

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 FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT- YEAR A

	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Feast of the Day</i>	<i>Mass Intention</i>
Sat Dec 20	2:00 pm 5:15 pm 6:00pm	St F	Christingle Adoration & Rosary MASS	
Sun Dec 21	09:00 am	OLOL	MASS	Anthony Matthews RIP
	11:00 am	St F	MASS	The People of the Parish
Mon Dec 22				
Tues Dec 23	6:00 pm	St F	NO MASS	
	7:00 pm	St F		
Wed Dec 24	4:00 pm	St F	MASS	Anne Palmer RIP
	6:30 pm	OLOL	MASS	
	9:30 pm	St F	MASS	
Thurs Dec 25	9:30 am	OLOL	MASS	
	11:00 am	St F		
Fri Dec 26	7:00 pm	St F	MASS Reconciliation	
- YEAR A				
Sat Dec 27	5.15 pm 6:00 pm	St F	Adoration & Rosary MASS	
Sun Dec 28	09:00 am	OLOL	MASS	
	11:00 am	St F	MASS	Vas Family RIP

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 1:18-24

We are accustomed to call the words of the angel Gabriel Mary 'the annunciation'. This Sunday's gospel reading perhaps ought to be called 'the annunciation to Joseph'. Joseph is in fact the principal actor in the account of the birth of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew. Like Mary, he too had to listen for the message of God. Like Mary, he too was invited to play his part in the working out of God's mysterious plan that the Son of God should become man.

This gospel reading, just like the annunciation to Mary in the Gospel of Luke, gives us the basis for our belief in the virginal conception of Jesus. Here we find an expression of this mystery in the words of the angel to Joseph: she has conceived what is in her by the Holy Spirit' (v.20). The Son of God is born among us in an utterly extraordinary way. The role of Mary as 'virgin mother' is quite unique, and Joseph must go against his initial inclinations and make the decision to 'take his wife to his home' (verse 24). In this reading we encounter the first of many verses which Matthew will quote from the Old Testament, declaring that they are 'fulfilled'. The text read at this Mass from the prophet Isaiah speaks of God's constant solidarity with the people. The fulfilment of this same text, which is announced by Matthew in the gospel reading, points to something even greater, the extraordinary intervention of God to bring the Son of God into the world.

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 28th December Feast of The Holy Family
- **Anniversaries Blessings**

Thursday 1st January 2026. **Feast of Mary Mother of God. Mass of Healing with the anointing and Blessing of the sick at 12.00 noon.** Please invite any parishioners who normally are unable to come to mass.

Sunday 4th January. 1300 **African mass**

Thursday 8th January 7.30pm: **Eight 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.

The "O Antiphons" of Advent. The Church has sung the "O Antiphons" since the 8th century. They are antiphons that accompany the Magnificat canticle of Evening Prayer from 17th - 23rd December. They offer ancient biblical imagery drawn from the messianic hopes of the Old Testament to proclaim the coming Christ as the fulfilment of past and present hopes. Their repeated use of the imperative "Come!" embodies the longing of all for the Divine Messiah. 17th Dec: 'O Wisdom of our God Most High, guiding creation with power and love: come to teach us the path of knowledge!'; 18th Dec: 'O Leader of the House of Israel, giver of the Law to Moses on Sinai: come to rescue us with your mighty power!'; 19th Dec: 'O Root of Jesse's stem, sign of God's love for all his people: come to save us without delay!'; 20th Dec: 'O Key of David, opening the gates of God's eternal Kingdom: come and free the prisoners of darkness!'

GREGORIAN CHANT COURSE A Gregorian Chant Course is starting in 2026, to be held at St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth. This unique series of workshops offers an opportunity to immerse yourself in the timeless art of Gregorian Chant, led by Dominic Bevan, professional music director, alongside Monastic instructors. Three one-day workshops: 10 January, 14 February, and 14 March, open to adults and children (7+), suitable for beginners and experienced singers, of all backgrounds and faiths. See poster on our noticeboard or find out more details here.

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

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY



CONSULTATION ON PRIMARY SCHOOL ADMISSIONS POLICY 2027 – 28

The Governing Body of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School are consulting on their school Admissions Policy for the 2027 – 28 academic year for the required six week period between 15th December 2025 and 30th January 2026.

School admission authorities must consult on their admission arrangements if they propose a change other than an increase to their PAN (Published Admission Number). They must also consult if they have not consulted in the last seven years. St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Governing Body is required to consult as they are proposing a change to their admissions policy oversubscription criteria removing the category "Catholic children who are resident in the parishes of St Joseph's, Newbury; St Francis de Sales, Wash Common; The Sacred Heart, Lambourn; Our Lady of Lourdes, Hungerford;" and creating the category "other Catholic children". This is in line with changes proposed by the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth CASO (Catholic Academies & Schools Office).

The proposed policy may be viewed at the following link from the consultation start date:

[Consultation - Proposed St Joseph's Admissions Policy 2027 - 28](#)

If you would like to make any comments on the proposed 2027 – 28 Admissions Policy, please e-mail our Clerk to Governors, Mrs Rachael House Gemmell housegemmell@stjosephs.w-berks.sch.uk or write to the Clerk via the School Office, St Joseph's Catholic Primary and Nursery School, Newport Road, Newbury Berkshire RG14 2AW by 30th January 2026.

**Governing Body of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
December 2025.**

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School
Newport Road
Newbury
Berkshire
RG14 2AW

Head Teacher: Mrs Kelly Boshier
Chair of Governors: Mr Steve Ardagh-Walter
Clerk to Governors: Mrs Rachael House Gemmell