

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER 6 SEPTEMBER 2020

UPDATE FROM FR BILL

This week has seen the return of children to school and for some of you, the return to your places of work. Either way, I hope the transition has gone well and been an enjoyable experience for those of you affected by these changes that are a small but important step towards normality.

Those of you who watch and listen to our Masses online will soon notice an improvement in the quality and sound of the recordings. In the light of the mysterious disappearance of a mesh disk from the Seasonal Chapel, we have invested in some new technology to enhance the quality of the viewing – if anyone does know the whereabouts of the mesh disk, it would still be useful for it to be returned.

A quick reminder that there will be no Mass on Monday 7 September or Tuesday 8 September but we will be resuming Mass on Mondays and Tuesdays with effect from Monday 14 September.

When the Church opened for the Celebration of Holy Mass on 4 July, we were required to follow the procedures we have now become familiar with, one of which was the option to give Holy Communion at the end of Mass and then exit the Church – this was Option 2. As some people have expressed the desire for a moment of thanksgiving after Communion, we are now going to use Option 1 and distribute the Sacrament at the usual time after the Priest has received. Stewards will guide you from your seat to form two lines, maintaining at all times the appropriate distance. This change will be effective from Wednesday 9 September 2020.

Thank you again for all your support and donations to the Parish, your generosity is appreciated – please also see the note about Gift Aid in the Newsletter.

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

Fr Bill, Fr Ruslan and the Sisters



SUNDAY 6 SEPTEMBER, TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

'Listen to his voice!'

The theme of listening runs throughout today's readings: listening to the Divine Voice; to the voice of the prophet Ezekiel; to our community members; to the Church.

In the First Reading (**Ezekiel 33: 7-9**), God likens the prophet's role to that of a sentry, who has the important job of warning people of approaching danger. Ezekiel must point out to the community both their sins and the consequences of them.

In the Gospel (**Matthew 18: 15-20**), Jesus advises us of our duty to do what we can when an individual's behaviour is a threat to the community. Our community does not live separately from God: The Lord is active and present in the decisions and desires of his people and our prayer and action should reflect this.

The Psalm (**Psalm 94**) picks up the theme of listening and bids the people to heed the message of God and to be receptive to his love and gifts.

Paul emphasises to the Romans that the precious freedom bought for us by Christ also brings with it a responsibility and a debt: to love and care for each other and to live out the consequences of our faith. These words go to the heart of the Gospel message. Jesus has shown us how to love our neighbour by everything he said and did. He also shows us how to be fully alive as a human being. (Second Reading **Romans 13: 8-10**).

Amidst the distractions and bustle of daily life, we pray to be alert for the quiet voice of the Divine, and to be generous in responding to it. We beg for the awareness of our responsibilities as a church community, especially to those most at risk across the world at this time.

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

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 5 Sept	5.30pm	Deceased Members of the Castro Family
Sun 6 Sept	Twenty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Mansoor Bholah People of the Parish
Mon 7 Sept		NO MASS
Tue 8 Sept		NO MASS
Wed 9 Sept	10.00am	Theresa Wells R.I.P.
Thur 10 Sept	10.00am	Agnes Campbell R.I.P.
Fri 11 Sept	10.00am	Neil Ruch R.I.P.
Sat 12 Sept	5.30pm	Bheenick Family Intentions
Sun 13 Sept	Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Deceased Members of the Queally and Schifano Families People of the Parish

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

You may want to have a look at a Children's online liturgy which is pitched at primary school children. You can access it via Youtube at: <https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCdJNyn5xOrOB5634uplhcQg>

Alternatively, very young children enjoy investigating the world around them and can be very visual. The God Who Speaks team have created another 'Top 10' list exploring animals in the Bible, with the under five age group very much in mind. Visit their website to find out more.

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/>

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 Villaflor, 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, Leah Hill, 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.

Please also remember in your Prayers all those who have died recently, especially **Raymod Whiteley, father of Felicity Baker, Maura Ivall (aunt of Parishioner) and Maria Gonzalez Perez (an ex-Parishioner).**

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. 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.

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.

Kevin McDonnell

FOODBANK UPDATE

Thank you once again for your continued and unwavering support over the summer months. The number of clients remains high and so too, your donations which are very much appreciated. Last week, we fed 318 people with 108 deliveries. The Foodbank is preparing to open its centres again soon - plenty of planning, like most re-openings in these times.

The Foodbank is well stocked with many items, however, those listed below are in urgent need or have completely run out.

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 - we have run out
Children's treats - chocolate etc - we have run out
Instant mash - we have run out
Powdered milk - we have run out
Custard
Coffee
Hot chocolate
Tea bags - not catering packs
Cereal

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.

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

tommariamakinson@gmail.com

Contact Us:

Email: 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.

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