

# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER 20 SEPTEMBER 2020

## UPDATE FROM FR BILL

I hope you are all keeping well and have enjoyed the unexpected burst of warm weather this week.

I am pleased to see how you have all embraced the changes to the way Communion is distributed during Mass and I hope you agree that this change is the best solution for distributing Communion.

The new contactless payment machine is now available for those of you who wish to make a contactless payment – please speak to a Steward as you enter the Church and they can show you how to use it.

As I mentioned last week, the new facility for the live streaming of Mass will be installed this week and this should see a big improvement in both the sound and the vision of the recoding.

I have had a request from the Stewards, particularly at the weekend Masses where the numbers attending are rising, to ask you to arrive for Mass a few minutes earlier than you currently do. At the moment, a number of Parishioners are arriving 5 minutes before Mass is due to start and this makes it difficult for the Stewards to ensure that everybody has sanitised their hands and has been taken to their seat before the Mass commences.

I also wanted to give you advance notice that our Parish Confirmations will be taking place on Saturday 17 October at 2 Masses – 11.00a.m. and 2.30p.m. We have also scheduled our Communion Masses on Sunday 11 October, Sunday 18 October, Saturday 24 October and Sunday 25 October. Although Holy Communion families will be restricted to a limited number of seats at the Masses on these dates so that Parishioners can be accommodated at these Masses, I would ask Parishioners to consider whether they could meet their Sunday obligation by attending a weekday Mass during this period.

Thank you again for all your support and donations to the Parish, your generosity is very much appreciated.

In the meantime, may God bless you and keep you all safe.

Fr Bill, Fr Ruslan and the Sisters



**SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER, TWENTY  
FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

**Seek the Lord!**

The justice and integrity of God flow throughout the whole of creation. God's generosity knows no bounds, and sometimes – as Jesus shows us in today's parable – it is too much for human minds to comprehend. Quite simply, God's ways are not our ways. Isaiah, in the **First Reading (Isaiah 55: 6-9)**, calls us to turn back and seek out the Lord. The Lord is near to us, and full of mercy and forgiveness.

The response to the Psalm (**Psalm 144**), declares that the Lord is close to all who call him. Our Lord is kind, full of compassion, and his abounding love is for the whole of creation. Such wonderful greatness cannot be measured. Paul declares that life itself is Christ, and his evident enthusiasm encourages us to fully embrace a life centred on Christ. (**Second Reading Philippians 1: 20-24, 27**).

In today's Gospel passage (**Matthew 20: 1-16**), Jesus uses a parable of workers in the vineyard to challenge and stretch our thinking about those who are called to live and work for the Kingdom of God. We are all equal in God's eyes, and there is no room for human ideas of hierarchy and self-importance.

The first will be last and the last will be first. As we come to pray together, with Christ at the centre of all that we are and do, how might we live out these radical Gospel values in a world that is in so much need of the kindness and compassion of God? May we have the grace to listen to the cry of the prophet, and to seek the Lord with all our heart, mind and spirit. In this coming week, let us pray for each other with a generous love, recognising that we are all equal as we work together in the vineyard of the Lord.

Mass is streamed live each day – please see Website for further details

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 19 Sept	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sun 20 Sept	<i>Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	
	10.30am	Giuseppe Lombardo RIP
	5.30pm	Karen Harkin RIP
Mon 21 Sept	<i>Feast of St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist</i>	
	10.00am	Souls in Purgatory
Tue 22 Sept	10.00am	Giovanni De Ponte RIP
	1.30p.m.	Funeral Mass for Leah-Maria Hill
Wed 23 Sept	<i>Memoria of St Pius of Pietreicino (Padre Pio)</i>	
	10.00am	Baya Family Intentions
Thur 24 Sept	<i>Feast of Our Lady of Walsingham</i>	
	10.00am	Gordon Smith RIP
Fri 25 Sept	10.00am	Peter Riordan RIP
Sat 26 Sept	5.30pm	Nellie Kelly RIP
Sun 27 Sept	<i>Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	
	10.30am	Eugenia Szarzynska RIP
	5.30pm	People of the Parish

If you wish to book a Mass Intention, please email the Parish Office at [office@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk](mailto:office@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk).

### Diocese of Arundel and Brighton Dialogue and Unity Event 2020

#### A NEW NORMAL FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

- What can we learn during the pandemic?
- What vision should we aspire to as Christians and people of faith moving forward together?

Join us on Saturday 26 September 2020 10.45a.m. – 1.00p.m. on Zoom

Email Catherine to register and receive the Zoom link at [catherine.martindale@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:catherine.martindale@abdiocese.org.uk)

All welcome, invite your friends from other Churches.

#### NEW FOR AUTUMN!

Every Monday evening at 8pm. Join us for a Taketime meditation via zoom. Taketime meditations provide a calm, comfortable space in which to meet God.

Please email [meditations@olchurch.org.uk](mailto:meditations@olchurch.org.uk) for the zoom link. To find out more about the meditations go to <https://taketime.org.uk/>

#### Our prayers are asked for all the sick,

**including:** Janet Morgan, Andrew Makinson, Theresa Lyon, Antonio Delgado Snr., Ruth and Maurice Carden, Regina Cotter, Chloe English, Angela Brett, Daniel, Alan Lucas, Patrick Mullins, Paul Shannon, Thomas C Y Chan, Mary Canon, Naty Villafior, Ralph Peters, Cynthia Philogene, Valerie Barrett, Rachel Bonito, Francis McCrory, baby Mathew Long, Lucena Javier, Santiago Duarte Rodrigues, Chloe Bowe, June O'Connor, Susan McCrory, Bob Hunter, Estelle Cuthbert, Indra and Ivan Pedropillai, Emma Amour, Christine Dawson, Anne Egan, Sue Halliden, Kathleen Pledge, Merlyn Soares, Frances Walsh, Bernard Theo, Judith Hayward and Adela Bolanos.

#### Bereavement Group

*The Bereavement Group continues to keep in touch with their group members on a regular basis, particularly those who have been recently bereaved and may not have the support they would normally have. If you would like to speak to a Member of the Group, please contact Paula Thomas on 07710 099682.*

#### Keeping In Touch

Are you self-isolating, shielding, ill, frail or simply overwhelmed? Or perhaps you are concerned about someone. There are a number of Groups within the Parish who may be able to help e.g. collect shopping, or just to have a chat on the phone. If you or someone needs support, either emotionally or practically, then please email the Parish Office at: [office@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk](mailto:office@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk). or contact Terry Cruise (SVP President) on 07788 454774.

#### YEAR 7 SCHOOL ADMISSIONS

**If you have a Child entering Year 7 in September 2021, please hand in your completed application form, together with a copy of your Child's Baptismal Certificate at the Parish Office for signature. If you have already submitted your form, these are now ready for collection from the Parish Office.**

## Volunteer Researchers Wanted

Horton Estate Cemetery in Epsom occupies about 4.5 acres, and holds the remains of about 8,500 men, women and children who ended their days in the Epsom Hospitals Cluster and were buried as paupers. The cemetery was sold by the NHS to a developer in 1983. Today it is completely overgrown and used as a dumping ground for building rubble, unwanted electrical appliances, and other rubbish. It is the largest derelict hospital cemetery in the UK. A local group has set up a charity, the "Friends of Horton Cemetery" to try to get the ground protected from development in perpetuity and cleaned up so that the cemetery occupants, most of whom still have relatives alive today, are shown the respect they deserve. We have a Volunteer research project to bring the occupants of the cemetery "back to life" by researching their lives. By telling the stories of the people buried there we hope that, when the time comes, we will have the stories of enough cemetery occupants to be able to rally mass public support for the protection of the ground.

We need volunteer researchers to help us tell these stories. Some people may already have access to genealogical tools such as *Ancestry* and *Find My Past* at home, but these tools are also available to use free in our public libraries. Using tools like this, the stories of the people buried in the cemetery can be built quite quickly. If you could help us with this research, please contact me at email address [hortoncemetery@gmail.com](mailto:hortoncemetery@gmail.com).

**Kevin McDonnell**

## FOODBANK UPDATE

Once again, many thanks for all your donations, especially those we are low on - they are so gratefully received. This week the foodbank teams fed 220 people with 85 deliveries. As previously mentioned, we do have a very good stock of many basic items so, if possible please only donate the items below. This way we can use our storage space most efficiently.

Thank you.

**We have either no or very little stock of the following items –**

Sugar - small bags if possible - very low stock  
Long life fruit juice  
Long life sponge puddings - low stock  
Children's treats - chocolate etc  
Instant mash  
Powdered milk  
Custard  
Coffee  
Tea bags - not catering packs  
Cereal - not porridge  
Jam/honey/marmalade  
Tinned meat - not spam  
Cleaning products  
Washing powder/tablets/capsules

## GIFT AID

Thank you to all the Parishioners who have signed up for the Parish Gift Aid scheme over the years and continue to support us in this very meaningful way. Boxes of Gift Aid envelopes for this tax year have been prepared and can be found in the Narthex. We are aware not all Parishioners are able to come to Church yet, so we will keep the boxes until they can be collected. If you are a UK tax payer, but have currently not signed up to the Gift Aid scheme, please consider joining. Our Parish Gift Aid Declaration form can be found on our website - <http://st-josephs-epsom.org.uk/giftAid.php>. Gift Aiding your donation enables us to claim an additional 25% from the tax authorities. This makes a real difference, especially in these difficult times. Completed forms can be dropped off at the Parish Office or emailed to [giftaid@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk](mailto:giftaid@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk). Many Parishioners have also started to set up standing orders for their offertory donations or have made one-off donations via bank transfer. Thank you! If you would like to set this up, please contact Nina Bryson at [accounts@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk](mailto:accounts@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk) for details.

## UPDATE ON SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION AT ST JOSEPH'S

Now that we have set dates for the conclusion of our 2019 – 2020 sacramental preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation, we are turning our thoughts to when and how we will begin our 2020 – 2021 sacramental programmes.

Our initial thoughts are that we may be able to begin in January 2021. Once we have drawn up our plans, ensuring that they are COVID secure, we will put the details in our Newsletter and on our Website.

## FACE COVERINGS!

**There is more good news! We have now sent £2,500 to the FMDM's work in Zambia since the lockdown through our Parish Faith in Action.**

**We now have two designs of face coverings so please keep your orders coming in. They are made from 100% cotton, have 3 layers of fabric, meeting the WHO recommendation, with a special filter sheet in the centre. All are washable and so reusable and reversible too.**

**The cost/suggested donation for each mask is still only £5.**

**Mary Makinson is kindly taking the orders and delivering the masks.**

**Here are her details:**

**01737 358317**

**tommarmakinson@gmail.com**



### LOST PROPERTY

We do have a selection of Lost Property which is displayed on a chair in the Atrium – please do have a look on your way into Church to see if anything looks familiar to you!

**Contact Us:**

**Email: [office@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk](mailto:office@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk)**

**Telephone: 01372 723573**

**The Parish Sisters 01372 745297**

### CONNECT GROUP

**The Connect Group continues to meet on a weekly basis through 'Zoom' to pray through the following Sunday's Gospel together. If you are interested in finding out more about the Group, please contact **Antonia Lynn** at: [Antonia.j.lynn@gmail.com](mailto:Antonia.j.lynn@gmail.com).**

**Or maybe consider having a look at the Connect Group Blog at <https://stjosephconnect.blogspot.com>**