

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

25 OCTOBER 2020

Thank you again for all your prayers and good wishes – I am definitely on the road to recovery and was pleased to officiate at our two Confirmation Celebrations last weekend which were very edifying. Congratulations to all our candidates!

Last weekend was a very busy weekend as we also had two First Holy Communion Celebrations – so congratulations to our young Parishioners who made their First Holy Communion: Sebastian, Gabe, Lucas, Verity, Alice, Massimo, Sophia, Georgina, Molly, Elise and Esme, Isabella, Aaron, Luke, Thomas and Kieran. A special thank you also to all our Parish Catechists who worked with all our candidates and helped prepare them on the day. Do please keep all our First Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates and their families in your prayers.

This week, we have a Pastoral Letter from Bishop Richard – you will find copies in the Atrium so do pick up a copy on your way in or out of the Church. It is also the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Canonisation of the English Martyrs in Reformation Time. It was a significant event for the Catholic Church in England and Wales – those canonised consisted of lay and religious men and women, including our Diocesan Patron, St Philip Howard.

November is the month of the Holy Souls when we pray for our deceased relatives and friends - if you would like to have the names of relatives or friends entered into the Book of Remembrance during the month of November, please do email the Parish Office with the names and dates and these will be entered into the Book by the Parish Office staff. Alternatively, you will find Holy Souls envelopes in the Atrium for you to use.

A huge thank you to those of you who continue to contribute so generously – please do read the Update on our Parish Finances on page 2 of the Newsletter.

God Bless and stay safe.

Fr Bill, Fr Ruslan and The Sisters



**SUNDAY 25 OCTOBER, THIRTIETH
SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

'Love your neighbour as yourself'

In today's readings, through the strength that Christ gives us and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, we celebrate with joy the great commandment of Love.

In the First Reading (**Exodus 22: 20-26**), we see some of the details of the Law of Moses that highlight the nature of God, his relationship with his people, and the way he wants us to live. Israel, as the chosen people, are to demonstrate kindness and concern for others, the same qualities that their compassionate God displays towards them.

With the Psalmist (**Psalms 17**), we are invited to give expression to our love of God and to recognise that no single word can convey all that God means to us. He is our source of strength; without him we can do nothing.

This first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians is the earliest preserved Christian document. We hear of the joyful faith of this small Christian community – a fruit of the Holy Spirit. Their approach to faith is attracting attention, and acts as an inspiration to many. (Second Reading- **Thessalonians 1: 5-10**)).

In the Gospel (**Matthew 3: 34-40**), Jesus tells us that it is impossible to separate love of God, of self, and of other people. Jesus's own life is a demonstration of such all-consuming love in practice. He tells us that these three facets of love and of faith cannot be separated: they sum up the entire biblical story.

This week, I express gratitude to the Lord for the many gifts of his wondrous love in my life. I ask that I may have the sensitivity to love as God loves; forever finding new ways of expressing my love, especially in my dealings with the poor, the lonely, and the dispossessed.

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 24 Oct	5.30pm	Nellie O'Neill's Intention
Sun 25 Oct	<i>Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>	
	10.30am	Geoff Barrett RIP
	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Mon 26 Oct	10.00am	Rory Stowe RIP Patrick Buckley RIP
Tue 27 Oct	10.00am	Mary Davern RIP
Wed 28 Oct	<i>Feast of Ss Simon and Jude, Apostles</i>	
	10.00am	John and Bridie Purcell RIP Ian and Mary Fisher RIP
Thur 29 Oct	10.00am	James and Catherine O'Shea RIP
Fri 30 Oct	10.00am	Mansoor Bholah and Rex Truscott RIP Roy Pledge RIP
Sat 31 Oct	5.30pm	John Golding RIP
Sun 1 Nov	<i>Solemnity of All Saints</i>	
	10.30am	People of the Parish
	5.30pm	As per Book of Remembrance

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

If you wish to book a Mass Intention, please email the Parish Office at office@st-josephs-epsom.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, Adela Bolanos, Rosetta Clarke and John Beresford.

URGENTLY REQUIRED!!

We urgently need Stewards to assist at weekday Masses on Monday, Thursday and Friday between 9.15a.m. – 10.30a.m. – please contact the Parish Office if you are able to join the rota.

UPDATE ON PARISH FINANCES

Thank you to everyone who has set up a standing order for their regular giving. This has been very helpful towards shoring up our offertory income whilst our congregation levels are so low, helping to compensate for the £2k per month drop in the bag collection at masses since the church reopened.

Currently, we are expecting to make a loss on our Main Fund in 2020 of around £3k. The extra burden of Covid sanitising protocols makes it difficult for us to reopen the hall, meaning that the £22k per year of hall hire income upon which we rely to balance our books has all but dried up for now. Meanwhile, the cost of PPE and sanitising products for the church is significant.

So, please continue to support your church financially. The easiest way for us to receive your offertory is by monthly standing order, so please consider this if you can. Details of the different ways you can give are set out below - including our new contactless device, now located in the narthex outside Fr Bill's office.

Finally, if you are a taxpayer, please join the Gift Aid scheme if you haven't already done so. Doing so boosts the value of your donation to us by 25% - it doesn't cost you an extra penny, but it's a significant help to us.

Easiest ways to contribute to offertory:

Standing order: Please email accounts@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk **to get the necessary bank details**

Justgiving: visit www.justgiving.com/campaign/parishoffertory, **and specify in your message that your donation is for St Joseph's Church Epsom**

Contactless: our new device is wall-mounted in the narthex, outside Fr Bill's office. Simply select the amount you'd like to give, opt for Gift Aid if you can, and give your email address if you'd like a receipt. (Gift Aid and email details only need to be entered the first time you use your card on the device.)

Bereavement Support Training

Next Year's Diocesan Bereavement Support Course will start in January 2021. The programme will run for the seven Tuesdays through January and February 2021 and will take place either at the St Philip Howard Centre or via Zoom dependent on the government policy at the time. The objective of the programme is to provide the Parish Priest with the support of trained individuals who can accompany members of the parish impacted by the loss of someone close however recently that may have been. The content of the course will cover listening skills, understanding the grieving journey, loss of a child, accompanying the dying and the Catholic teaching on death. The course is delivered by a supervising member of Cruse, the Bereavement Support Charity. The diocese is recruiting now. If you would like to be part of this ministry please contact the office for further information.

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

The Diocese has asked us to take up the following special collections before the end of the year. If you can contribute, please do so as follows:

- By bank transfer, with the name of the collection as your bank reference contact accounts@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk for the parish bank details); or
- By placing cash or a cheque in an envelope and handing it in to the Parish Office. Please write the name of the collection on the envelope, and include your name if gift aid is applicable.

<i>Collection</i>	<i>Parish Gift Aid?</i>
Holy Places	No
Missionary Endeavour of the Diocese	Yes
Education of Future Priests	Yes
Peter's Pence	No
Retired Priests' Fund	Yes
Arundel Cathedral Maintenance Fund	Yes
Day for Life	No
Sea Sunday	No

St. John's Seminary, Wonersh

Many of you will have heard that St John's Seminary in Wonersh is to close in its present form. The Seminary has served the Church for 130 years and there is great sadness that formation must now end at the site.

Unfortunately, there was no new intake this September. With the seminarian body numbering just 17 the community is small, with the building and staffing costs too high to sustain. Arrangements have been made for the remaining seminarians to join the community at Allen Hall, Chelsea in September 2021.

Archbishop John Wilson and Bishop Richard are committed to providing priestly formation that will serve the people of our Dioceses and Parishes into the future. St John's will remain a legal entity so that consideration can be given to the ways in which the tradition of priestly formation established at Wonersh in 1891 will continue.

The Trustees of St John's are extremely grateful to rectors, staff and seminarians, past and present, and to all those who have supported the Seminary over the years. We ask our Diocesan church family to pray for vocations to the priesthood, keeping our seminarians in their thoughts and prayers over the coming months.

BEREAVEMENT MASS

Bishop Richard is offering a Mass on the 9th November for those who have died in the Deanery during this difficult year. This will be held at the Sacred Heart, Caterham at 7-30 p.m. Due to the Coronavirus, only the Bishop and the parish priest. Fr. Sean, will be present. However, it will be streamed live, and the link is: <https://www.churchservices.tv/caterham>. The names of those who have died will be placed on the Altar during the Mass, so please do contact the parish office as soon as possible with the names of your loved ones who you would like to be remembered at this Mass.

FOODBANK UPDATE

Last week by Friday morning, we had made 85 deliveries feeding about 200 people thanks to all the amazing volunteers but the Foodbank is really about teamwork as without your donations, these deliveries couldn't happen - so thank YOU! Here is the latest list of items in short supply and needed urgently. Thank you for your continued support. Stay safe.

- Shower Gel, Shampoo, Conditioner, Shaving Gel, Pump Soap, Washing Powder/Tabs/Caps, Male & Female Deodorant, Tinned Fruit, Ketchup, Custard, Sponge Pudding, Fruit squash, Tinned Vegetables, Tinned Sweetcorn, Tinned Meat

MASKS AND CARDS – LATEST UPDATE

Since lockdown, with all your help, we have donated £3,500 to the FMDM's work in Zambia through our Parish Faith in Action. Amazing! Now we have sent £500 to Fr Ed's emergency appeal in Lima, Peru. We want to be able to help this project as much as possible in the coming months. You can help by continuing to buy more masks and telling your friends and family too!

We have two designs of face coverings. They are made from 100% cotton. They 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 for either design and all the money goes to Fr Ed in Peru.

WANTED: We are now making masks for Christmas. If anyone has any spare 100% cotton Christmas design fabrics to donate to us please let us know.

And there is more good news! The Creative Ladies have made a new stock of cards, still great value at £1 each. Our wonderful coordinators will deliver 5 cards or more to you! **The categories of cards are as follows: Flowers, Plants, Wild animals, Pets, Scenery, Epsom and London.**

Please order masks and cards and offers of Christmas fabrics to: email. creativeladies.stjosephs@gmail.com **or phone 01737 358317 or 07740 902068**

