

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

20 FEBRUARY 2022

Canon Bill's Update

Bishop Richard has expressed his gratitude to all who participated in the recent Synod discussions. He is most pleased with the five hundred or so who took part throughout the diocese. As you may know, I was delighted with the hundred or so who joined in here at St Joseph's.

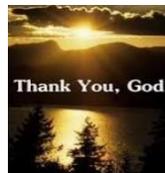
I would very much like to express my thanks to all who took the time to join in the Zoom meetings and to those who submitted their responses individually. The Bishop will be offering a Webinar on 9th March at 7.30pm on the Synod and I expect that he will be giving an overview of the Diocesan response. It is hoped that we will be able to join the Webinar here in the hall and if you would like to come along you are more than welcome to attend. For the purposes of preparing the hall it would be useful to have an idea of numbers if you could email the Parish Office. The Diocese will give more information on how to register in the near future.

The magnificent response from our Parish on the Synod is due in no small part to the organisational skills of Chris Donovan and I am very grateful to him for all his time and hard work in getting it all together with short notice. I would also like to thank Jonathan, Pia, Neil and John for animating the groups.

In many respects the Synod exercise has been timely in more ways than one as we are hopefully moving out of Covid-19 pandemic. The past two years have been difficult for everybody, and especially our Parishes. As you will have seen from Chris's synthesis of the discussions on the Synod, there will be an opportunity for new beginnings of growth for our Parish. More about this in the next instalment! In the meantime, we must batten down the hatches and let Eunice pass us by and without too much damage. Keep safe and keep well, and see you in Church.

May God bless you and your families.

Canon Bill



**SUNDAY 20 FEBRUARY
2022
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

Today's readings invite and challenge us to live generous, kind hearted lives of compassion, mercy and love.

In the First Reading (**1 Samuel 26: 2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23**), David, the future king of Israel, shows great magnanimity in sparing the life of his persecutor Saul. The dramatic incident in the camp highlights David's ingenuity and his sense of honour, and indicates that Saul's days as king of Israel are numbered.

These events prepare us for today's challenging Gospel (**Luke 6: 27-38**), where we hear Jesus urging us to show forgiveness even to our enemies, and to be 'compassionate as your Father is compassionate'. However, the last verses make it clear that the demands of the kingdom can only be understood in the light of our relationship with God.

St Paul teaches that though there is much of the 'earthly Adam' in all of us, our desire and yearning must be to live and love as did Jesus Christ – the 'heavenly Adam' (Second Reading – **1 Corinthians 15: 45-49**).

The Psalm (**Psalms 102**) is a song of praise and gratitude for the Lord's own compassion and love.

Given our 'earthbound' nature, we are all too aware that we cannot live out the teachings of Jesus without help! This week, I may like to pray for the grace to be open both to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and also to the life of the risen Lord working in, with and through me. We pray too, that our sisters and brothers everywhere may be open to God's compassion and love.

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 19 Feb	5.30pm	Mr and Mrs Mascarenhas RIP
Sun 20 Feb	Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Achilles Fernando RIP Deceased Members of the Whiteley Family
Mon 21 Feb	10.00am	Sergio Lopez RIP Hyland Family Intentions
Tue 22 Feb	Feast of The Chair of St Peter the Apostle	
	10.00am	Elaine Hyland RIP
Wed 23 Feb	10.00am	Theo Martin RIP Anthony O'Shea RIP
Thu 24 Feb	10.00am	Mary Byrne RIP
Fri 25 Feb	10.00am	Requiem Mass for Mario Barbato
Sat 26 Feb	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sun 27 Feb	Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Isabel Smith RIP Michael Connors RIP

PRAYER FOR THE SYNOD

We stand before You, Holy Spirit,
as we gather together in Your name.

With You alone to guide us,
make Yourself at home in our hearts;
Teach us the way we must go
and how we are to pursue it.

We are weak and sinful;
do not let us promote disorder.
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path
nor partiality influence our actions.

Let us find in You our unity
so that we may journey together to eternal life
and not stray from the way of truth
and what is right.

All this we ask of You,
who are at work in every place and time,
in the communion of the Father and the Son,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Bartimaeus Project 'Speak, Lord, your servant is listening' with Fr Stephen Dingley Tuesday, 1 March at 7.30pm, online & in person
The first in a series of engaging talks, delivered by Arundel & Brighton parish priests. To find out more and register please visit the [Bartimaeus Project](#)

Our Prayers are asked for all those who are ill:

Frances Walsh, Merlyn Soares, Anne Schifano, Peter Galipeau, Emma Lee, Ian Watts, Steve Lee, Melitona Leander, Vanessa Tuff, Susan McCrory, Francis McCrory, Anita Hully, Joseph Poku, Angela Brett, Bob and Maria Adams, Kay Pledge, Jean Childs, Anna Dubinina, Ann O'Brien and Jonathan Wilkins.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for Joseph Finn who has recently passed away. Please also keep his family in your prayers

Communion to the House Bound

Do you know a Parishioner who is house bound or in a care home and unable to get to Mass? Would they like to receive Holy Communion from a Eucharistic Minister in their home, on a regular basis? We believe there must be a number of previously regular mass goers who are now unable to leave the house who would like to receive Holy Communion. Please contact the Parish Office and let us know who they are so that we can arrange this.

BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ

Are you struggling with bereavement or loss? Would it help to talk to someone? We have bereavement supporters trained to listen, support and accompany people experiencing grief. Call Theresa Park on 07867 625291 or why not come along, or bring a friend/family member, and meet us at our regular monthly bereavement café. The next time we meet will be on **Monday 21 February at 10-30 a.m.** in the Lady Chapel. A warm welcome awaits you.

Good News - Tea and Coffee Mornings have resumed after the 10.30a.m. Mass!

We invite you to join us in the hall after the 10.30 Mass every Sunday. It's a chance to celebrate again the simple pleasure of meeting for a relaxed chat over a tea or coffee. We look forward to welcoming you all.

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.

ADoRE Online spiritual mini-retreat morning

February 25th 10.00a.m. – 13.00p.m. with Mass, Adoration, Reflections, Praise, Talk, Prayer and Discussion Theme. "Holy is your name" – we are called to be holy as God is holy.

Our special guest speaker is Kristina Cooper, former editor of Good News Catholic charismatic renewal magazine and now on the renewal team in Southwark Diocese. Please register for the Zoom Meeting in advance at bit.ly/ADOREFEB2022

PILGRIMAGE TO KNOCK SHRINE, IRELAND

Fully escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, celebrating the feast of St. Patrick. 14th March 2022. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight with 10kg hand luggage, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included. Lunches on days out. Wheel-chair accessible rooms. Single room supplement £100. Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com. Knock Pilgrimages is a member of the Travel Trust Association and is fully protected by ATOL T7613.

World Day of Prayer Friday 4th March at 10:30 a.m.

This year our celebration of the World Day of Prayer is at Christ Church, Christ Church Road, Epsom Common. The Theme, 'I know the plans I have for You' was written by women of England, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Representatives of all the Christian Churches in Epsom will participate in the service. Please come and support this annual ecumenical service which is for everyone. Refreshments will be served after the service.

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

MARMALADE

The Creative Ladies are busy again! Please, if you have any clean Bonne Maman jars, could you kindly bring them to Church and put them in the box in the Narthex. We will be selling in a few weeks' time. Thank you

SVP INVITE

The SVP are going to meet for coffee at Epsom Methodist Church at 11 o'clock on Monday 28th February. The intention is simply to meet for a chat in a relaxed atmosphere and we would like Parishioners to join us.

So, if you are in town at this time please come along, or come on down after 10.00a.m. Mass that morning. We look forward to seeing you!

CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY – LENT APPEAL

Every child should grow big and strong. Family Fast Day is Friday 11 March, a day when we eat simply and give generously to support mums around the world with expert training in growing and making healthy food. Your small act of love this Lent will make a big difference to many communities affected by extreme hunger and children suffering from malnutrition. You can donate at Church by using a CAFOD envelope or by visiting the CAFOD website (cafod.org.uk/lent)

New Beginnings

New Beginnings is for anyone suffering a divorce, separation or broken relationship. Its aim is to help people to come to terms with the past and make a fresh start in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. The group begins in person on Thursday, 24 February at 7.45 pm. It is free, lasts 10 weeks, and is open to everyone. For more information, or if you wish to come, please call Colin on 07855 245 619 or new.beginnings@blueyonder.co.uk www.saintpauls.co.uk/newbeginnings

FOODBANK UPDATE

We are so grateful to all of our wonderful supporters; every donation makes a difference! You have helped us to feed 595 people in January 2022, including 256 children. This week urgently needed items include:

- Chocolate spread; Long-life sponge puddings; Powdered milk;
- Adult toothbrushes; Female and Male deodorant; Hair conditioner;
- Baby wipes; Children's toothpaste 0-2 & 6+

We also need:

- Chocolate biscuit bars (penguin, club etc);
- Snack size chocolates for kids (freddo, buttons etc); Instant mash, Long-life fruit juice; Tinned potatoes; Spaghetti in sauce;
- Brown sauce; Pasta sauce; Dried pasta in sauce; custard; crisps for adults and children
- Dog food – wet and dry please
- Tea; Squash, Tampons.

Finally, with the increase in energy prices, we are also asking for donations of new hot water bottles. Boiling a kettle costs a lot less than heating one radiator. Food and fuel poverty are so closely related we know that many people need help. Thank you.

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Firstly, thank you to all of you who were able to support the Lourdes Pilgrimage Appeal Collection last weekend.

We are receiving several applications from Pilgrims who will require assistance to join this year's Lourdes Pilgrimage, but at this point we are short of Helpers, Nurses and Doctors to assist with their Pilgrimage.

If you are willing and able to join us, we would love to hear from you. The Pilgrimage Office is happy to answer any questions anyone has prior to applying.

The application form is available on our website: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes/home>

The Passage a Catholic Charity, working with people who are homeless, is holding a St David's Day concert on Thursday 3 March at 7.30 pm in Holy Trinity Church, Sloane Square with The London Welsh Male Voice Choir and soloist tenor Ryan Vaughan Davies. All tickets are £20. Please support the work of this excellent charity. Tickets at [passage.org.uk/st-davids-day-concert](https://www.passage.org.uk/st-davids-day-concert) or telephone 020 75921856

Contact Us:

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

ADoRE Confidential Prayer for Healing

ADoRE is offering confidential prayer for healing by telephone – please phone (not Text) 07579 824523 Monday to Friday 10.00a.m. – 4.00p.m. and leave ONLY name and number.

Experienced prayer ministers will pray with you confidentially for healing of physical, emotional and spiritual problems.

Are you using all your talents?

St Joseph's is recruiting readers for all the weekend masses to reduce the commitment on the current team of readers.

We are particularly keen to have some younger members of the congregation using their talents and taking part in the liturgy. Breeda Walsh, one of the current readers, has offered to spend time helping the new volunteer readers to prepare adequately for the task.

If you would like to answer this call, please let the office know ASAP by email, office@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk. Phone: 01372 723573 or drop a note into the office so that we can arrange a suitable time for all to prepare with Breeda and practice using the microphone. There will also be a printed set of guidelines to help you.

EXPLORER SCOUTS



Congratulations to Explorer Scout Sean Munro, age 15, who has won a place to represent St Joseph's Scouts in Korea at the World Scout Jamboree in the summer of 2023. He will be supported by the Scout Group but from now he will be fully engaged with a county-based development and fund-raising programme to prepare him for the trip of a lifetime.