

St Francis de Sales Church
 Warren Lodge, Warren Road, Wash Common,
 Newbury RG14 6NH
 Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Priory Road,
 Hungerford, RG17 OAF
 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 HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH - YEAR A

	<i>Time</i>	<i>Place</i>	<i>Feast of the Day</i>	<i>Mass Intention</i>
Sat Dec 27	5:15 pm 6:00pm	St F	Adoration & Rosary MASS	
Sun Dec 28	09:00 am	OLOL	MASS	
	11:00 am	St F	MASS	Vas Family RIP
Mon Dec 29			ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY	
Tues Dec 30	6:00 pm	St F	Adoration & Reconciliation	
	7:00 pm	St F	LATIN MASS	
Wed Dec 31	9:30 pm	OLOL	NO MASS	
Thurs Jan 1	12:00	St F	MASS MARY, THE HOLY MOTHER OF GOD	Tom Coutino RIP
Fri Jan 2				
SECOND SUNDAY after THE NATIVITY - YEAR A				
Sat Jan 4	5.15 pm 6:00 pm	St F	Adoration & Rosary MASS	
Sun Jan 5	09:00 am	OLOL	MASS	
	11:00 am	St F	MASS	Tim O'Sullivan RIP
	1:00 pm	St F	AFRICAN 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 2:13-15,19-23

As in the gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Joseph is once again the main character in today's gospel reading. Soon after his birth the life of Jesus is put at risk. Like Joseph in the Book of Genesis, who is the saviour of his people in Egypt, this Joseph too is the saviour of his family from the power of Herod, king of the Jews.

Joseph is portrayed as always ready to listen to the angel of the Lord. He listens as God speaks in his heart. Having been willing to take the pregnant Mary into his home, he now takes her and the child she has borne on a difficult journey to a foreign land. The return to the land of Israel is equally traumatic, since Joseph settles as a newcomer in the region of Galilee. Joseph demonstrates steadfastness in his commitment to protecting his family, but also willingness to respond when what is asked of him is new and unexpected.

The gospel makes clear from its opening pages that Jesus' entry into this world brings with it a vulnerability which will be seen most clearly at the cross. The life of the child Jesus is put at risk due to the lust for power of the leaders of his day. Herod the king in fact never hesitated to use violent means to protect his kingship from threats both real and imagined.

How does this gospel reading help us understand the deeper meaning of Christmas?

Does the courage of Joseph show us how to react to violence in our own time?

We pray for all fathers and mothers that they may always do what is best for their children.

We pray for all children who are neglected and ill-treated.

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.

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: **Eighth 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.

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.

West Berkshire Pastoral Area

St. Francis de Sales, Wash Common/Our Lady of Lourdes Hungerford

		OLOL	STF
Wednesday 24 th Dec. Christmas Eve	Mass	1830	1600 & 2130
Thursday 25 th Dec. Christmas Day	Mass	0900	1100
Sat/Sun 27 th /28 th Dec Holy Family	Mass Anniversaries blessings	0900	1800/1100
Tuesday 30 th December	Mass in Latin		1900
Thursday 1 st January 2026 Mary Mother of God	Mass of Healing Anointing and Blessing of the sick		1200
Sat/Sun 3 rd /4 th January 2 nd after Nativity	Mass African Mass	0900	1800/1100 1300
Tuesday 6 th January Epiphany of The Lord	Mass	1000	1900
Thursday 8 th January	RCIA – Journey in Faith meeting 8		1930
Sat/Sun 10 th /11 ^h Jan Baptism of the Lord	Mass First Holy Communion – Lesson 5	0900	1800/1100 1200
Sat/Sun 17 th /18 th Jan 2 nd Ordinary	Mass First Holy Communion – Lesson 6	0900	1800/1100 1200
Thursday 22 nd January	RCIA – Journey in Faith meeting 9		1930
Sat/Sun 24 th /25 th Jan 3 rd Ordinary St. Francis de Sales	Mass	0900	1800/1100
Sunday 25 th January 2026	Annual Parish Meeting Patronal Feast		1200
Saturday 31 st January	First Reconciliation at 1100		

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 housegemma@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