

# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

## 10 JANUARY 2021

### Fr Bill's Update

Well, here we are in our third National Lockdown, but hearing the rising number of cases and sadly the number of deaths, then it does seem the only way, at the moment to try and contain the virus. On an entirely different note....

After Mary, the Mother of God, no Saint is mentioned more frequently in the Papal magisterium than Joseph, her spouse. My Predecessors reflected on the message contained in the limited information handed down by the Gospels in order to appreciate more fully his central role in the history of salvation. Blessed Pius IX declared him "Patron of the Catholic Church", Venerable Pius XII proposed him as "Patron of Workers" and Saint John Paul II as "Guardian of the Redeemer". Saint Joseph is universally invoked as the "Patron of a happy death".

Now, one hundred and fifty years after his proclamation as *Patron of the Catholic Church* by Blessed Pius IX (8 December 1870), I would like to share some personal reflections on this extraordinary figure, so close to our own human experience. For, as Jesus says, "out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks" (*Mt 12:34*). My desire to do so increased during these months of pandemic, when we experienced, amid the crisis, how "our lives are woven together and sustained by ordinary people, people often overlooked. People who do not appear in newspaper and magazine headlines, or on the latest television show, yet in these very days are surely shaping the decisive events of our history. Doctors, nurses, storekeepers and supermarket workers, cleaning personnel, caregivers, transport workers, men and women working to provide essential services and public safety, volunteers, priests, men and women religious, and so very many others. They understood that no one is saved alone... How many people daily exercise patience and offer hope, taking care to spread not panic, but shared responsibility. How many fathers, mothers, grandparents and teachers are showing our children, in small everyday ways, how to accept and deal with a crisis by adjusting their routines, looking ahead and encouraging the practice of prayer. How many are praying, making sacrifices and interceding for the good of all". Each of us can discover in Joseph – the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence – an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble. Saint Joseph reminds us that those who appear hidden or in the shadows can play an incomparable role in the history of salvation. A word of recognition and of gratitude is due to them all.

God Bless, keep safe

Fr Bill, Fr Ruslan, Sr Margarite and Sr Fionnuala



### SUNDAY 10 JANUARY, THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

**I have Baptised you with water,  
but He will Baptise you with the Holy Spirit.**

Today's feast of the Baptism of Our Lord brings to an end the season of Christmas. Coming after the Epiphany of the Lord, it can be seen as a second manifestation of Christ, as the heavens are opened before the whole world. Through Christ's baptism, in which the entire Trinity is present (Gospel – **Mark 1: 7-11**), the world is made into a second creation.

In the First Reading, from Isaiah, (**Isaiah 55: 1-11**) we hear how God's word will bear fruit in us. The one we see being baptised in the Gospel is the Word and, by carrying out the Father's will perfectly, all creation is restored.

This is why we can join with the Psalmist (**Isaiah 12: 2-6**): 'With joy we shall draw water from the wells of salvation'!

St John develops this theme (Second Reading – **John 5: 1-9**) when he says that because Jesus overcame the world by water and blood, so we, with the Spirit living in us, can be saved.

This coming week, let's strive to deepen our trust in the Father, who is our salvation; to nurture our faith in the Spirit, who works in us to ensure we do not return empty-handed; and to strengthen our joy in the Son, through whose incarnation and baptism we are made into God's children.

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 9 Jan	5.30pm	Nora and Steve McDonagh RIP
Sun 10 Jan	<b><i>Feast of the Baptism of The Lord</i></b>	
	10.30am	George Fernandes RIP
	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Mon 11 Jan	10.00am	Funeral Mass for Joan Brown
Tue 12 Jan	10.00am	Hugh Richards RIP
Wed 13 Jan	10.00am	Emma Lee's Intention
Thur 14 Jan	10.00am	Well-being of Eugeniusz Wozniak
Fri 15 Jan	10.00am	Carmen Baya's Intention
Sat 16 Jan	5.30pm	Mary and Martin Canavan RIP
Sun 17 Jan	<b><i>Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</i></b>	
	10.30am	People of the Parish
	5.30pm	Mariano Vigliotti RIP

**Mass is streamed live – 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](mailto:office@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk).

**Our Prayers are asked for all the sick, including:**

**Fred Andrews, Frances Walsh,  
Merlyn Soares, Olivia Wright, Emma Lee and Eugeniusz Wozniak**

*Please also remember in your Prayers all those who have died recently, especially Valerie Barrett, Maria De Nobrega, Ashley Eden, Onofrio Montalto and Guerino Ambrusso. Please keep their families in your prayers.*

**JOAN BROWN R.I.P. – FUNERAL MASS MONDAY 11 JANUARY 2021**

The Family of Joan Brown would like to thank all those who have offered their support at this difficult time. The Family has requested that if Parishioners wish to remember Joan, that they make donations in her name to 'The Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton', rather than send flowers for the funeral. Many thanks.

**ST JOSEPH**

To mark the 150th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Saint Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis has dedicated a year long celebration of St Joseph which is great news for our parish and school communities as we are dedicated to St Joseph. Let us double our efforts to seek his intercession in our prayers during this time of Covid-19. Pope Francis' Apostolic Letter "Pastoris Corde" (With a father's heart) "That is how Joseph loved Jesus". Here is the Pope's Prayer for St Joseph.

**St Joseph Prayer**

*Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted his only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,  
and defend us from every evil. Amen*

## ALTON DAY OF RENEWAL 2021 PROGRAMME: "ALIVE IN THE SPIRIT"

Pope Francis has said "I ask all of you that you organise seminars to share Baptism in the Spirit." In response, the ADoRE online programme will follow the stages of a classic "Life in the Spirit" seminar series, exploring how the Holy Spirit inspires and empowers us to be missionary disciples. Programme and booking details are available on a poster on the Church Front Door and on the ADoRE website [www.altonrenewal.com](http://www.altonrenewal.com).

The first session is on **Saturday 23 January 2021 between 10.00-13.00: "God's Love"** God loves you; He wants to be in a personal relationship with you and to give you a better life.

**Speaker: Charles Whitehead**, respected international speaker and author; former chair of International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Service. Please register in advance at [bit.ly/ADOREJAN2021](http://bit.ly/ADOREJAN2021)

ADoRE is offering confidential **prayer for healing by telephone** Monday to Friday 10.00am to 4.00pm and now additionally on Thursdays and Fridays 4.00pm to 8.00pm. Experienced prayer ministers will pray with you confidentially for your needs.

### IF YOU ARE THINKING OF BECOMING A CATHOLIC .....

If you are not a Catholic, but have thought of becoming one, you might wish to consider joining, or finding out more about it. Our programme of RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) would in normal times have started in September, but this year has been different! As a result, we are considering running a "Zoomed" virtual programme starting in early January.

The initial part of the programme (seven sessions) asks the question "Is the Catholic Faith for me?" The second part (again seven sessions), is focused on preparation for full membership of the Catholic Church, and is aimed at those members of the group who wish to continue their journey to becoming Catholics, receiving the sacraments of Baptism (not necessary if already a baptised Christian), Communion and Confirmation hopefully at Easter. The sessions follow a set programme, but are informal and relaxed.

If you wish to join, or simply find out more, please contact David Walsh by email [da-vid34edr@virginmedia.com](mailto:da-vid34edr@virginmedia.com) or phone 07747 310257 for more information. You are not committing yourself to the course by making an enquiry!

### KEEPING IN TOUCH!

We would love to keep in contact with you, particularly during this current pandemic. We have this week emailed all Parishioners who have provided us with their email address. If you have not received an email from the Parish Office in the last two days, it may be because your email address has changed or you may not be registered as a Parishioner of St Joseph's. If you haven't already completed a Registration Form, it is available to download from our website, so please complete one and return it to the Parish Office at [office@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk](mailto:office@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk). If you have already completed a form but have not received an email, then please also let us know.

If you do not have access to a computer or have an email address, but would like us to keep in touch with you, then please telephone the Parish Office on 01372 723573 so we can ensure that we keep you updated on what is happening in the Parish.

## FOODBANK UPDATE

We are delighted to let you know that we did get all the hampers, gifts and food parcels delivered in time for Christmas, including a few very last-minute requests. We have received many messages of thanks so we know that our efforts did make a big difference to many local people. Thank you so much for your continued generosity and support.

Whilst we had a vast amount of food donated in the lead up to Christmas, we do find ourselves short of a few specific items. As previously mentioned, it costs us to store any overstock of items so we would appreciate it if only the following items were donated at this time -

Sugar 500g bags URGENT, Rice pudding URGENT, Instant mash  
UHT milk - semi skimmed and full fat only  
Longlife fruit juice  
Longlife sponge puddings - not from chilled counter URGENT  
Pasta sauce  
Tinned vegetables  
Washing powder/tablets/capsules  
Shampoo  
Conditioner  
Coffee  
Powdered milk  
Rice  
Male deodorant  
Tampons

## UPDATE ON PARISH FINANCES

As we are now in our second period of lockdown, your offertory donations are even more vital. Here are the ways that you can still donate:

**[Easiest ways to contribute to offertory:](#)**

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

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

***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.***

**The Diocesan accounts for the year ended 31 Dec 2019 are now available on the Diocesan website ([abdiocese.org.uk](http://abdiocese.org.uk)).**

### Contact Us:

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

Telephone: 01372 723573

The Parish Sisters: 01372 745297

### PARISH OFFICE OPENING HOURS:

MONDAY - 8.30A.M. – 2.30P.M.

WEDNESDAY - 8.30A.M. – 2.30P.M.

THURSDAY - 8.30A.M. – 12.30P.M.

FRIDAY - 8.30A.M. – 2.30P.M.