

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

19 SEPTEMBER 2021

Fr Bill's Update

Greetings to you all from my continued convalescence learning to walk albeit still with the aid of crutches. It is a great help being here where everything is on the level and being out in the sunshine is a tonic in itself. I'm not sure if these glorious days will be the last of the summer wine but I shall make the most of it.

Of course, I'm still in touch with all that is happening in the Parish and it is reassuring to know that our St Joseph's parish is very well set up to function without me being there in such a time as this. When the Sisters and myself arrived some thirty years ago and established the 'Parish Team', we set as our goal the task which was to make ourselves redundant. Well not entirely, but rather to enable Parishioners to fully realise their potential in fulfilling their Baptismal promises and take their rightful place serving the community. Over the years, so many Parishioners have been exemplary in their generosity of service which I am pleased to say continues to this day, making it so much easier for me to take this time and have my hip replaced.

I am keeping you all in my prayers and I am most grateful for all that you do keeping our St Joseph's family together, a place of warmth and welcome.

We are really fortunate to be able to host three First Holy Communion Masses over the weekend of 2 and 3 October. The Mass on Sunday 3 October is at 10.30a.m., so it will be very busy. If you usually attend this Mass, you might like to consider attending the Saturday Vigil Mass at 5.30p.m or the Sunday 5.30p.m. Mass. If you do still wish to attend the Sunday 10.30a.m. Mass and are not part of a First Holy Communion Family, group, we will be offering limited reserved seats on a first come, first served basis – please email the Parish Office to book a seat.

Canon Bill



**SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER
TWENTY FIFTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

Our readings this Sunday speak about wisdom, but from different perspectives.

We can see the First Reading (**Wisdom 2: 12,17-20**) as a prophecy of the Lord's Passion, where the 'godless' regard with contempt those who listen to and follow God's voice, condemning them to cruel death.

The Psalm (**Psalms 53**) also speaks of those who have no regard for God. Seeking God's protection from surrounding threats, the psalmist prays with certainty: 'I have God for my help. The Lord upholds my life.'

The Second Reading (**James 3: 16-4:3**) points out that jealousy and ambition cause division and rivalry, in contrast to the wisdom that comes from above. Such wisdom, which desires humility and not glory, brings us to peace with ourselves and can be attained through prayer. It is 'essentially something pure ... is kindly and considerate; it is full of compassion and shows itself by doing good.'

Jesus predicts his own death and resurrection to the disciples, who fail to understand what this means (Gospel (**Mark 9:30-37**)). They have been arguing which of them is the greatest, but Jesus teaches them that true greatness lies in being the servant or slave of all, especially the weak and the helpless, symbolized by the child he embraces and places in their midst. By welcoming and serving the 'little children' we are welcoming God.

Let's ask this week for the wisdom to see Christ in all the 'little children; we encounter, and pray for a spirit of humanity and peace.

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 18 Sept	5.30pm	Rosario Evasco RIP
Sun 19 Sept	Twenty Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	10.30am	Giuseppe Lombardo RIP
	5.30pm	Bob and Maria Adams' Well-Being
Mon 20 Sept	Memoria St Andrew Kim Taegon, Priest, Paul Chong Hasang and Companions, Martyrs of Korea	
	10.00am	Andrew McBride RIP
Tue 21 Sept	Feast of St Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist	
	10.00am	Ned and Nellie Kelly RIP
Wed 22 Sept	10.00am	Kathleen O'Halloran RIP
Thu 23 Sept	10.00am	Special Intention
Fri 24 Sept	Memoria of Our Lady of Walsingham	
	10.00am	NO MASS
Sat 25 Sept	5.30pm	Pat and Josie Morey RIP
Sun 26 Sept	Twenty Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	10.30am	Marie Aoun RIP
	5.30pm	Mansoor Bholah 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.

Fr Ruslan's Induction as Parish Priest will take place on Wednesday 22 September at 7.00p.m. at St Erconwald's Roman Catholic Church, 22 Esher Avenue, Walton-on-Thames, KT12 2TA. Fr Ruslan has extended a warm invitation to Parishioners to join him next Wednesday.

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

Recently Deceased

Please pray for Maria Marriage, Mary Gallagher and Sheila Burgess who have recently passed away. Please keep their families in your prayers.

Beginning Experience Weekend

If you are single again following divorce, separation or the death of your partner, a residential weekend to help you to heal will be held from 8th to 10th October 2021 at the Sion Community, Brentwood, Essex. If you would like more details, please ring Freda 01322-838415 or Maura 07795-498445 or email besouthofengland@gmail.com.

IF YOU ARE THINKING OF BECOMING A CATHOLIC

Our new programme of RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is scheduled to begin on Wednesday 29th September. If you are not a Catholic, but have thought of becoming one, you might wish to consider joining, or finding out more about it.

The initial part of the programme (seven sessions) asks the question "Is the Catholic Faith for me?" The second part (again seven sessions), which takes place after Christmas, 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 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 the Parish Office or simply email david34edr@virginmedia.com for more information. You are not committing yourself to the course by making an enquiry!

A way to make YOUR voice heard at COP26

Hundreds of young Christians are on a pilgrimage which spans the length of the country. They set off immediately after the G7 summit and will reach Glasgow in time for COP26, taking this opportunity to call on world leaders to address the climate crisis.

In support of the relay, Christian Aid are calling on people to make prayer boats and send them to COP

We are building a fleet of prayer boats that will set sail for climate justice and cannot be ignored by world boats that will set sail for climate justice and cannot be ignored by world leaders.

Send your boat to COP26 - Thousands of boats from across the country will come together in a special installation at COP26 to deliver your prayers and messages written on the boat - to world leaders.

- To add your boat, send it to PO Box 100, London SE1 7RT. Please ensure your boats arrive by **October 15** to be part of the fleet.

Your prayer boats will join with thousands of others in Glasgow and help us make sure decision makers cannot ignore our calls for action.

Parish Finances and Offertory

Your offertory donations continue to be vital if we are to achieve break-even in 2021.

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.

Afghanistan Refugee Crisis

Due to the overwhelming generosity of our community and also the communities in the northern regions of England we no longer need donations for Afghan refugees.

Thank you so much to all those who have donated items. Let's pray that they feel welcome and safe in our country and the relatives they have left behind will be able to lead full and peaceful lives in Afghanistan.

If you would like further information about ERN please check out our website <https://epsomrefugeenet-work.org/>. Let us pray that peace will come to Afghanistan and in the meantime, we make refugees feel most welcome in our country.

Day for Catechists Saturday 25 September, Worth Abbey. A gathering of Catechists from around the Diocese, to share our experiences and offer support and resources. The day ends with mass with Bishop Richard. To book, please contact ruth.gerun@abdiocese.org.uk

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

The Bereavement Group will meet again on Wednesday 29th September, 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. You are assured of a warm welcome.

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.

Redundant iPads and Laptops are desperately needed by the Gatwick Detainees' Welfare Group. An IT company has agreed to 'clean' devices to remove any data. These devices can enable a person whether in detention or after release, to help themselves; to access classes for speakers of other languages, to communicate with friends, family, our staff, their volunteer visitor and to access resources such as Food Banks and to join our post detention services. Contact Josie at: josiwade@gdwg.org.uk. Thank you.

MASKS MASKS MASKS!!

Yes - the Creative Ladies are back in business! Now that we are emerging from Lockdown, the requirement to wear face coverings in Churches, shops, or on public transport is still with us. Some of your original masks may need replacement, or maybe you feel ready to diversify your wardrobe!

Please think of ordering from us. All the masks have three layers, including a filter, nose wires and are washable. And there are two styles to choose from, as shown below. We charge just £5 per mask and all the proceeds go to Faith in Action.

For more details and to place an order please contact either tommymakinson@gmail.com or creativeladies.stjosephs@gmail.com or phone **Mary on 01737 942164**



'London SW Catholic Social Group is a group for Catholic adults to meet for regular social and networking events in a friendly and relaxed setting with the aim of making new friends, enjoy new experiences or just to socialise. Upcoming events include walks, a karaoke evening and a Christmas meal; our monthly socials will restart in October. We can be found on Facebook – 'London SW Catholic Social Group' or on email - londonswcatholic-social@gmail.com '

Contact Us:

Email: office@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk
Telephone: 01372 723573
The Parish Sisters: 01372 745297

FOODBANK UPDATE

Thank you so much for your continued generosity over the last month or so. Your donations have kept coming and we are continuing to support those families and individuals in need. Our clients are now coming to our centres again. We know that the six-week school break can be a long one for families that are financially struggling and can't always put food on the table. Your donations make the difference - thank you.

Our current list of items needed includes:

Urgent:

- Long-life sponge puddings
- Treats for kids - crisps, snacks, chocolate

Wanted:

- Powdered milk; Meat pies; Sugar (500g bags)
- Tinned vegetables; Rice; Tomato ketchup
- Mayonnaise; Peanut butter
- Shaving foam; Baby wash; Soap
- Kids toothbrushes; Washing up liquid
- Shampoo
- Washing powder & pods (bio and non-bio)

Accommodation urgently needed for a parent and 3 children in the parish. Ideally 2 bedrooms but one large room would suffice. Can pay a basic rent and looking at around 3months. This would enable children to keep school places and continue their lives in the area they love. For further information please contact Gill Walshaw

Marriage anniversaries Mass St Joseph's Church East Gate Gardens Guildford GU1 4AZ

Saturday 9th Oct 11.30am - 2.30pm

Are you celebrating an anniversary with a particular significance for you this year? Please join us for a wonderful opportunity to renew your wedding vows and revel in the joy that marriage can bring.

Bishop Richard will celebrate Mass at 11.30am, followed by a small reception. Family and friends are very welcome. Please click here to book your place or contact our Marriage and Family Life Adviser E: katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk