

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

29 MAY 2022

Fr Stephen's Update

Sometimes, more often in the past, you might hear a person say that someone had "gone out with the tide". If you have ever walked along the seashore, on a stormy day, and seen the water flowing away into a distant horizon which you can hardly see, it's easy to understand why we might speak of someone dying in that way.

Of course, for us here in Epsom, for her family, and for her order, dear Sister Fionnuala has now departed from this life, receding beyond that horizon in the distance. We are left with memories of a life well lived, a dedication to God and his people. I will myself always regret that I saw her only towards the end of her time, and yet I am so grateful for the kindness, prayers and friendship which she showed me when I arrived.

The sadness of parting is real, and raw. There is also that poignant sense of an era, joyously filled with God's love, coming to an end. Yet, as we sometimes hear in a funeral Mass, "for your faithful, Lord, life is changed, not ended". We commend Sister Fionnuala to the Lord in our prayers, as she has prayed for countless numbers herself over her years of love and service.

And for us who remain? We now have the honour of continuing her work, of bringing the love of the Gospel.

And that, I rather suspect, is what she would most want: that we should carry on her work of love and service: that, wherever our vocation from God may lie, we should all carry out the great commandment of love, which she did so wonderfully. The tide has gone out, but it will return to the shore, carrying us, so that we may bring God's love anew.

With all my prayers,
Father Stephen



SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

SUNDAY 29 MAY 2022

As the Easter Season draws to an end, today's readings encourage us to deepen our longing for and commitment to unity, so that together we may cry out, 'Come Lord Jesus, Maranatha!' In the First Reading (**Acts 7: 55-60**), we meet the first Christian martyr, Stephen. Like Jesus himself, he dies with words of forgiveness for his enemies on his lips.

Just before he enters into his Passion (Gospel - **John 17: 20-26**), Jesus prays for all of his followers, and for all who will come to believe in him (including ourselves). He wants all believers to remain united as a sign of unity and love in a divided world. This oneness is modelled on Christ's own unity with his Father.

In the Psalm (**Psalms 96**), we rejoice that God is proclaimed king by all and worshipped by the whole of creation.

In the Second Reading (**Apoc. 22: 12-14, 16-17, 20**) from the final chapter of Revelation, Jesus, the Alpha and the Omega, promises us that he will come again soon, so that all may drink of the water of life.

This week we pray with Jesus for Christian harmony and unity throughout the world; a unity that values all our diversity and difference. We pray for all places where there is conflict and turbulence, especially Ukraine, and for the courage and strength to live out our lives with wisdom and integrity.

Opening Prayer

Graciously hear our supplications, O Lord,
so that we, who believe that the Saviour of the
human race
is with you in your glory,
may experience, as he promised,
until the end of the world,
his abiding presence among us.

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 28 May	5.30pm	Sabrina, Dave and Aran – In Thanksgiving
Sun 29 May	Seventh Sunday of Easter	
	10.30am	Achilles Fernando RIP
	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Mon 30 May	10.00am	Maureen Hurley RIP
Tue 31 May	Feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary	
	9.30a.m.	Requiem Mass for Theresa Ray
Wed 1 June	Memoria of St Justin, Martyr	
	10.00am	John Fulford RIP
Thur 2 June	10.00am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Fri 3 June	Memoria of St Charles Lwanga and Companions, Martyrs	
	10.00am	Mario Taibi RIP and the Schifano Family
Sat 4 June	5.30pm	Clare Graci's Intention
Sun 5 June	Pentecost	
	10.30am	Private Intention
	5.30pm	People of the Parish

Our Prayers are asked for all those who are ill:

Frances Walsh, Merlyn Soares, Ann 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 Child and Debbie Swain.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Sr Fionnuala who has recently passed away. Please also keep her family in your prayers.

SUZIE BECKLES

The funeral Mass for Suzie Beckles is on Friday 15 June at 11.00a.m. at The Holy Family Church in Sutton, 9 The Green, Sutton, SM1 1QT

GIFT AID STATEMENTS 2021-2022

Gift Aid Statements for the previous tax year 2021/22 are now ready for collection from the Parish Office.

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.

Part-time Premises Manager, St Joseph's Church Epsom

We are looking for a part-time Premises Manager to be responsible for the general maintenance of our beautiful Church and grounds. Salary £10,000 per annum for a 15 hour week, flexible hours as required. Needs maintenance experience and "handyman" skills. This role gives the opportunity to support the life of our Parish in a meaningful and hands-on way. Email office@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk for further details.

St Joseph's Parish Pilgrimage to the Holy Land 3-18 September 2022

Would you like to come with us to the Holy Land on a 16 pilgrimage? Della Shenton of 5th Gospel Retreats, www.5thgospelretreats.co.uk is leading St Joseph's Parish Pilgrimage with Fr Ruslan. We will be visiting Petra, Jordan, Bethlehem, Jerusalem and staying beside the Sea of Galilee. There is a 9-day option for those who do not wish to visit Jordan (Petra). Going to the Holy Land with Della is a unique experience. If you are considering going there one day, do not put it off. She is much in demand. Twenty-two parishioners have already booked. However, there are still a few spaces available as the group size can be increased to twenty-eight. A draft itinerary is available; if you wish to know more, please contact Howard and Theresa Park on 01372-722352 or h.park1@ntlworld.com for further details. Please do not hesitate to contact us.

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.

SAVE THE DATE - Sunday 31 July 2022

The 2nd Pat Hall Sponsored Memorial Walks

A walk primarily to honour the achievement of Fr Simon's father in walking 100 miles of the Camino, aged 84, and 3 other substantial walks prior to that in and after his 80th year, will take place on Sunday 31 July, the longest of 4 options being 12+ miles from Hampton Court to Roehampton Gate of Richmond Park. The shortest walk will be 1+ mile. Afterwards there will be Mass and a buffet supper. The walks will raise money linked to the HCPT Cycle 2023 from Versailles to Lourdes and donations will be greatly appreciated through www.justgiving.com/fundraising/justgiving-com-pathhallmemorialwalks, ideally with Gift Aid added.

Those interested in walking on 31 July or cycling in Holy Week 2023, please contact John Flood: email johncafflood@gmail.com Mobile 07775 914717. Flyers with application forms are available in the Narthex.

Externally run Diocesan events at Worth Abbey Finding Stillness: 6-9 June. Led by Fr Peter Williams OSB. Cost: £330 per person

Come away to a quiet place to find stillness and God's presence. Discover in the Benedictine tradition; how stillness and stability can be ways of opening up to God and living life at a deeper level. The retreat will include: teachings in lectio divina, stilling the mind and also an opportunity to have a 1:1 meeting with a monk.

Time Out: Individual self-led retreat.

COST: £90 per person, per night. Tuesday 14 - Sunday 19 June (dates flexible - minimum 2 nights)

A chance for some time away to process, to reflect and to pray. There is no set programme other than daily group Lectio Divina at 9:30am, the usual monastic timetable of divine office and liturgy and the opportunity to meet with a member of the monastic community for reconciliation or a chat. Places are limited so book your place early to avoid disappointment. Concession rate for shared occupancy and bursary assistance available.

Book your place online at: worth.co.uk/retreats/booking-form-for-residential-retreats/

For further information please contact E: retreats@worth.org.uk or T: 01342 710318.

Tributes Website for St Fionnuala

As we did after Sr Margarite's death [www.forever-missed.com/srmargaritewindle], we have created a website to enable all those who wish to do so, to add a tribute that others can review. The website for Sr Fionnuala is www.forevermissed.com/srfionnuala-ellen-byrne and can be visited both to add a tribute and to read those posted by others. For those who don't have the facility to do so, arrangements can be made to add your tribute on your behalf, if you send your tribute to the Parish Office.

UKRAINE UPDATE

As many of you might already know, Epsom Refugee Network, is a local charity that supports refugees in our area. They are currently supporting Syrian and Afghan families that arrived here through government schemes. Recently, Ukrainians have begun to arrive and we are now trying to provide them with the simple practical support they need to settle here.

During a recent 'drop-in' session, approximately 60 Ukrainians attended.

We desperately need friendly landlords who might consider renting to a Ukrainian family. Please could you get in touch if you know any landlords/landladies or perhaps you are a landlord? Do you know of empty properties which could house refugees? They can pay rent and we will be supporting them.

TEACHERS: We are struggling to get children into school and this has a knock on effect for parents who want to access English lessons and work. We are thinking of running a summer school to help parents and children progress with their English, if you know any retired teachers or teachers who might want to help, do get in touch.

ENGLISH CLASSES FOR ADULTS: We are putting on more English classes for adults but need more teachers. If you are a teacher or know teachers who have ESOL or TEFL qualifications please direct them to us.

If you can help in any way, please get in touch by email at- epsomrefugeenetwork@gmail.com

FOODBANK UPDATE

In April we saw a continual rise in people using our foodbank services. Since Christmas, there has been a 74% rise in usage compared to our pre-Covid numbers. In April we fed more than 550 people. We have several urgently needed items as well as items we have completely run out of. Donations of these items would be greatly appreciated.

We have run out of:

Washing up liquid; Washing powder, pods and tablets; Instant mash; Ketchup; Non-dairy long-life milk; Shaving foam; Savoury biscuits

We urgently need:

Tinned fruit; Coffee; Powdered milk; Long-life sponge puddings; Tinned vegetables; Squash; Long-life UHT milk (semi and full fat only); Long-life fruit juice; Deodorant - all kinds; Soap

We are excited to announce that our Epsom Pantry project is due to open later this month. The Pantry will give people choice and dignity when sourcing food for themselves and their families. We will evaluate it to understand the impact it is making as we work towards our key vision: creating a poverty-free future in our community. This vision underpins our new trust - Good Company (Surrey) which went live on the 1st April. Thanks, as always, for your amazing support.

"IF YOU ARE THINKING OF BECOMING A CATHOLIC"

Our new programme of RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) is scheduled to begin this 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, one of the priests or simply email david34edr@virginmedia.com for more information. You are not committing yourself to the course by making an enquiry!

NEWS FROM THE DIOCESE

Grandparents Day Wednesday 8 June at West Grinstead

A pilgrimage to the shrine at West Grinstead. If you would like to find out more please contact E: katherine.bergin@abdiocese.org.uk

To find out about events hosted by the Diocese please visit our website events calendar W: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events>

Refugee Crisis Coffee Morning with Bishop Richard, Saturday 25 June at 11.30am.

Bishop Richard will be hosting an informal coffee morning to discuss our response to the refugee crisis, at St Gabriel's Hall, Billingshurst, RH14 9QH. Everyone is very welcome, to reserve your free place please sign up here: <https://abdiocese.churchsuite.com/events/an04uoxn>

WANT TO GIVE YOUR MARRIAGE A BOOST?

Treat yourself to a life changing Marriage Encounter experience.

Our next experience is:

11 – 12 June.

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

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

ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL SUMMER FAIR SATURDAY 11 JUNE

St Joseph's School summer fair is back!
Please join us for a fun filled afternoon of games, stalls, refreshments and entertainment on Saturday 11th June 12pm-3pm. £2 entry on the gate.

PARISH OPENING HOURS

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY
8.30A.M. – 2.30P.M. and

THURSDAY 8.30A.M. – 12.30P.M.

Contact Us:

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

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.