

# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

## 24 OCTOBER 2021

### Fr Bill's Update

The year 2022 will be the 30th anniversary of the parish team.

The Parish Sisters and myself arrived here in the autumn of 1992 to work collaboratively with Parishioners on building up our parish community. At the same time, we were building on the good work carried out by many Priests and laity who preceded us. Our task was to carry the Parish forward with more emphasis on the work of evangelization especially among the young families encouraging all to fully realise their vocation in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As a Parish Team our goal was ultimately to ensure full participation of the laity in making this community a place of welcome, of prayer and of holiness. If we could achieve some of this, then we could say to each other that our task is complete and now we can take our rest.

Sisters Fionnuala, Margarite, Brendan and later Sister Roseanne wasted no time in immersing themselves with their different ministries here in the Parish. Their witness to religious life and prayer has enriched St Joseph's Parish more than words can say these past thirty years.

Time of course catches up with all of us, and Sisters Brendan and Roseanne have gone to their heavenly reward. Sisters Fionnuala and Margarite have retired from active ministry while continuing to be a spiritual presence in the Parish. Unfortunately, neither of them are enjoying the best of health. Currently Sister Margarite is seriously ill in Epsom Hospital. We owe them a great debt of gratitude for their unstinting ministry amongst us. The measure of our success as a Parish Team is not only in looking back at what has been achieved since those halcyon days of 1992 but on how St Joseph's going forward. Your prayers please for all of us and especially Sr Margarite at this time.

God bless you all and keep well. Canon Bill



**SUNDAY 24 OCTOBER  
THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**

The readings this week challenge us to reflect both on the ways we might be blind, and on the gift of new vision that is freely offered.

In the First Reading, (*Jeremiah 31:7-9*) the prophet Jeremiah speaks of a God who gathers his people to heal them.

The Psalm (*Psalms 125*) sings of these and other wonderful works: 'The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy'.

The author of the letter to the Hebrews (Second Reading – *Hebrews 5: 1-6*) shows that the high priest is one called by God to deal gently with the people, because he himself knows weakness.

And in the Gospel, (*Mark 10: 46-52*) Jesus calls Bartimaeus, a blind beggar of Jericho, to him into discipleship. Though blind, Bartimaeus already has insight into who Jesus is and, when he hears him pass by, shouts in desperation even when told to be quiet. For Bartimaeus, Jesus is now 'Master', and his relationship with him brings healing and new life. Let's pray, this week, that we might recognise the great things the Lord works for us, and that our hope lies in God, who calls to us through our weaknesses and limitations.

### Opening Prayer

Almighty ever-living God,  
increase our faith, hope and charity,  
and make us love what you command,  
so that we may merit what you promise.

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 23 Oct	5.30pm	Sr Margarite and Sr Fionnuala's Intentions
Sun 24 Oct	<b>Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	
	10.30am	Anthony Campbell RIP
	5.30pm	Mary Tommie RIP
Mon 25 Oct	10.00am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tue 26 Oct	10.00am	Rory Stowe RIP
Wed 27 Oct	10.00am	Thomas Dunne RIP Francis Fernando RIP
Thu 28 Oct	<b>Feast of Ss Simon and Jude, Apostles</b>	
	10.00am	Theo Shirley Martin RIP
Fri 29 Oct	10.00am	Carmelo Schifano RIP and the Schifano Family Bridget Scott RIP
Sat 30 Oct	5.30pm	Mansoor Bholah RIP and Normita Bholah in Thanksgiving
Sun 31 Oct	<b>Solemnity of All Saints</b>	
	10.30am	John Golding RIP
	5.30pm	Ignacio Mejia RIP

### CAFOD Family Fast Day – Climate Crisis Appeal

Please remember to return your CAFOD Family Fast Day envelopes this weekend to help people adapt to the worst impacts of climate change and protect our common home. You can also donate online through the [CAFOD website](http://cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis) (cafod.org.uk/climatecrisis). Would you consider too, adding your voice to our online COP26 [petition](#) calling for our Prime Minister to show leadership in tackling the climate crisis, [cafod.org.uk/climate?](http://cafod.org.uk/climate?) Thank you for your support.

### 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, 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 and Eddie Bell.**

### 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.

### BEREAVEMENT GROUP

The Bereavement Group will meet again on **Wednesday 27 October, 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.**

### An Invitation to a Centering Prayer Taster Day at St Martin's Church, Epsom KT17 4PX

**Saturday, November 13th 10.30am - 4.15pm**  
 Centering Prayer is a method of silent prayer where we consent to God's presence and action within. It is a movement away from more active modes of prayer into a receptive prayer of resting in God. It is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.

The cost of this Taster Day is £5.50 which includes refreshments and takeaway literature. There will be a BYO/DIY lunch break (the neighbouring Old King's Head will offer a soup and sandwich special). To book your place please contact Judith Mitchell at [stmcenteringprayer@gmail.com](mailto:stmcenteringprayer@gmail.com) To make a payment for attending the day please look on the notice on the Church Front Door for the details.

## A PRAYER FOR THE COP26 CLIMATE TALKS

Loving God,

We praise your name with all that you have created.  
You are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of creatures.  
We acknowledge the responsibilities you have placed upon us  
as stewards of your creation.

May the Holy Spirit inspire all political leaders at COP26 as they seek  
to embrace the changes needed to foster a more sustainable society.  
Instil in them the courage and gentleness to implement fairer solutions  
for the poorest and most vulnerable, and commit their nations  
to the care of Our Common Home.

We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ your Son.  
Amen

### 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](http://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.

**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](mailto:simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk) for more information.

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

### 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.

Fri 29th-Sun 31st October 2021  
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](http://worth.co.uk/retreat-programme)  
Enquiries: [retreats@worth.org.uk](mailto:retreats@worth.org.uk)

### 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](mailto:giftaid@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk) and we will post it to you.

## Missio Autumn Red Box Collection

Our Autumn collection takes place during the month of October (24th October is World Mission Day). Your promoter will be in touch to arrange collection of your box or ask if you can empty your box and leave a cheque for the amount in the Parish Office. Thank you for your continued and generous support for Missio.

### Special collections

We are currently collecting for the following special collections:

**Prisoners' Sunday (PACT) – Parish Gift Aid does not apply, but PACT can claim Gift Aid if (and only if) you complete and place your donation inside one of their special envelopes, available in the church entrance.**

**World Mission Sunday (MISSIO) – Parish Gift Aid does not apply, but, as above, MISSIO can claim Gift Aid if you use one of their special envelopes.**

**Retired Priests Fund – Parish Gift Aid does 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 the contactless giving device (located on the wall outside the Parish Office)**

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](mailto:londonswcatholic-social@gmail.com)

### Contact Us:

Email: [office@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:admin@winter-shall.org.uk). Should a performance be cancelled due to covid we will offer refunds or credits to another event. We hope that you can join us.

## 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.

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 07712739180. Many thanks

### OUR LADY ROSARY BOUQUET

1,267 Rosaries were said at St Joseph's for Our Lady's Birthday, 8 June – 8 September.

### 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.

### SUPPLEMENTARY FORMS FOR SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Forms which have been left in the Parish Office for signature are now available for collection from the Parish Office.