

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

14 NOVEMBER 2021

Fr Bill's Update

You may have seen through social media sources that a tribute page has now been opened for Sr Margarite. It includes a photo taken of her at St Joseph's on the occasion of a First Holy Communion and, under the "Life" tab, a summary of her life. You are encouraged to visit the site <https://www.forevermissed.com/srmar-garitewindle/about> and to add your tribute and perhaps describe how she benefitted and influenced your life. There is also the option to add up to four further photos."

This seems an opportune moment to remind you of the funeral arrangements that have been put in place for Sr Margarite. Her body will be received into the Church at 3.00p.m. on Tuesday 16 November and there will be a Mass later that evening at 7.00p.m. to which you are all invited. We have not taken bookings for this Mass so please do arrive in good time to ensure you get a seat. Sr Margarite's Requiem Mass will take place at 11.00a.m. on Wednesday 17 November if you wish to attend.

I am also now in a position to let you know of the arrangements that have been agreed to mark Fr Ruslan's departure to St Erconwald's in Walton-on-Thames as Parish Priest. His departure will be marked at the Sunday 5.30p.m. Mass on 5 December. Again, we will not be asking Parishioners to book seats to attend this Mass so if you wish to attend, please do arrive early in order to secure a seat. If anyone would like to make a contribution to his farewell please either use the contactless machine, make a bank transfer or use the buckets.

Please do keep the Parish Team and especially Sr Fionnuala in your prayers during the coming week – I know it will be a difficult time for those Parishioners who enjoyed close contact with Sr Margarite.

God Bless Fr Bill



**SUNDAY 14 NOVEMBER
THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

As the Church's year draws to a close, the readings this Sunday speak both of endings and eternal beginnings. All of them offer hope and direction to communities living in the midst of turbulent change and uncertainty.

The Prophet Daniel in the First Reading offers hope of resurrection to a people facing persecution for their faith.

The Psalm is a song of confidence in God as a refuge and shelter. It would have been sung and prayed by those facing sickness and death, and by their loved ones. These comforting words speak of a joyful life when we keep close to the Lord, even in the midst of our difficulties.

In the Second Reading, the early Christian community is taught that there is no longer a need for the ancient priestly practice of offering sacrifices for the forgiveness of sin. Christ is our one Eternal Priest and offers us a life of forgiveness and freedom from the burden of sin.

Jesus is preparing his disciples for a time of loss, tribulation, change, and ultimately the new life of Resurrection (Gospel). Although dramatic change will soon fall upon him and the disciples, Jesus's teaching also reminds us that it is the nature of our world always to be facing moments of death and resurrection. The eternal words of Jesus will never pass away, and these are our comfort and refuge for the uncertain times we live through now.

This week, let us pray for each other, that we will forever keep the Lord in our sight. May we be living signs of Christ's love and forgiveness in our world, and may we face these challenging times with confidence.

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 13 Nov	5.30pm	As per Book of Remembrance
Sun 14 Nov	Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	10.30am	As Per Book of Remembrance
	5.30pm	As Per Book of Remembrance
Mon 15 Nov	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Tue 16 Nov	10.00am 7.00pm	As per Book of Remembrance Vigil Mass for Sr Margarite
Wed 17 Nov	11.00am	Requiem Mass for Sr Margarite
Thu 18 Nov	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Fri 19 Nov	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Sat 20 Nov	5.30pm	As per Book of Remembrance
Sun 21 Nov	Christ the King	
	10.30am	As per Book of Remembrance
	5.30pm	As per Book of Remembrance

Our Prayers are asked for all those who are ill: Halyna, Frances Walsh, Merlyn Soares, Anne Schifano, Peter Galipeau, Emma Lee, Ian Watts, Steve Lee, Jeffrey Forage, Melitona Leander, Vanessa Tuff, Susan McCrory, Anita Hully, Halina Krajewski, Kiera, Joseph Poku, Angela Brett, Maureen Hall, Bob and Maria Adams, Kay Pledge, Eddie Bell, John and Jean Childs.

RECENTLY DECEASED
Please for Maureen Hall's who has recently passed away. Please also keep her family in your prayers.

NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

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.

MASS FOR THE BEREAVED
SATURDAY 4 DECEMBER – 11.00A.M.

Due to the pandemic restrictions, we were unable to hold our usual Mass for all those who are bereaved last November. However, with the easing of restrictions, everyone is warmly invited to join us for a special Bereavement Mass to be held on Saturday 4 December at 11.00a.m. Please come along for refreshments afterwards in the Canon Christall Hall.

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*

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

The Bereavement Group will meet again on **Tuesday 30 November, please note the change of day**, in the Lady Chapel, after morning Mass at 10.30 a.m.

Do come along and join us if you are bereaved, especially if you have lost a loved one during the pandemic. Meetings are very informal and give parishioners the opportunity to share their experiences, or just to sit quietly and reflect. There will be no meeting in December.

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.

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 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 8th-Thurs 11th November 2021
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.

The next CTiE Council meeting will be at 19:30 on Tuesday, 23 November at St Barnabas Church, KT19 8HA. Refreshments at 7.30 pm. Meeting starts 7.50. All who worship at a CTiE member church are warmly invited to attend and contribute to discussions. To read the Meeting Agenda, go to: <https://ctie.org.uk/index.php/about/ctie-council>

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
The Parish Sisters: 01372 745297

Experience the Christmas story in a new way.

Walk with Mary, Joseph and the donkey on the winding, steep road to Bethlehem. The Nativity Journey is an unforgettable experience, bringing the true meaning of Christmas to life for the whole family. Book your tickets to one of our sell-out 90-minute performances and enrich your experience of Christmas forever.

Please note that some scenes are performed outside and some inside Holly Barn Theatre, your visit includes a 10 minute walk up a steep hill. Limited disabled parking is available for those who need it most next to Holly Barn Theatre but those parking there will miss the first scene. This must be prebooked by emailing admin@winter-shall.org.uk. Should a performance be cancelled due to covid we will offer refunds or credits to another event.

Pooh Corner, the playgroup at St Joseph's, is looking for more volunteers.

Can you spare some time on a Monday morning between 9 and 11.30? Or do you have a toddler and want to get involved with helping out?

We are a very, very small team of 2 currently and we really need more help to keep our lovely friendly group running. Please come along on Monday and speak to Clare or Caroline, or contact us via the Facebook page Pooh Corner- Toddler Group at St Joseph's Catholic Church in Epsom or at poohcornerplaygroup@gmail.com

GIFT AID STATEMENTS

Your GiftAid tax statements are now ready for collection at the church. If you are unable to collect in person, please email the office at giftaid@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk and we will post it to you.

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.

Young Adults' (18-30's) Advent Retreat: 3-5 December

It is a Christian tradition to use the four weeks leading up to Christmas to prepare oneself for the celebration of Jesus' birth. This weekend retreat will provide an opportunity to start your preparations for the Advent season, including talks, small group discussions, opportunities for reflection and prayer. All this revolving around the rhythm of prayer of the Benedictine community of Worth Abbey. This retreat is offered by The Open Cloister, Worth Abbey in collaboration with The Wellspring Community, Brighton.

For more information visit www.worth.co.uk/retreats or contact our youth adviser lizzie.wakeling@abdio-cese.org.uk