

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

12 DECEMBER 2021

Fr Bill's Update

A Synod of the whole Church has been called by Pope Francis inviting the People of God to participate by coming together to discuss how we are to be a church for this twenty-first century.

The whole concept of a Synodal church is not something we are familiar with. This is the biggest consultation of the Church in history. The Pope is calling us now to become a Synodal people, to be open to change. In this everyone is entitled to speak and to have their voice heard and be prepared to listen to each other.

Bishop Richard has invited every Parish in the diocese to participate in this unique opportunity given to us by the Holy Father and you may recall his pastoral letter to us of the 27th Sunday, 3rd of October last. There are a number of areas given for discussion covering such topics as Communion, Participation and Mission. I would hope that our Parish would enter into the spirit of this opportunity to affect change for the future of our Church by coming together in small groups or as individuals to discuss the questions set by the Pope.

I appreciate that we are drawing near to the Christmas celebrations and all that it entails. However, the holiday season could be a good opportunity with a few others to get involved. It is not every day that a Pope asks his flock for their views on the Church in the third millennium. I am sorry we were not able to begin this process at the start of Advent, however, we may be able to make our contribution by the end date in February 2022. I hope to have more practical information for you next week. In the meantime, you can look up details in the diocesan and Vatican websites.

Here is the link to the website with further details about the Synodal Journey with Pope Francis.

[Synod | Arundel & Brighton Diocese \(abdiocese.org.uk\)](https://abdiocese.org.uk)

God Bless

Canon Bill



**SUNDAY 12 DECEMBER
2021
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

This Third Sunday of Advent is often called 'Gaudete Sunday' from the first word of the Entrance Antiphon in Latin: 'Gaudete!' – that is, 'Rejoice!' It is as though, like small children, we can barely wait to celebrate the wonder and joy of Christmas, the coming of Christ Jesus into our world. Indeed, we rejoice now because he is already here in the midst of us.

We see that God exults in us, his people, renewing us by his love (First Reading **Zeph 3: 14 – 18**).

We might want to pray using the words of the Psalm (**Isaiah 12: 2 – 6**): 'The Lord is my strength, my song, he became my saviour'. 'Give thanks to the Lord, Praise his name!'. 'Sing and shout for joy!'

St Paul (Second Reading – Philippians 4: 4 – 7) encourages us to have confidence in God, to be happy in the Lord. We do not need to worry, because if there is anything we need, we can ask God for it. God will give us a peace of heart and mind that is far greater than we can grasp or understand, keeping us safe in Christ Jesus.

In the Gospel (**Luke 3: 10 – 18**), the people come to John the Baptist to ask him, 'What must we do?' to prepare for the coming of the Christ. The answer is not the same for everyone, but all are asked to share with those who have less than themselves. Perhaps I ask the Lord: What must I do to prepare for your coming this Christmas?

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 11 Dec	5.30pm	Nora Babon Ty RIP
Sun 12 Dec	Third (Gaudete) Sunday of Advent	
	10.30am	Eric and Julia Mortimer RIP
	5.30pm	Theresa Miccalef RIP
Mon 13 Dec	Memoria of St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr	
	10.00am	Laura McDonagh and Steve McDonagh RIP Chris Taylor RIP
Tue 14 Dec	Memoria of St John of The Cross, Priest, Doctor	
	10.00am	Lucy Packham in Thanksgiving
Wed 15 Dec	10.00am	Kieran Bradley RIP Delia and James Tuohy RIP
Thu 16 Dec	10.00am	Beryl Mackenzie's Intention
Fri 17 Dec	9.00am	Theo Pathmanathan RIP
	10.30am	Funeral of Baby Daniel Peter Jones
Sat 18 Dec	5.30pm	Bridget Scott RIP
Sun 19 Dec	Fourth Sunday of Advent	
	10.30am	Achilles Fernando RIP
	5.30pm	People of the Parish

The King's Church, Epsom are offering free meals again this year to anyone alone at Christmas or struggling to feed their families at this difficult time. After morning service on Christmas Day, King's Church will be open from 12.15 to 2.30pm for Christmas lunch. Please would you book in advance at: thekingschurch.org/ChristmasMeals to give an idea of numbers.

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*

Our Prayers are asked for all those who are ill:

Frances Walsh, Merlyn Soares, Anne Schifano, Peter Galipeau, Emma Lee, Ian Watts, Steve Lee, Jeffrey Forage, Melitona Leander, Vanessa Tuff, Susan McCrory, Francis McCrory, Anita Hully, Halina Krajewski, Kiera, Joseph Poku, Angela Brett, Maureen Hall, Bob and Maria Adams, Kay Pledge, John and Jean Childs.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Alan Beenham who has recently passed away. Please also keep his family in your prayers.

MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS
CHRISTMAS EVE: 3.00p.m;
5.30p.m. and 8.00p.m.
CHRISTMAS DAY: 8.30a.m. and
10.30a.m.
BOXING DAY (Sunday): 10.00a.m.

If you would like to attend Mass on 24 and / or 25 December you will need to book a seat in advance – you will find request forms in the Atrium, please complete one and hand it in to the Parish Office or alternatively you can email the Parish Office with your request. Closing date receiving bookings is Friday 17 December.

Seat allocations will be confirmed as soon as possible.

Gatwick Detainees' Welfare Group:

GDWG would like to thank parishioners who generously responded to their appeal, for no longer needed iPads, laptops, and smart phones. 26 have been cleaned of the original owner's data and sent to people who need them. Once released, those who have suffered detention can be very isolated in the community and many are not able to access services. They tell us that the devices have been really helpful for their ESOL classes, keeping in touch with solicitors and their families. It's also helped one person apply for a job and another to join college courses which help distract from him severe anxiety.

Parish Finances and Offertory

Easiest ways to contribute to offertory:

Standing order: Please set these up directly with your bank. The parish bank account details are as follows:

account name: RCD A&B St Joseph's Epsom; **sort code:** 40-05-20; **account number:** 71076221. **Bank reference:** your name, along with "GA" if you are a member of our Gift Aid scheme. (If you aren't yet a Gift Aider, please do join the scheme! See below.)

Via the Diocese website: visit www.abdiocese.org.uk and click the red "Donate" button in the top right corner, then under "Parish Giving" select "Epsom".

Gift Aid If you are a taxpayer, please join our Gift Aid scheme. This will boost the value of your donation by 25% at no cost to you. Simply fill in the Gift Aid Form (<https://st-josephs-epsom.org.uk/giftAidForm2020.pdf>) and return it to the parish office (by email is fine). Hard copies available in the narthex.

Many thanks for your support.

FOODBANK UPDATE

This has been a whirlwind of a year for the Foodbank so far! We know December is a time when people who cannot afford food and basics need us more than ever. Last December the Foodbank supported a staggering 1,570 people in need with food, essentials and seasonal support. So far in 2021 our numbers are not as high but with the fuel price hikes and Universal Credit cuts the number of people needing us is rising again. To date, the Foodbank has helped more than 7,100 this year.

Our wishlist of donations for our Christmas goodie bags includes:

Christmas selection boxes, Christmas puddings, Savoury snacks, Tinned ham, Christmas biscuits, Festive chocolates, sweets and treats, Mince pies, Packet stuffing, Packet trifle mix, Christmas napkins, tablecloths and tea towels.

Please make sure that items do not contain alcohol as we are unable to give these out. If you could donate these items by Friday 3rd December this will give the Foodbank time to pack the bags ready for our clients. Alternatively, if you would like to make a financial donation, the Foodbank will again be giving out Christmas meat vouchers from our local butchers so they can choose their meat from Christmas; seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables to add to our meat voucher and goodie bags, energy top up funds for our client's gas/electricity to cook their Christmas dinner and into the New Year and finally, gift cards of £10 for parents to choose a present for their children from Argos, Wilkos, Superdrug, Boots or TK Maxx. To make a donation directly, please visit our Foodbank website at <https://epsomewell.foodbank.org.uk>

Thank you so much for continued support, generosity and kindness.

CAFOD World Gifts:

As we rejoice in once again celebrating Christmas with our loved ones, let us spread our joy around the world by having a CAFOD World Gift under the tree. From energy saving stoves to weatherproof crops to emergency shelters, CAFOD's virtual charity gifts help transform the lives of families living in poverty. Buy online at cafod.org.uk/worldgifts or pick up a catalogue sent to your parish. You can also order by phone: 0808 14 000 14.

Ministry of Consolation: Do you have a good ear for listening? Are you able to support people who are going through a difficult time? Do you feel you are able to journey with those who are experiencing the loss of someone important in their life?

If the answer is yes to these questions, you might be interested in joining the Diocesan Ministry of Consolation team of Bereavement Befrienders?

We will be running a training course on each Wednesday through January and February 2022 to prepare you for this Ministry. You will need to attend all the training days to be commissioned and each day will run from 10.00 am to 1.30 via Zoom. If you would like to find out more details, please email [si-mon.south@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk) for more information.

FINDING STILLNESS

The Open Cloister @ Worth Abbey

A hybrid retreat where you are invited to come to Worth or join the retreat online. A section of the retreat is silent.

Mon 13th-Thurs 16th December 2021

For further information or to book a place online go to: worth.co.uk/retreat-programme Enquiries: retreats@worth.org.uk

PARISH OPENING HOURS
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY
8.30A.M. – 2.30P.M.
THURSDAY
8.30A.M. – 12.30P.M.

HCPT Group 24

HCPT Group 24 will be selling raffle tickets at all Masses over the weekend of 18 and 19 December.

MASKS

The Creative Ladies due to popular demand are making masks again! Christmas ones, pretty ones, plain ones in two different styles for ladies, gentlemen and children. Still only £5.

Remember all the proceeds go to Faith in Action. Thank you.

Please contact Mary on 01737 932 164 or email creativeladies.stjosephs@gmail.com

Special collections

We are currently collecting for the following special collections:

Flower Fund (for Christmas flowers) – Parish Gift Aid applies

Retired Priests Fund – Parish Gift Aid applies

Arundel Cathedral Maintenance Fund – Parish Gift Aid applies

National Catholic Fund (to offset our levy) – Parish Gift Aid does not apply

You can contribute to these special collections in one of the following ways:

1. Bank transfer to Parish bank account (Account name: RCD A&B St Joseph's Epsom; sort code: 40-05- 20; account number: 71076221). Your bank reference should be the name of the collection
2. Hand your donation in at church
3. Select the relevant option from the menu on one of our two contactless giving devices (located on the wall outside the Parish Office and at the back of the church)

London SW Catholic Social Group is looking for People to help lead and organise events for 18 to 35s and over 60s. Please let us know if you are interested in participating or organising. Our main contact details are londonswcatholic-social@gmail.com and London SW Catholic Social Group on Facebook.

Contact Us:

Email: office@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk
Telephone: 01372 723573

HELP NEEDED – REQUEST ON BEHALF OF A PARISHIONER

We are looking for someone to visit our parents and take our Mum out for a walk near the house between 5 - 7 times a week. 1 to 2 hours per day paid would be ideal between the hours of 10.00a.m. – 4.00p.m.

They could be taken out in your car if you are happy to do this too. You would need to be prepared to wear a mask if walking closer than 1 metre or a visor.

Is this something you could help with If, so, then please contact the Parish Office with your details. Thank you

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Christmas Day offertory is in support of our priests, who do not receive a salary and so rely on your generosity. It is eligible for gift aid.

Ways to give:

- By bank transfer, including “Christmas” in your bank reference. (email accounts@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk for bank details)
- By gift aid envelope. Please use a gift aid envelope, available in the church entrance, if you are a standing order giver. (Note: your regular standing order does not go to Christmas offertory)
- By using the contactless machines in the Church
- By placing your donation in the Christmas Day bag collection. Small white envelopes are available to use if you so wish, and if you are not a gift aider.

MASS INTENTIONS

I know that many of you have requested Mass Intentions over the last few months and are still awaiting confirmation of dates. There is currently a backlog of Masses and we are now booking Masses in for February 2022.

If you do wish to have a Mass said on a specific date, then please do book well in advance so as not to be disappointed.

Assistant Premises Manager Vacancy

The Trustees of St John's Seminary, Wonersh, Guildford (GU5 0QX) are looking to appoint, as soon as possible, a suitable person to assist the Premises Manager in all that is required to maintain, secure and prepare the building for its closure and sale.

This is a fixed-term position, which will run up until December 2022, and attracts a salary of up to £25,000 per annum for a 37.5 hour working week, spread over 5 days – including some weekend work and some on-call availability. Single occupancy accommodation is provided for the better performance of duties.

The closing date for applications is Monday 20 December 2021. Interviews will take place on Monday 10 January 2022. Please email CV, plus details of two referees, to Monsignor Gerald Ewing – Rector, at rector@wonersh.org from whom further details are available. (Strictly no agencies please).