

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

26 DECEMBER 2021

Christmas 2021

What a difference a year makes, and yet the end of this year is not very different from last year. If you remember, we were in Tier 4 and wondered what Christmas would be like. And still, the wondering continues – would we have to lock down again this year, maybe not for Christmas but perhaps for the New Year!

Some people and especially children would like to see snow at Christmas but the forecast is for rain and as Seamus Heaney reminds us in his poem, the Holly loves the rain!

After the winter solstice, seconds and minutes are added to our daylight hours. The real good news is the Christmas message announcing a Saviour is born for us **'the word became flesh and lived among us, (John 1: 14)**. In this time of rejoicing, let us remember all who have died this past year, let us pray for their families and friends, remembering especially Sr Margarite. Her passing and Sr Fionnuala's retirement back to Ireland brought to an end the era of the Sisters in our Parish. It is with great affection that we remember their wonderful and generous contribution to St Joseph's for which we will always be grateful.

Yes indeed, a year has made a great difference to our Parish. Fr Ruslan is now Parish Priest in Walton-on-Thames, Fr Stephen, newly ordained is now with us to begin the next phase in the life of St Joseph's Parish. Parish Life will continue with your presence and the presence of all the new people who have joined us in the past year.

May God Bless you all and I pray that you will have a peaceful, happy and safe Christmas.
Canon Bill



HOLLY *by Seamus Heaney*

*It rained when it should have snowed.
When we went to gather holly*

*the ditches were swimming, we were wet
to the knees, our hands were all jags*

*and water ran up our sleeves.
There should have been berries*

*but the sprigs we brought into the house
gleamed like smashed bottle-glass.*

*No here I am, in a room that is decked
with the re-berried, waxy-leafed stuff,*

*and I almost forget what it's like
to be wet to the skin or longing for snow.*

*I reach for a book like a doubter
and want it to flare round my hand,*

*a black-letter bush, a glittering shield-wall
cutting as holly and ice.*



DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 25 Dec	<i>Solemnity of the Nativity of The Lord</i>	
	8.30am 10.30am	Euficina Gaspar RIP Carmelo Schifano RIP and the Schifano Family
Sun 26 Dec	<i>Feast of The Holy Family</i>	
	10.00am	Achilles Fernando RIP
Mon 27 Dec	<i>Feast of St John, Apostle and Evangelist</i>	
	12.00noon	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tue 28 Dec		NO MASS
Wed 29 Dec	<i>Feast of St Thomas A Becket, Bishop, Martyr</i>	
	10.00am	Ching Koy Ty RIP
Thu 30 Dec	10.00am	Angela Doherty RIP
Fri 31 Dec	10.00am	Requiem Mass for John Fulford
Sat 1 Jan	<i>Solemnity of Mary. Mother of God</i>	
	10.00am 5.30pm	Gwen Marshall RIP Mieczyslawa Jonska RIP
Sun 2 Jan	<i>Second Sunday of Christmas</i>	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Margaret King RIP People of the Parish

HCPT GROUP 24

As Covid prevented HCPT Group 24 selling Grand Draw tickets last weekend, you will find £10 books in the Atrium for those of you who wish to support the Group. The 1st prize is £4,000. Simply complete each of the counterfoils with at least your name and phone number and put these and the cost of the tickets you buy (£1 per ticket) in the envelope provided and leave this, marked "HCPT Group 24", in the Parish Office by **no later than Monday 3rd January**. Thank you

Children Starting School in September 2022

St Joseph's School reminds parents to submit their application forms before January 15th 2022 and to ensure that you have dropped your Supplementary Information Form in to the Parish Office. If your child is baptised and resident in the parish of St Joseph's, your entry to the school is certain. There are school tours at the beginning of the new term.

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.

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, and Jean Childs.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for John Childs who has recently passed away. Please keep his family in your prayers at this difficult time.

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.

Sr Margarite

This Christmas, Sr Margarite will no doubt be in the minds and prayers of many parishioners, as we celebrate Christmas for the first time in 30 years without her. You may care to visit the website <https://www.forevermissed.com/srmargaritewindle/lifestory> where you will now find Sr Elizabeth's Eulogy, given at her funeral here on 17 November and posted on the site this week. It is not too late to add your own tribute to Sr Margarite on the website which has now been visited well over 1000 times. If you don't have the facility to do so, you can write it out and give it to the Parish Office to pass to Celia Flood who will be happy to upload it for you - please be sure to give your name.

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.**

'Missio Autumn collection

Thank you to our Missio promoters and red box holders for their generous contributions in the Autumn collection which raised £1,017.41. The total collected this year was £1,847.00. The next collection will be the Spring collection in March 2022.

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.