

# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

## 5 DECEMBER 2021

### Fr Bill's Update

My journey to and from Rome.

There is nothing too dramatic about this. As you may know, this year I celebrated my Ruby year of priesthood, that is forty years, the vast majority spent happily as Parish Priest here in Epsom. By kind invitation of the English College in Rome, all those who were celebrating 40,50, and 60 years from dioceses around England and Wales were invited to stay at Palazzola, the college villa about an hour outside Rome. It was very special spending time with the 29 priests of such a variety of experiences in pastoral ministry. It was a time of much conviviality, sharing prayer, Holy Mass, good food and wine, relaxing and visiting many places of interest, including visits into the city, where we enjoyed a warm welcome to the Pontifical Bede College for a magnificent lunch, courtesy of Monsignor Philip Gillespie, and again at the English College courtesy of Father Stephen Wang.

At the Papal Audience on Wednesday Pope Francis greeted the diamond jubilarians, with whom he shook hands and had a brief word with each one, who were of his own generation, as some reminded him! For me the sting in the tale was having to do a PCR test and isolate for two days on my return. I feel great and I look forward to receiving a negative result so that I can be with you over the weekend. Father Stephen has not been so lucky and is having to isolate himself for a little longer.

As you may know Pope Francis has invited the whole church on a Synodal Journey with him. Bishop Richard sent us a pastoral letter setting this out on the 27th Sunday of the year. Please have a look at the website given here so that together we will continue our journey with the Holy Father and Rome. I will say more about this next week.

Here is the link to the website with further details about the Synodal Journey with Pope Francis.

[Synod | Arundel & Brighton Diocese \(abdiocese.org.uk\)](http://abdiocese.org.uk)

God Bless you and your families.



**SUNDAY 5 DECEMBER  
2021  
SECOND SUNDAY OF  
ADVENT**

Today's readings offer the gift of joy, and the invitation to hear and respond to God who is reaching out to draw us ever closer.

In the First Reading (**Baruch 5: 1-9**), the Prophet Baruch reminds us that, despite all the challenges to our faith and hope in the Lord, we are called to follow God by the light of salvation.

Today's Gospel (**Luke 3: 1-6**) puts this salvation of the Lord in a specific political, historical and geographical setting. By firmly anchoring the ministry of John the Baptist to a particular point in history, St Luke also gives weight to the reality of Jesus in a time and place. (Some scholars have deduced from these historical references that Jesus was baptised in the October of AD 27 – just after his 30th birthday – and was crucified on 3rd April AD 30). In addition, Luke introduces us to 'the voice' that will announce the Saviour with insistence and urgency.

The Psalmist (**Psalms 126**) heralds the marvels worked for us by the Lord.

St Paul (Second Reading) (**Philippians 1: 4-6, 8-11**), writing this letter of gratitude to the church at Philippi from prison, acknowledges his confidence in the one who, in us, will complete these good work of faith. In the coming week, how may I be a 'voice crying in the wilderness'? How can I more fruitfully respond to Christ's wonderful call? How will I continue to discern what is always best?

DATE		MASS INTENTION
<b>Sat 4 Dec</b>	11.00a.m 5.30pm	Bereavement Mass Josephine Brown RIP and Family
<b>Sun 5 Dec</b>	<b>Second Sunday of Advent</b>	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Pat and Josie Morey RIP Hugh Richards RIP
<b>Mon 6 Dec</b>	10.00am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
<b>Tue 7 Dec</b>	<b>Memoria of St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor</b>	
	10.00am	Bridget Scott RIP
<b>Wed 8 Dec</b>	<b>Solemnity of The Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary</b>	
	10.00am	In Thanksgiving for the Staff of St Joseph's Primary School
<b>Thu 9 Dec</b>	10.00am	People of the Parish
<b>Fri 10 Dec</b>	10.00am	Claire Devereux RIP
<b>Sat 11 Dec</b>	5.30pm	Nora Babon Ty RIP
<b>Sun 12 Dec</b>	<b>Third 'Gaudete' Sunday of Advent</b>	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Eric and Julia Mortimer RIP Theresa Miccalef RIP

**The King's Church, Epsom are offering free meals again this year to anyone alone at Christmas or struggling to feed their families at this difficult time. After morning service on Christmas Day, King's Church will be open from 12.15 to 2.30pm for Christmas lunch. Please would you book in advance at: [thekingschurch.org/ChristmasMeals](http://thekingschurch.org/ChristmasMeals) to give an idea of numbers.**

### 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, Francis McCrory, Anita Hully, Halina Krajewski, Kiera, Joseph Poku, Angela Brett, Maureen Hall, Bob and Maria Adams, Kay Pledge, Eddie Bell, John and Jean Childs.**

**At 3pm on Tuesday 7 December**, the Committee for Brother Michael Strode's Cause (CMBC) will launch the preparatory stage for the Cause for the canonisation of HCPT's founder, when the Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh, Leo Cushley, will be the principal celebrant at a Mass at Our Lady of Victories Church in Kensington, London. The launch of the Cause itself is envisaged for January 2025, shortly after the fifth anniversary of Brother Michael's death.

The Mass is being celebrated for an unusual and very special reason, which CBMC hope will ultimately lead to Brother Michael being recognised as a modern-day English saint. You can watch it live: visit the church website [www.OurLadyofVictories.net](http://www.OurLadyofVictories.net) and scroll down to click on "Mass and Confessions". Once opened, scroll down again to the live-feed, and click on the button, which at 3pm will lead you directly into the live broadcast. Alternatively, the event will be listed on that website for a month and can be downloaded to watch at your convenience. At the end of Mass our Chairman, Richard King KSG, will briefly explain the process and the need for testimonies.

Enquiries and offers of support, particularly through the provision of a testimony, can be sent to our Secretary John Flood KSG at [secretary@brothermichaelstrode.org](mailto:secretary@brothermichaelstrode.org). Our website, [www.brothermichaelstrode.org](http://www.brothermichaelstrode.org) with further details of the process, will be live by 8 December, fittingly the Marian feast of The Immaculate Conception. Please do view it then.

### MASS TIMES FOR CHRISTMAS

**CHRISTMAS EVE: 3.00p.m; 5.30p.m. and 8.00p.m.**

**CHRISTMAS DAY: 8.30a.m. and 10.30a.m.**

**BOXING DAY (Sunday): 10.00a.m.**

If you would like to attend Mass on 24 and / or 25 December you will need to book a seat in advance – you will find request forms in the Atrium, please complete one and hand it in to the Parish Office or alternatively you can email the Parish Office with your request. Closing date for receiving bookings is Friday 17 December.  
Seat allocations will be confirmed as soon as possible.

## 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](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.**

## FOODBANK UPDATE

This has been a whirlwind of a year for the Foodbank so far! We know December is a time when people who cannot afford food and basics need us more than ever. Last December the Foodbank supported a staggering 1,570 people in need with food, essentials and seasonal support. So far in 2021 our numbers are not as high but with the fuel price hikes and Universal Credit cuts the number of people needing us is rising again. To date, the Foodbank has helped more than 7,100 this year.

**Our wishlist of donations for our Christmas goodie bags includes:**

Christmas selection boxes, Christmas puddings, Savoury snacks, Tinned ham, Christmas biscuits, Festive chocolates, sweets and treats, Mince pies, Packet stuffing, Packet trifle mix, Christmas napkins, tablecloths and tea towels.

Please make sure that items do not contain alcohol as we are unable to give these out. If you could donate these items by Friday 3rd December this will give the Foodbank time to pack the bags ready for our clients.

Alternatively, if you would like to make a financial donation, the Foodbank will again be giving out Christmas meat vouchers from our local butchers so they can choose their meat from Christmas; seasonal fresh fruit and vegetables to add to our meat voucher and goodie bags, energy top up funds for our client's gas/electricity to cook their Christmas dinner and into the New Year and finally, gift cards of £10 for parents to choose a present for their children from Argos, Wilkos, Superdrug, Boots or TK Maxx. To make a donation directly, please visit our Foodbank website at <https://epsomewell.foodbank.org.uk>

Thank you so much for continued support, generosity and kindness.

**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.

## 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.

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)

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

### HCPT Group 24

HCPT Group 24 will be selling raffle tickets at all Masses over the weekend of 18 and 19 December.

### MASKS

The Creative Ladies due to popular demand are making masks again! Christmas ones, pretty ones, plain ones in two different styles for ladies, gentlemen and children. Still only £5.

Remember all the proceeds go to Faith in Action. Thank you.

Please contact Mary on 01737 932 164

or email [creativeladies.stjosephs@gmail.com](mailto:creativeladies.stjosephs@gmail.com)

### 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](mailto:londonswcatholic-social@gmail.com) and London SW Catholic Social Group on Facebook.

### Contact Us:

Email: [office@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk](mailto:office@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk)

Telephone: 01372 723573

The Parish Sisters: 01372 745297

### 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 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

**PACT: Operation Elf:** Bishop Richard writes: 'In the last part of this difficult year, we can begin to look forward to the celebration of the birth of Christ at Christmas. For those families where a parent is in prison, Christmas can be a particularly painful time. Through PACT's Operation Elf, parishes and individuals can support prisoners to give a gift to their child, sharing a little love and joy and strengthening the family bond. This simple act can nurture the hope that redemption and a fresh start is possible.' Register at [parishaction@prisonersadvice.org.uk](mailto:parishaction@prisonersadvice.org.uk), buy a Gift card with the value of £10, and post to PACT. Full guidance and details at [www.prisonadvice.org.uk](http://www.prisonadvice.org.uk) Thank you.

### 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.

### Assistant Premises Manager Vacancy

The Trustees of St John's Seminary, Wonersh, Guildford (GU5 0QX) are looking to appoint, as soon as possible, a suitable person to assist the Premises Manager in all that is required to maintain, secure and prepare the building for its closure and sale.

This is a fixed-term position, which will run up until December 2022, and attracts a salary of up to £25,000 per annum for a 37.5 hour working week, spread over 5 days – including some weekend work and some on-call availability. Single occupancy accommodation is provided for the better performance of duties.

The closing date for applications is Monday 20 December 2021. Interviews will take place on Monday 10 January 2022. Please email CV, plus details of two referees, to Monsignor Gerald Ewing – Rector, at [rector@wonersh.org](mailto:rector@wonersh.org) from whom further details are available. (Strictly no agencies please.)