

# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

## 31 OCTOBER 2021

### Fr Bill's Update

It is with deep sadness that I have to tell you our beloved Sister Margarite died on the 26th of October at Epsom Hospital following a long period of ill health and suffering.

For almost thirty years working in our parish, Sister Margarite touched the lives of so many Parishioners, either in preparation for baptism, reconciliation, first holy communion and confirmation and for some she was 'Sister Brown Owl', faithfully present with Brownies on a Friday evening.

What a blessing Sister Margarite has been for us here at St Joseph's Parish, as a religious sister she was a powerful witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ in her religious life, unstinting in her love for God and neighbour. As a very hard-working member of our Parish Team she was definitely the go to person in any given situation. Margarite was a highly intelligent and capable woman who liked nothing better than working in the background. She did many great works throughout her life, but I have no doubt that St Joseph's Epsom will be forever written in her heart.

A testimony to the person who was affectionately known to us all as Sister Margarite must be the last days of her life at Epsom General Hospital where she inspired the doctors and nursing staff by her gratitude, love and affection during the final days of a painful illness. On behalf of her own family, personal and religious, and her family here at St Joseph's Church, a big thank you to all who cared so lovingly for her. On one of my visits to her she said two things, "Now I am pain free, and I am ready to go to the Lord." May she rest in peace. Sister Margarite's funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date, Requiem Mass to take place here at St Joseph's and interment with her community sisters in Letchworth.

I know that you will remember her in your prayers, please pray also for those who are grieving and left behind, her family and her religious family, especially Sister Fionnuala who shared community life with Margarite here in Epsom.

God Bless, Canon Bill



**SUNDAY 31 OCTOBER  
FEAST OF ALL SAINTS**

On this feast day we are reminded not only of those Saints who have gone before us, but also of the many inspirational people living saintly lives here on earth. The example of their lives of love and service inspire us on our own journey to the promise of eternal life.

In the First Reading (*Apocalypse 7: 2-4.9-14*) we see John's vision of heaven and the multitude rejoicing there. In the presence of God, the Father and Jesus (here in the guise of the sacrificial Lamb of God), praise and glory and thanksgiving are offered.

The Psalm (*Psalm 23*) speaks to us of God's gift of creation, the earth and everything in it. The psalmist reminds us of the blessings that will come to those who seek the Lord through living life with clean hands and pure heart.

In the Second Reading (*1 John 3: 1-3*), St John's letter speaks of the love lavished upon us by God the Father. As children of God, we may at times find ourselves at odds with the values of the world, but we are promised a future in which the mystery of God will be revealed to us.

Jesus's teaching in the Gospel (*Matthew 5: 1-12*) outlines the wealth of blessings that come from living our lives well, and serving others. We are again reminded that although being true to his example may lead to persecution and rejection, we will be rewarded in heaven. This week, we ask the Lord's help to be generous with our prayers, our time, and our possessions in responding to the plight of those in our world who experience the harsh realities of persecution, loss and injustice on a daily basis.

DATE		MASS INTENTION
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
Mon 1 Nov	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Tue 2 Nov	<b>All Souls</b>	
	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Wed 3 Nov	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Thu 4 Nov	<b>Memoria St Charles Borromeo, Bishop</b>	
	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Fri 5 Nov	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Sat 6 Nov	5.30pm	As per Book of Remembrance
Sun 7 Nov	<b>Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time</b>	
	10.30am	As per Book of Remembrance
	5.30pm	As per Book of Remembrance

### 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.

### Confirmation Masses at 11.00a.m and 2.30p.m. on 13 November 2021

Some of you may be aware that we are hosting 2 Confirmation Masses on Saturday 13 November. We are looking for some volunteers to help manage the car parking for one hour before each Mass – if you are available to help, please contact the Parish Office.

### 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.

## 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.

After 20 months without singing to a live audience, on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 7:30pm**, Epsom Choral Society will be performing their concert entitled "Baroque Splendour" which they were forced to cancel at 24 hours notice back in March 2020. This concert is a real treat for choir and audience alike – they will be singing in the stunning surroundings of St Martin's Church - with an orchestra and 5 outstanding soloists.

The concert is a sumptuous selection of works by three Baroque masters. The evening will start with **Bach's Lobet den Herrn**, followed by **Pergolesi's** moving *Stabat Mater* and finishing with **Handel's Dixit Dominus**, a dazzling showpiece for both singers and players alike.

The concert is being given at **St Martin's Church, Church Street, Epsom** at 7.30pm on **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021**.

Entry is **£16**, or just **£8** for students and under-18s from [www.epsomchoral.org.uk/tickets](http://www.epsomchoral.org.uk/tickets)