

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

20 MARCH 2022

Message from Fr Stephen

Many of you, I am sure, will remember the late, great comedian, Ken Dodd. He was famous for keeping his audiences giggling for far longer than the official length of his shows- my Mum and Gran once had to run for the last train in Eastbourne after one of his mammoth performances. What is perhaps not so well-known is that he was a scholar of comedy- he wanted to know why we laugh. He once showed his research by noting that Aristotle said that comedy was like a buckled mill wheel, but, showing his love of a great joke, said that the problem with Aristotle was that he never played second house Friday night at Glasgow Empire (where underperforming comics were shouted off after five seconds)!

He loved to see people happy, and wanted to know how to do it. His hit record, "Happiness", said that happiness was the greatest gift he possessed, and he thanked God for it. He knew that God wanted to make us happy (he was a deeply committed Christian). I think he would have understood very well why the Catholic calendar calls this Sunday "Laetare"- "Happiness Sunday". It's a time to take a pause from our Lenten discipline, but, much more than that, it reminds us that God wants us to be happy. Not, however, in the passing things of this world, but in the things that endure. We are called to be happy in God, and in the love for our family, friends and neighbours which God has given us. Canon Bill and our parish community have worked so hard to make St Joseph's a place where we can find this joy - the true love of God and neighbour.

Lent allows us to get rid of the things- either sinful, or which distract us from God- which stop us being truly happy, and gives us time to find that true happiness. I hope and pray that, as we approach Holy Week, we all will find that true joy which only the love of God can give us.

With all my prayers and best wishes,
Father Stephen



FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT SUNDAY 27 MARCH 2022

On this Laetare ('Rejoice!') Sunday midway through Lent, we are encouraged to celebrate with hope and joy before we enter the darker times of Holy Week. Today we particularly rejoice in the reconciliation and forgiveness of sins bought for us by Jesus's suffering and death.

In the First Reading (**Joshua 5: 9-12**), the Israelites celebrate their first Passover in the Promised Land. No longer reliant on the manna with which God had sustained them during their years in the desert, they rejoice that God has brought them to a place where the bounty of the earth feeds them.

The Psalm (**Psalm 33**) is one of praise, rejoicing in God's goodness. It glorifies the Lord, who hears and answers our prayers when we are afraid or in distress. St Paul speaks of the 'new creation' made possible by Christ's suffering and death. Through this sacrifice, God has reconciled humanity to God's self, and our faults are forgiven. Because of this, we ourselves are then called to share the good news of forgiveness with others. (**Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21**).

The Gospel (**Luke 15: 1-3, 11- 32**) relates the first part of the story of the return of the prodigal son. We witness the total and utter forgiveness the father bestows on his selfish and wayward son, who now regrets his foolishness. Just as the father forgives his son, so we know that we too will be forgiven, as we express our sorrow for actions and inactions that take us away from God. As we celebrate the joy of knowing that we are totally loved and forgiven, in these final weeks of Lent we ask for the grace to see ourselves as God sees us, and to see others just as God sees them too.

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 26 Mar	5.30pm	Eamon Reilly
Sun 27 Mar	<i>Fourth 'Laetare' Sunday of Lent</i>	
	10.30am	Bob Hunter RIP
	5.30pm	Edmond and Catherine Barrett RIP
Mon 28 Mar	10.00am	Graham Tooke RIP Lucia Saliba First Anniversary and Gloria Saliba's Intention
Tue 29 Mar	10.00am	Mary Tommie RIP
Wed 30 Mar	10.00am	Margaret and James O'Connor RIP John Child RIP
Thu 31 Mar	10.00am	Requiem Mass for Evaristo Ebrada
Fri 1 Apr	10.00am	Ann Watson RIP
Sat 2 Apr	5.30pm	Chacko Ouseph RIP
Sun 3 Apr	<i>Fifth Sunday of Lent</i>	
	10.30am	Monica and Bernard Brennan RIP
	5.30pm	Mary Tommie RIP

A Prayer for Ukraine

Loving God,

We pray for the people of Ukraine,
for all those suffering or afraid,
that you will be close to them and protect
them.

We pray for world leaders,
for compassion, strength, and wisdom to guide
their choices.

We pray for the world
that in this moment of crisis,
we may reach out in solidarity
to our brothers and sisters in need.

May we walk in your ways
so that peace and justice
become a reality for the people of Ukraine
and for all the world. Amen.

**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.

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
McCrorry, Francis McCrorry, Anita
Hully, Joseph Poku, Angela Brett,
Bob and Maria Adams, Kay Pledge,
Jean Child, Anna Dubinina, and
Jonathan Wilkins.

Bereavement Café

The Bereavement Cafe will be open on
Wednesday 30th March at 10-30 a.m. in
the Chatterton Room

UKRAINE UPDATE

The Epsom Refugee Network will be
holding an Information Evening on
Tuesday 29th March at St Joseph's
Church hall from 1930 - 2100 for anyone
who wants to find out more about getting
involved, the link to register is below (or
email us at epsomrefugeenetwork@gmail.com) Here we will cover
topics like hosting in your home,
volunteering and other ways to get
involved.

<https://mailchi.mp/bc166cfc2eb7/information-evening-29th-april-at-730pm?e=634533b3d3>

We know that some people from Ukraine
have arrived in the area. We are happy to
offer advice and support to anyone who
needs it.

Please continue to pray for the people of
Ukraine and for peace.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICE

We shall be having our Lenten Reconciliation
Service at St Joseph's on Wednesday, 30th
March at 7.30pm. Hopefully many people will
be able to come.

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

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 - 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).
- **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 buckets
- **loose cash:** please place in the collection buckets

Thank you for your support.

PARISH 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 extra cost to you. Simply fill in the Gift Aid Form (<https://st-josephs-epsom.org.uk/giftAid-Form2020.pdf>) and return it to the parish office (by email is fine). Hard copies available in the Narthex.

CONFIRMATIONS 2022

We are pleased to confirm that there will be a Confirmation presentation to parents wishing their child to be confirmed this year on: Monday 25 April at 7.30p.m. in the Church. We look forward to seeing you there.

SVP INVITE

The SVP will be meeting for coffee at Epsom Methodist Church at 11 o'clock on Monday 28th March and extend an invite to Parishioners to join them.

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!

Thank you so much for your support of CAFOD's Lent Family Fast Day, the Walk Against Hunger and the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal. Your support means we can respond in crises such as Ukraine where our Caritas aid workers and volunteers could quickly help families fleeing conflict. It also means we're there in the long-term and can continue to respond to crises around the world, including in Afghanistan, Syria, Ethiopia, and South Sudan. We work alongside communities as they rebuild their lives once the conflict is over, as in Sierra Leone. For lots more detail on how your donations are being used, please go to the CAFOD website W: cafod.org.uk

WANT TO GIVE YOUR MARRIAGE A BOOST?

Treat yourself to a life changing Marriage Encounter experience.

Our next experiences are:

14 and 21 May,

11 – 12 June.

Visit WWME.org.uk for more details and booking.

A great marriage lifts your family, Parish and personal happiness.

News from Worth Abbey

Worth Abbey Retreat Centre, Lent Reflection: 29 - 31 March, Cost: £220

per person

Take time out during Lent to review your life and ask where God is

calling you to change; to simplify things. Exploring the desert father

tradition and the writings of John Cassian to examine thoughts and

feelings and to see how it talks to us in the 21st century. Led by Fr

Peter Williams OSB, a member of the community at Worth.

Book your place W: www.worth.co.uk/retreats [2] or E: retreats@worth.org.uk T: 01342 710318

COLLECTION FOR CHURCH FLOWERS FOR EASTER

There will be a second collection for church flowers for Easter on Saturday 26 / Sunday 27 March. This collection does qualify for Gift Aid so please use your purple envelopes.

FOODBANK UPDATE

Thank you for your unstinting support for the Foodbank. Your donations helped to feed 680 clients during the month of February. Without your donations, this wouldn't be possible - thank you!

We have several urgently needed items:

Longlife sponge puddings
Powdered milk
Chocolate spread
Spaghetti in sauce
Custard
Rice pudding
Shampoo
Hair conditioner
Shaving foam
Toilet rolls
Adult toothbrushes
Adult toothpaste
Nappies size 6+

PARISH SECRETARY VACANCY

Leatherhead Catholic Church is looking for a Part Time Parish Secretary

15 hours per week

£14 per hour

Preferably Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Please contact the Parish Office for further information and for a copy of the Job Description.

THE FRIENDS

The Society of Friends of Westminster Cathedral is seeking to recruit a part time Organising Secretary to help administer the charity, assist in recruiting new members and in organising events. The appointment based in Westminster Cathedral Clergy House is for 20 hours per week at a salary in the region of £14,500 per annum. The appointment is for 12 months. Closing date 27 March 2022. For further details please visit <https://westminstercathedral.org.uk/the-friends-seek-an-organising-secretary/>.

MESSAGE FROM THE SVP

West Surrey SVP has a 6 berth caravan in Bognor Regis which is available for use by any family. The caravan has 1 double en-suite and 2 twin bedrooms plus it is centrally heated and double glazed, and is situated in the Riverside Caravan Centre in Bognor Regis. We would seek a donation of £300 for the week to help with SVP funds towards its upkeep. Should you be interested please contact David Loveder on 07810 156850 for more details and to check availability - the school summer holiday weeks are already reserved."

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.

Praying for Ukraine

Every weekday after the 10.00am Mass, Parishioners go into The Lady Chapel to say the rosary and pray together for Ukraine. If you come to Mass during the week you may like to join them.

You might also like to pray at the same time for Ukraine wherever you are.

GIFT AID BOXES FOR 2022-2023

For those of you who use Gift Aid envelopes, your envelopes for 2022 2023 are now available for you to collect in the Narthex. Thank you for your continued support.

Missio-APF Red Box Spring collection.

The Spring collection of red boxes will take place during the month of March. Your promoter will contact you soon to arrange collection of your box. It would be very helpful if box holders would be able to empty their own box and leave a cheque payable to Missio-APF in the Parish Office. Thank you for your generous support of Missio.

Churches Together in Action Hope into Action Epsom job vacancy

We are looking for someone to join the team for 8 hours a week as an Empowerment Worker to support our Tenants who have been homeless. Tenants may be singles or families with support needs and you would empower them towards a fulfilled life. You will also be working with our partner Churches to train, equip, encourage for their role in mentoring, befriending and giving practical support to tenants.

For further information please visit: [Hope Into Action Epsom Website](#).

Closing date is 8 April 2022.

Contact Us:

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