

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

4 OCTOBER 2020

St Joseph's is alive and active and as you all know is a great Parish made so by you, our Parishioners.

Our new Parish streaming system is working at last – you will find that the pictures are extremely clear now and I'm grateful to those of you who have been working very hard to sort out all the issues to do with the image and the sound. There may still be a few teething issues that may need to be sorted out, so if you do encounter any problems, then please do let us know,

The Bishop has asked us to record those who come to the Church as part of the Government Track and Trace guidelines. They have sent us the QR code system which you can scan onto your phone as you come into the Church starting on Monday 5 October. As you may know, this is to help trace and stop the spread of the Coronavirus, but if your phone will not allow you to access this facility, then don't worry, we will take your details and contact you if we need to. Any details that we collect will be stored securely for 21 days and will then be shredded.

I wanted to give you a timely reminder that preparations for our First Holy Communion and Confirmation Masses are well under way. Although we have set tight limits on the number of guests that each family can bring to the Masses, space may be at a premium so those of you who regularly attend the weekend Masses may want to consider attending a weekday Mass as the Sunday obligation is still in abeyance. The first of these Masses will be on Sunday 11 October at 10.30a.m. and 5.30p.m.

November is the month of the Holy Souls when we pray for our deceased relatives and friends. As this is only just over 4 weeks away, if you would like to have 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 and the Book will be laid on the Altar during all Masses. Alternatively, you can drop your names and dates into the Parish Office, together with your donations.

The contactless payment machine has been installed on the wall outside Fr Bill's office in the Narthex for you to use privately to make a donation if you so desire.

Financial support – shortly we will be able to let you know how our Parish finances are looking but you will appreciate of course that in the light of the present Covid 19 crisis, like everyone else, we have suffered a great loss, not least being the hire of our halls which we are hoping to open up in some measure in the future. A huge thank you to those of you who contribute so generously either by standing order or in the bucket! Please be assured of our prayers for you and your family. God Bless and stay safe.
Fr Bill, Fr Ruslan and the Sisters



**SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER,
TWENTY SEVENTH
SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME**

'Let me sing the song of his love for his vineyard'

This week's readings remind us that the Lord of the vineyard is the God of hosts, the master of creation and the giver of all gifts.

The texts invite us to reflect on both the Lord's giving of such gifts and on our acceptance of them.

We, the beneficiaries, are totally dependent upon the one giving (**Psalm 79**). And God gives to us too, so that we can respond in a way worthy of praise (**Second Reading – Philippians 4: 6-9**).

As we read and ponder, we see that, sometimes, the gifts are met with unproductivity (**First Reading – Isaiah 5: 1-7**); at other times they are even misused (**Gospel – Matthew 21: 33-43**).

This week, let's pray that the God of peace, who has already promised to be with us, may find in us a 'noble' and 'virtuous' response.

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

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 3 Oct	5.30pm	Joan and Milton Pears RIP
Sun 4 Oct	Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	10.30am	Johanna McKay RIP
	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Mon 5 Oct	10.00am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tue 6 Oct	10.00am	Theresa Higgins RIP
Wed 7 Oct	10.00am	Marcelle Copus RIP
Thur 8 Oct	10.00am	Jenny Horseman RIP
Fri 9 Oct	Feast of St John Henry Newman, Priest	
	10.00am	Leah-Maria Hill RIP
Sat 10 Oct	5.30pm	Michael and Ethel Scott RIP
Sun 11 Oct	Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	10.30am	George Fernandes 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.

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 and Rosetta Clarke.

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.

LEBANON RELIEF

My name is May. I've been part of the St Joseph's community for the past 13 years but I come originally from Lebanon, hence my plea for help.

I am sure that you've heard of the devastating explosion that hit Beirut on August 4th and destroyed a big part of the city. It has left more than 200 dead, 6000 injured and more than 300,000 homeless. It was even felt in Cyprus 160 miles away. The explosion came on top of an economic crisis, the worst in Lebanon's history, and the Covid19 pandemic. It has affected a densely populated area with some of the best hospitals and schools in the country. It has damaged or completely destroyed churches, historic buildings, schools and hospitals. The Ministry of Education declared that the damage has affected 128 educational establishments and it seems the damage is so extensive that some schools might not be able to reopen at all. In reality, this means most of the things we consider normal in the UK like getting hospital treatment, sending your children to school, even getting food for your family, are now a struggle, if not impossible.

The damage is surreal, friends and family members have told me that they thought it was the end of the world! I personally know people who have lost loved ones and many more that have lost their jobs or livelihoods overnight. My own brother's family were spared by a miracle, but their flat is devastated. People in Beirut are broken, hopeless and struggling to feed their families. Those that have the means to escape the country are emigrating in big numbers.

Beirut, a city that was once called the Paris of the Middle East, needs more help than ever to stand up on its feet. This is no longer in our news but remains a daily struggle for so many Lebanese. It will take many years to rebuild. If you can help in anyway, big or small, please use the Just Giving page <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lebanon-relief>.

St Joseph's School Tours

Following strong advice from Surrey, we will not be able to arrange appointments for tours for the time being.

However, very soon we will be uploading a film of the school to our website; a film which was made in the summer to welcome new parents. This will give you a good flavour of what school will be like for your Reception child.

Also, we are planning to upload some drone footage soon to give you a virtual tour of the grounds - to show our Forest School, meadow and pond, our Way of the Cross and extensive playing fields.

If you would like a virtual meeting with the Head teacher please telephone the school office to arrange one.

FOODBANK UPDATE

Last week I thought I was going a little mad. The boxes were full, I emptied them. Two days later, they were full again, overflowing this time so I emptied them again. In just 4 days I collected over 171 kilos of donations from our Church boxes. Your generosity is incredible. Thank you so much. I really can't express how grateful our clients are when they receive their boxes of supplies. This couldn't happen without your kindness and generosity.

Below is the list of items in short supply. If you could only donate these items, we can use our limited storage space most effectively. Some items, for example, microwave rice, may seem very specific. This is because some of our clients may only have very limited means to heat or cook their food.

Very Urgently Needed:

Tinned Fruit, Tinned Spaghetti, Tinned Pasta/Beans with Meat
Squash, Coffee
Custard, Tomato Ketchup
Sweetcorn, Sponge Puddings
Shower Gel, Shampoo, Conditioner, Shaving Gel, Pump Soap, Washing Up Liquid

Also very low:

Tinned Vegetables, Microwave Rice, Breakfast Cereal
Long Life Fruit Juice
Tinned Meat, Hot Chocolate
Sanitary Towels
Adult Toothbrushes, Adult Toothpaste, Male Deodorant

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.

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 for details.

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.

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.

The latest update is that we have sent another £1000 to Zambia! 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!

The Ladies have now decided that we should divide the proceeds from the sales between both the FMDMs in Zambia and Fr Ed Peru, to help him with his emergency appeal in Lima. We now have two designs of face coverings, so please keep your orders coming in particularly as we are supporting both Parish Charities. 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 there is more good news! The Creative Ladies have made a new stock of cards, still great value at £1 each. Mary Makinson, our wonderful coordinator, will deliver 5 cards or more to you! The categories of cards are as follows: Flowers, Plants, Wild animals, Pets, Scenery, Epsom and London.

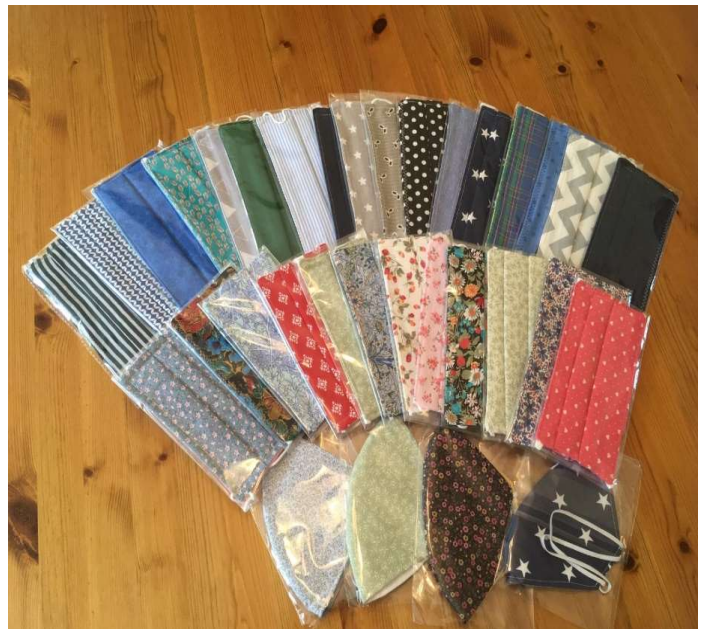
Mary is kindly taking the orders and delivering the masks and cards.

Here are her details: **01737 358317**
tommarymakinson@gmail.com

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 **for the zoom link. To find out more about the meditations go to** <https://taketime.org.uk/>

FACE COVERINGS UPDATE!



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.

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

Contact Us:

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The Parish Sisters 01372 745297