

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

19 DECEMBER 2021

Fr Bill's Update

Following Canon Bill's introduction to the Synod last week, he has asked me to coordinate the work of our parish as we actively and openly participate in it. Some parishioners have already engaged fully with questions that the Synod raises; others will only now be hearing about the Synod for the first time.

All members of the early Church would often come together to talk about issues. They would listen carefully to each other to work out what God wanted them to do. As the Church grew, different ways were found to make decisions. Pope Francis now wants us to return to the way the early Church worked. He recognises that every voice matters.

Here at St Joseph's, we want everyone to be involved in the Synod. During January we will organise online groups, work with the school community, and provide support for family groups and individuals. Covid restrictions permitting, we will also arrange an event in the church hall on Saturday 29th January. We will be sharing our views with Bishop Richard at the beginning of February.

Canon Bill helpfully suggested that we use the Christmas period to start the process by talking together informally. Consider questions such as 'How can we live more meaningfully as Christians in the world today?'. In January, we'll publish more details about how you can share your thoughts with others and listen to what they have to say.

The parish website now has a section dedicated to the Synod at st-josephs-epsom.org.uk/synod2021.php. This contains more information about the Synod and what we are doing, including downloadable resources. It will be updated regularly.

We are now looking for people to lead small groups through the process. We will provide full training and support for these group leaders. If you can help us in this way, or have any comments, suggestions or questions about the Synod, please contact me using the email address below.

Let's journey together over the next few weeks as we become a Synodal people.

Chris Donovan



**SUNDAY 19 DECEMBER
2021
FOURTH SUNDAY OF
ADVENT**

Christ is coming! The readings this weekend are full of an expectation. God's promise through Micah is fulfilled in the encounter between Mary and Elizabeth, and their faith.

In the First Reading, (*Micah 5:1-4*) Micah proclaims that the Messiah will come from Bethlehem and lead his flock back to their land in peace.

The Psalm (*Psalm 79*) is a plea to the Shepherd of Israel for this return, and for the sending of the Messiah, the chosen one.

The Second Reading (*Hebrews 10: 5-10*) from the Letter to the Hebrews emphasizes the fact that the Christ who redeemed us took on a human body, like ours.

The Gospel (*Luke 1: 39-44*) helps us gather all these themes: obedience to God's will; faith in his promises; and especially faith in the Incarnation – Jesus our Saviour, already becoming flesh in Mary's womb. May we journey through these last days of Advent in Mary's company, so that Christ may be born in us.

OPENING PRAYER

Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord,
your grace into our hearts,
that we, to whom the Incarnation of Christ
your Son
was made known by the message of an Angel,
may by his Passion and Cross
be brought to the glory of his Resurrection.

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 18 Dec	5.30pm	Bridget Scott RIP
Sun 19 Dec	<i>Fourth Sunday of Advent 'O Radix Jesse'</i>	
	10.30am	Achilles Fernando RIP
	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Mon 20 Dec	10.00am	Lottie and William Walter RIP John Flanagan RIP
Tue 21 Dec	10.00am	Bob Hunter RIP
Wed 22 Dec	10.00am	Lourdes Basallage RIP Primitive Gaspar RIP
Thu 23 Dec	10.00am	Lucena Gaspar RIP
Fri 24 Dec	3.00pm 5.30pm 8.00pm	People of the Parish Thomas and Noel Lee RIP Mansoor Bholah and Rex and Pat Truscott RIP
Sat 25 Dec	<i>Solemnity of the Nativity of The Lord</i>	
	8.30pm	Eufricina Gaspar RIP
	10.30am	Carmelo Schifano RIP and the Schifano Family
Sun 26 Dec	<i>Feast of The Holy Family</i>	
	10.00am	Achilles Fernando RIP

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, Bob and Maria Adams, Kay Pledge, John and Jean Childs.

RECENTLY DECEASED
Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of John Fulford who has recently passed away. Please also keep his family in your prayers.

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.

CHRISTMAS WISHES

This Christmas we would like to invite all children (and adults!) to write a Christmas wish and hang it on our Christmas tree inside the church. This could be a little activity to do as a family and reflect on what is important to you this Christmas. Simply cut out paper in the shape of a bauble, gift or snowflake, decorate one side if you like and write your Christmas wish on the other. Make a hole and thread with string ready for hanging. Feel free to bring them along to the Church at any time.

At the 3pm Christmas Eve Mass, children will be invited by Church Stewards to hang the wishes before the Mass begins so please do come along early to allow time to hang these one at a time.

For ease, there is a box at the Church entrance with pre-prepared baubles to write on. Please use hand sanitizer before and after.

FOODBANK UPDATE

We are so grateful for all your support throughout advent and this entire year. Every donation makes a difference! This week there is a long list of urgently needed items. These would be really appreciated. The Foodbank will be closed for donations between 23 December and 4 January. The donations in our Church boxes will be taken to the Foodbank on 22 December prior to Christmas. Wishing you and your families a safe and merry Christmas.

- Toilet rolls
- UHT milk (full fat and semi-skimmed only please)
- Longlife fruit juice
- Gravy granules/stock cubes/stock pots
- Longlife sponge puddings
- Tea bags
- Instant mash
- Custard
- Adult Toothpaste
- Hair conditioner
- Sanitary pads
- Dried pasta and sauce
- Packet soup
- Nappies and pulls ups 4+ and 6+

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.

Thank you from Fr Ruslan

'Firstly, I would like to thank all those Parishioners who joined me for my Farewell Mass on 5 December and to those who joined me afterwards for refreshments in the Hall.

It was my pleasure to spend 10 years with you all at St Joseph's and I will not forget the kindness, support and especially the friendships that I formed at St Joseph's, some of which I hope will continue even though I have moved on. I especially want to thank Fr Bill for being a mentor and a friend and for all the spiritual guidance he gave me during my time at St Joseph's.

Thank you also for your very generous donations and gifts – they are much appreciated. And finally, if you are in the Walton area, don't forget to pop in and say hello!

SR MARGARITE AND SR FIONNUALA

The Family of Sr Margarite have expressed their gratitude for all that St Joseph's Parishioners did for Sr Margarite during her final illness and especially to all the staff who looked after her at Epsom Hospital. A Mass has been offered for their intentions. This is the end of an era here in Epsom and the Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary will not be replaced – we owe a great debt of gratitude for all their good works in the Parish these past 30 years.

Some of you may know that Sr Fionnuala has now left Epsom and has returned to a retirement home in her native Ireland to be near her family – she has settled in well in her new surroundings and is sorry that she was unable to thank all of those she had close contact with before leaving. Please keep her in your prayers. If you have any messages that you would like to have forwarded to Sr Fionnuala, then please drop them into the Parish Office and we will arrange to send them on to her.

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.

THE CREATIVE LADIES

The Creative Ladies would like to thank all Parishioners who kindly supported their Sale last weekend. They raised £601 so with their other sales throughout the year they have been able to give £1,500 to Faith in Action to be divided between the causes in Zambia and Peru.

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.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION FORMS

A reminder to Parents that all Supplementary Information Forms which have been handed into the Parish Office have been signed and are now ready for collection from the Parish Office.

As the Parish Office may not be operating normal office hours during Christmas, please do call the office first to make sure that there will be someone there to give you your form.

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.

AFGHANISTAN CRISIS APPEAL

CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. In Afghanistan, 8 million people are on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID. CAFOD is supporting sister Caritas agencies to reach communities most in need with food, clean water, and fuel. During Advent, when we open ourselves to the needs of others, let's do all that we can to save lives. You can donate on the CAFOD website: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.

Parish Facebook post:

CAFOD is combining with the DEC to launch the Afghanistan Crisis Appeal. Please donate to save lives: cafod.org.uk/AfghanistanAppeal and please pray for the people of Afghanistan.