

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

19 NOVEMBER 2023

CANON BILL'S UPDATE

“Do not turn your face away from anyone who is poor” (Tob 4:7)

The seventh annual World Day of the Poor takes place this Sunday, hosted by the Dicastery for the Service of Charity. A lunch for the poor will be offered by Hilton Hotels in Italy and will take place in the Paul VI Hall in Rome. To mark the day, the Dicastery is offering free medical care to those in need through the Mother of Mercy Outpatient Clinic located in St Peter's Square, with 50 medical personnel, including doctors and nurses available. Pope Francis writes: "Our daily efforts to welcome the poor are still not enough. A great river of poverty is traversing our cities and swelling to the point of overflowing; it seems to overwhelm us, so great are the needs of our brothers and sisters who plead for our help, support, and solidarity. For this reason, on the Sunday before the Solemnity of Jesus Christ King of the Universe, we gather around His Table to receive from Him once more the gift and strength to live lives of poverty and to serve the poor..."

"Let us thank the Lord that so many men and women are devoted to caring for the poor and the excluded; they are persons of every age and social status who show understanding and readiness to assist the marginalised and those who suffer. They are not superheroes but "next door neighbours", ordinary people who quietly make themselves poor among the poor. They do more than give alms: they listen, they engage, they try to understand and deal with difficult situations and their causes. They consider not only material but also spiritual needs; and they work for the integral promotion of individuals. The Kingdom of God becomes present and visible in their generous and selfless service; like the seed that falls on good soil, it takes root in their lives and bears rich fruit (cf. Lk 8:4-15). Our gratitude to these many volunteers needs to find expression in prayer that their testimony will increasingly prove fruitful."

God Bless, Canon Bill



THIRTY THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER 2023

The readings in this final week of Ordinary Time, Year A, remind us again of the need to be always prepared for the coming of Christ by the way we live our lives.

In the First Reading (***Proverbs 31: 10-13, 19-20, 30-31***), the writer extols the virtues of the perfect wife. Although using language which reflects the practice and culture of biblical times, the passage speaks powerfully of the value and dignity of manual work, the importance of charity, and respect for all, whatever their role in life.

The Psalm (***Psalm 127***) speaks again of the dignity of work, of being self-sufficient, providing for one's family, and living in awe of the Lord.

St Paul reminds us in the Second Reading (***1 Thessalonians 5: 1-6***) that if we live our lives in the light of Christ, we have no need to fear the coming of the reign of God.

In the Gospel (***Matthew 25: 14-30***), Jesus uses the parable of the talents to show the importance of making best use of what we have been given for the benefit of others.

This week, we might pray for those who struggle to realise where their own talents lie, and those who lack the opportunity to be recognised, valued and celebrated. We also continue to pray for peace across the world.

Opening Prayer

Grant us we pray, O Lord our God,
the constant gladness of being devoted to you,
for it is full of lasting happiness to serve
with constancy the author of all that is good.

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 18 Nov	10.00am 5.30pm	As per Book of Remembrance As per Book of Remembrance
Sun 19 Nov	Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	10.30am 5.30pm	As per Book of Remembrance As per Book of Remembrance
Mon 20 Nov	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Tue 21 Nov	Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
	11.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Wed 22 Nov	Memoria of St Cecilia, Virgin, Martyr	
	10.00am	Funeral Mass for Carmine Grieco
Thur 23 Nov	10.00 am	As per Book of Remembrance
Fri 24 Nov	Memoria of St Andrew Dung-Lac, Priest, and Companions, Martyrs, and Martyrs of Vietnam	
	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Sat 25 Nov	10.00am 5.30pm	As per Book of Remembrance As per Book of Remembrance
Sun 26 Nov	Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King	
	10.30am 5.30pm	As per Book of Remembrance As per Book of Remembrance

Our Prayers are asked for all those who are ill:

Frances Walsh, Merlyn Soares, Ann Schifano, Emma Lee, Ian Watts, Steve Lee, Melitona Leander, Vanessa Tuff, Susan McCrory, Anita Hully, Joseph Poku, Angela Brett, Kay Pledge, Alan Lucas, Tom Makinson, Ethan Foley, Alice Nicolle, Jean Childs, Sue Brackenbury, Matty Horkan, Lorraine Corsini, Jimmy Ward and Family, Graham Bell and Baby Trevor Agius.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Jill Wilkins and John Holden. Please also keep their families in your prayers.

Come and enjoy the real **Christmas story** at **Wintershall** Walk with Mary, Joseph and the donkey on the winding, steep road to Bethlehem. Register for the census and journey with other travellers, Roman soldiers and shepherds as you enter the stable to watch the miracle unfold. The Wintershall Nativity Journey is an unforgettable experience, bringing the true meaning of Christmas to life for the whole family. Each performance lasts approximately 90 minutes. Please note that some scenes are performed outside and some inside Holly Barn theatre, your visit includes a 10minute walk up a steep hill. Limited disabled parking is available for those who need it most next to Holly Barn Theatre, but this must be pre-booked by emailing admin@wintershall.org.uk. Holly Barn, Bramley, Guildford GU5 0LR. Book tickets now on our website: www.wintershall.org.uk or call 01483 892167.

ST JOSEPH'S STATEMENT OF ASPIRATIONS
At St Joseph's, we **show God's love to the world**. This means that we:

- ✚ are a welcoming community, where all can explore, develop and deepen their faith;
- ✚ help everyone to discover how much they are loved by God;
- ✚ participate in spiritually enriching liturgies and celebrate sacraments as signs of God's love for us;
- ✚ empower people to use their individual talents and skills for the service of others;
- ✚ put the Gospel into practical, loving action by reaching out to help others, especially the poor and disadvantaged in the local community and beyond.

Short term temporary accommodation needed
47year old female, working from home, needs temporary accommodation in Epsom from November to 10th January 2024. Can pay up to £950 per month. Please contact 07515 931367.

Elderly lady living in Stoneleigh wants help to clean her house, 2 hours a week. For more information, please call Anne on 0208 393 6907

If you, or someone you know is struggling and would appreciate some help or just someone to talk to in confidence, please call Celia Flood on 07767 870035. or Terrv Cruise on 07788 454774.

BAPTISMS AT ST JOSEPH'S



We very much look forward to meeting new parents and explaining our Baptism preparation which includes regular attendance at Mass prior to joining classes. You will find one of us (Baptism Catechists') near the font after 10:30 Mass on Sundays. Do come and say hello.

**Car Parking on the Access Road to the Church
Sunday 10.30a.m. Mass**

In order to maintain good relations with our neighbours, I would like to remind Parishioners that you should not be parking on the access road to the Church when arriving for Sunday morning 10.30a.m. Mass. If you cannot park in the Car Park on a Sunday morning, please park on St Margaret Drive and St Elizabeth Drive where parking restrictions do not apply on Sunday morning.

Parish Finances and Offertory

CHURCH OFFERTORY

Ways for you to contribute are as follows:

- **standing order:** this is our preferred method. Please set up your standing order directly with your bank, using the following details (this is a business account) - account name **RCD A&B St Joseph 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).
- **contactless devices:** these are located in the narthex and in the church (beside the hymn books). Simply choose "Church offertory" from the list on the screen, and please select the option to add gift aid if you are a tax payer. (Note: these devices can also be used for special collections)
- **gift aid envelope scheme:** please place your envelope in the collection bags
- **loose cash:** please place in the collection bags.

Thank you for your support.

CHRISTMAS YOUTH CELEBRATION

A shout out to all secondary school, college and Uni students...we'd like to invite you to a Christmas Youth Celebration at St Joseph's Church on Saturday 23rd December from 7pm.

This gathering is aimed just for you and please bring along your friends. Everyone is invited no matter where they live, which school they go to and what their beliefs are.

Drinks, snacks and plenty of fun-filled options to choose from too, will follow in the Hall and a place to hang out with your friends for the evening.

If you'd like to take part in the preparations, share your ideas or have any questions please do get in touch with either May (07970 230246) or Rachel (07899 902051).

The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP) climate change conference will take place in Dubai between 30 November and 12 December this year.

As Pope Francis explained in his recent apostolic exhortation *Laudate Deum*, "the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing breaking point". Global temperatures continue to rise, and instances of extreme weather are becoming more frequent and more destructive.

Those who are most affected by climate change, and upon whom the impact is greatest, are poor, marginalised communities in the Global South. As the Holy Father made clear, we are not acting quickly enough, nor strongly enough, when it comes to addressing climate change.

Inspired by the need to respond to such issues, Jesuit Missions is running a campaign, in collaboration with the [Jesuit European Social Centre](#) and the [Jesuit Centre for Faith & Justice](#), throughout COP28. To access daily prayers, updates from COP28, regular blog posts, specialist tools for schools and parishes, and a dedicated podcast series. Please visit the Jesuits' Justice at COP28 website and find out more.

HELP WITH WEEDING

If you have green fingers and are able to commit to a few hours a week to help with keeping the weeds at bay around the Church, then please do email the Parish Office.

There will be a Second Collection next weekend for the maintenance of Arundel Cathedral.

A new sponsor is urgently required for a Ukrainian lady in her early 40's. She speaks excellent English and has a strong faith.

If you feel you can help or would like to find out more about being a sponsor, please contact the Parish Office and they will forward your details onto those concerned.

Mary's Meals wants to collect all your foreign currency and turn it into cash to feed hungry children in the 18 countries it works in. You will find envelopes in the Narthex., please take one when you leave and put all your foreign coins and notes into it. Then pop your envelope into the Parish Office when it suits you. Mary's Meals feeds children for only 10p per meal so a little goes a long way. Thank you for your support. They also take UK coins/notes that aren't legal tender.

ADVENT GROUPS

ONLINE:

Invited (Season 3) is a series of 4 films supplied by our Diocese. Zoom groups will meet from 7pm – 8.30pm on Thursday 30 November and Thursdays 7, 14 and 21 December.

To join a group please email: formation@abdiocese.org.uk

IN PERSON:

Come and join us for tea and cake as we watch and discuss *Belong and Believe*. This 5 session course by Catholic Faith Exploration (café) is inspired by Celtic spirituality and explores themes such as: welcoming communities, growing in faith and renewal in the Holy Spirit. We will meet at 7.30pm in the Chatterton Room on the following Mondays: 20 November, 27 November, 4 December, 11 December and 18 December.

If you would like to come, please email: mary@marygortondesign.co.uk so we know how much cake to provide!

Churches Together in Epsom will run an Outreach Stall 10am-12.30pm, on Saturday 2 December, outside the Town Centre Metro Bank, inviting passers-by to Advent and Christmas events at our local churches. We will distribute a CTiE Christmas Greetings Card with a QR code link to the CTiE website, which contains details of all Epsom Advent and Christmas services and events. We will share the Christmas message through conversations, literature and goody bags with nativity-based crafts for children and families. There will be a quiet area for prayer ministry. Church fliers with Christmas services and events will be displayed. If you are able to offer 30 minutes helping at this event, this would be greatly appreciated. Please email Jane at: chair@ctie.org.uk.

NATIVITY SCENE COMPETITION

Join us during advent 9-17th December in a nativity scene competition. This year we celebrate 800 years since St Francis of Assisi created the first Nativity display in Greccio, Italy. We would like to commemorate this by encouraging people to get creative and make their own nativity scene to display in the Church. People will be invited to vote on their favourite at £1 a vote and money raised will be donated to our Parish charities Faith in Action. For more information contact Kathy Maskens at kathymaskens@hotmail.com.

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 write their names in the book. You will find Holy Souls envelopes beside the book for your donations. If you have any queries, please contact the Parish Office.

Advent Lectio Divina, 28 November, 5, 12 & 19 December, 2pm-3pm at [The House of Prayer](#), East Molesey (donations welcome). An opportunity to join a small group led by Helen Healy, a spiritual director and a member of the Lay Community of St Benedict, meeting at the House of Prayer. Lectio Divina is divine reading, listening to Scripture with the ear of the heart with a short passage of scripture read slowly and meditatively. Visit the website to find out more.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Christmas Cards are now available to buy in the Repository, which is open after all weekend Masses. Please do take a look!

Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word – Saturday 20 January 2024

Bishop Richard will lead a day of reflection and formation for Ministers of the Word at Sacred Heart Church, Cobham, 11-4pm. Including Lectio Divina and Mass, plus talks on Sacred Scripture, the Liturgy of the Word, the Lectionary, and practical aspects of the ministry. Please register using the link W: [Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word \(20-Jan-](#)

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

Contact Us: Email: epsom@abdiocese.org.uk
Telephone: 01372 723573

BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ

The Bereavement Cafe will be open again on Monday 27th November. We meet in the Fr. Chatterton Room at 10-30 a.m. All welcome. Please bring a friend or family member.

Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist – Saturday 10 February 2024

Bishop Richard will lead a day of reflection and formation for Ministers of the Eucharist at St Michael's, High Salvington, Worthing 11-4pm. The day will include theological and practical talks, Eucharistic Adoration and mass. Please register using the link W: [Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist \(10-Feb-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

Advent Carol Service at St Augustine's Abbey, Guildford GU4 8QR on 10 December at 3.30 pm.

Enjoy Advent Carols, Scripture Readings, Gregorian Chant by the Monks, Poetry and Solo Organ Pieces followed by Mulled Wine and refreshments after the service. All are welcome.

Churches Together in Epsom: Council Meeting

You are warmly invited to attend and contribute to the CTiE Council meeting at 7:55pm on Tuesday 21 November 2023, to be held at St Martin's Church, Church Street, Epsom KT17 4PX. Refreshments from 7:30pm. Visit the website for the Agenda.

We currently have a diocesan vacancy, please could you promote this job in your newsletter W: [P/T Education Officer - Admissions and Place Planning | Careers \(abdiocese.org.uk\)](#)

FOODBANK UPDATE

What a wonderful community!! Between both St Joseph's School and Church, our harvest collection came to a staggering 257 kilos! These donations mean that meals can be made and eaten by those in need within our wider community. Thank you for your unstinting support for the Foodbank.

Unfortunately, demand is still high and we now feed over 700 people each month (September was 705, August was 777). Below is a list of items we are very low on.

Long Life Sponge Puddings, UHT milk full fat and semi-skimmed, Powdered Milk, Tinned Vegetables, Long Life Juice, Squash, Packet Soup, Instant Mash, Marmalade, Chocolate Spread, Toilet Rolls