 am 10:00 am	OLOL	MASS	Cecilia Smith RIP
Thurs Dec 18	9:30 am 10:00 am - 10:30 am	St F	MASS Adoration & Reconciliation	
Fri Dec 19	7:00 pm	St F	MASS Reconciliation	
THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT - YEAR A				
Sat Dec 20	2:00 pm 5.15 pm 6:00 pm	St F	Christingle Adoration & Rosary MASS	
Sun Dec 21	09:00 am	OLOL	MASS	
	11:00 am	St F	MASS	

The Christmas Collection is an opportunity for us to say thank you to Fr Zbigniew for his dedication and hard work. donations may be made at the church card reader or
<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/newbury-st-francis-de-sales-wash-common-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2025>

Please help us to continue God's work by supporting us financially Lloyds Bank 30 93 04 a/c number 00882993 CDP Newbury StFrancis de Sales Ref: St Francis de Sales/Your name

The Parish Office is open on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10am to 4pm Parish Administrator Yvonne Eaton

Matthew 11:2-11 Fr Adrian Graffy

Our gospel reading, like that of last Sunday, focuses on John the Baptist, but his ministry is now at an end. He is in prison, and martyrdom awaits him. Curiously, he seems to have doubts about Jesus being the Messiah. He who was so confident in proclaiming the one who was to come now seems confused. How can we explain John's uncertainty?

A major feature of the preaching of John the Baptist was the coming of judgement. As we heard in last week's gospel, John expected the Messiah to bring retribution, to separate the chaff from the wheat and to consign the chaff to fire. John must learn that the way of Jesus is different: he brings healing and life, and good news for all.

This gospel reading has a powerful message for us. If it was indeed difficult for John to come to terms with the gospel of mercy, it may well be difficult for us to come to terms with the extraordinary love of God, who offers forgiveness to all. The gospel challenges us to accept in our minds and hearts that the Son of God brings forgiveness, and that the only thing which can deny us salvation and eternal life is our own refusal to be forgiven and loved. The one who is least in the kingdom of heaven knows this and is 'greater than John'.

Please pray for Lily Brooke, Christopher & Robert Brown, Tim Burke-Gaffney, Lucy Curtis, Mary Dykes, Chris Dykes, Emma Dykes, Joe Emery, Sam Hearn, June & Jo Howard, Evelyn Lavers, Noreen McCann, Shomila Malik, Joseph Marletta, Marie O'Sullivan, Daryl Pike, Elizabeth Sage, Arthur Mitchell, Malcolm Higgins, Sofia Joseph, Corbert Joseph, Gillian Spencer, Krzysz Zablocki, Margaret McGuire, Sean Early, Tony Lavers, John Huckle, Eveleen Softley and Fr Pat who ask for our prayers. Please let the Parish Office know of any changes.

CHILDRENS LITURGY.

CHRISTINGLE and NATIVITY

21st December 2025

St Francis de Sales Church 2- 4.30 pm

More information about this will be distributed to parents at the Children's liturgy sessions.

**Annual Parish Meeting / Patronal Feast
Sunday 25th January 2026**

Sunday 14th December. **Reception into the Church of Joe and Sarah Cunliffe at 1100 Mass.**

Tuesday 16th December - **Pastoral Area Penitential Service at St. Josephs at 19:30.**
There will be several priests.

Thursday 18th December 7.30pm: **Seventh meeting of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Programme 2025/26 in the Parish Hall, St Francis de Sales', Wash Common.** This meeting will look at **The Ten commandments, Catholic Social Teaching and the Common Good.**

A very big THANK YOU from Youth Group for your generous support for CAFOD World Gifts. We asked you to help us buy 10 vegetable gardens. You have bought 51. We could only buy 3. Together 54 families will be growing their own vegetables.

Hungerford Churches Together Christmas hampers St Lawrence's church is aiming to distribute a hundred hampers to help people in need this Christmas containing 12 treats for the 12 days of Christmas. If anyone would like to contribute either by donating or volunteering to help or can nominate a person to receive one please contact hampers@stlawrenceshungerford.org.uk

Catholic Bishops of England and Wales' Statement: on pending parliamentary bills - "2025 is marked by an assault on the value of human life. We express deep sadness at the continued passage through Parliament of the **Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill** which could legalise assisted suicide. If passed, this act would devalue life and put the lives of the vulnerable at risk. We have expressed our concerns on many occasions, highlighting the danger of coercive control and the pressure that will be put on vulnerable people who are ill, as well as the threat to the survival of care homes and hospices who oppose this legislation, especially where the mission and values of those institutions prevent them from facilitating assisted suicide. We are also alarmed by the amendment to the Crime and Policing Bill which proposes decriminalising abortion up to birth in some circumstances. This amendment will further endanger the life of the unborn child.

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS ACROSS OUR PASTORAL AREA

SATURDAY 29 NOVEMBER

5:30pm Vigil Mass - St Luke's, Theale
6:00pm Vigil Mass - St Francis de Sales, Wash Common
6:00pm Vigil Mass Our Lady of the Assumption, Thatcham

SUNDAY 30 DECEMBER (1st Sunday of Advent)

8:30am Mass - St Joseph's, Newbury
9:00am Mass - Our Lady of Lourdes, Hungerford
9:45am Mass - St Bernadette's, Pangbourne
10:00am Mass - Our Lady of the Assumption, Thatcham
10:30am Mass - Douai Abbey, Woolhampton
11:00am Mass - St Joseph's, Newbury
11:00am Mass - St Francis de Sales, Wash Common
4:00pm **Carol Service** at St Bernadette's, Pangbourne,

SATURDAY 6 DECEMBER

5:30pm Vigil Mass - St Luke's, Theale
6:00pm Vigil Mass - St Francis de Sales, Wash Common
6:00pm Vigil Mass Our Lady of the Assumption, Thatcham

SUNDAY 7 DECEMBER (2nd Sunday of Advent)

8:30am Mass - St Joseph's, Newbury
9:00am Mass - Our Lady of Lourdes, Hungerford
9:45am Mass - St Bernadette's, Pangbourne
10:00am Mass - Our Lady of the Assumption, Thatcham
10:30am Mass - Douai Abbey, Woolhampton
11:00am Mass - St Joseph's, Newbury
11:00am Mass - St Francis de Sales, Wash Common

SATURDAY 13 DECEMBER

5:30pm Vigil Mass - St Luke's, Theale
6:00pm Vigil Mass - St Francis de Sales, Wash Common
6:00pm Vigil Mass Our Lady of the Assumption, Thatcham

SUNDAY 14 DECEMBER (3rd Sunday of Advent)

8:30am Mass - St Joseph's, Newbury
9:00am Mass - Our Lady of Lourdes, Hungerford
9:45am Mass - St Bernadette's, Pangbourne, followed by
10:00am Mass - Our Lady of the Assumption, Thatcham
10:30am Mass - Douai Abbey, Woolhampton
11:00am Mass - St Joseph's, Newbury
11:00am Mass - St Francis de Sales, Wash Common
5.00pm **Advent Service**, OLOL, Hungerford

TUESDAY 16 DECEMBER

7:30pm **Pastoral Area Penitential Service** at St Joseph's, Newbury.

SATURDAY 20 DECEMBER

12:00pm **Children's Crib Service** at St. Bernadette's, Pangbourne

5:30pm Vigil Mass - St Luke's, Theale
6:00pm Vigil Mass - St Francis de Sales, Wash Common
6:00pm Vigil Mass - Our Lady of the Assumption, Thatcham

SUNDAY 21 DECEMBER (4th Sunday of Advent)

8:30am Mass - St Joseph's, Newbury
9:00am Mass - Our Lady of Lourdes, Hungerford
9:45am Mass - St Bernadette's, Pangbourne
10:00am Mass - Our Lady of the Assumption, Thatcham
10:30am Mass - Douai Abbey, Woolhampton
11:00am Mass - St Joseph's, Newbury
11:00am Mass - St Francis de Sales, Wash Common
2:00-4:30pm **Children's Christingle and Nativity** at St. Francis de Sales, Wash Common



CHRISTMAS EVE (Wednesday 24 December)

4:00pm Mass - St Francis de Sales, Wash Common
5:30pm Mass - St Luke's, Theale
6:00pm Mass - Our Lady of the Assumption, Thatcham
6:30pm Mass - Our Lady of Lourdes, Hungerford
6:30pm **Children's Christmas Mass** - St Joseph's, Newbury
8:00pm Solemn Christmas Mass During the Night - Douai
9:30pm Mass - St Francis de Sales, Wash Common
11:00pm Mass of Christmas Night (**Preceded by Carols at 10:30pm**) St Joseph's, Newbury

CHRISTMAS DAY (Thursday 25 December)

8:30am Mass - St Joseph's, Newbury
9:00am Mass - Our Lady of Lourdes, Hungerford
9:45am Mass - St Bernadette's, Pangbourne
10:00am Mass - Our Lady of the Assumption, Thatcham
10:30am Mass - Douai Abbey, Woolhampton
11:00am Mass - St Joseph's, Newbury
11:00am Mass - St Francis de Sales, Wash Common

CHURCHES IN OUR PASTORAL AREA

Our Lady of Lourdes, **Hungerford**, RG17 0AG
St Joseph's, **Newbury**, RG14 1JP
St Bernadette's, **Pangbourne**, RG8 7JH
Our Lady of the Assumption, **Thatcham**, RG18 3AG

St Luke's, **Theale**, RG7 5AS
St Francis de Sales, **Wash Common**, RG14 6NH
Douai Abbey, **Woolhampton**, RG7 5TQ