

ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

7 NOVEMBER 2021

Fr Bill's Update

Those who have lost family and friends in recent times will know how long it can take to organise a funeral. In the many years that I have been a priest the length of time from death to the day of the funeral has grown longer and longer, complicated in this present time with the advent of the coronavirus.

As you will know from last week's Newsletter, Sister Margarite passed away on the 26th of October. On behalf of her family and her religious family including our own Parish family, I have been organising her funeral which will take place here at St. Joseph's on Wednesday 17th November at 11.00a.m. By Irish standards this would be seen as a long time to wait. If one was living over there, it would all have taken place within three days. However, I am not complaining given the very long time some people do have to wait.

Sister Margarite's remains will be brought into the church on Tuesday 16th at 3.00p.m. There will be a Mass for the happy repose of her soul at 7.00p.m. at which Fr Simon Hall will preach. Some Parishioners may find this a more convenient time to pay their respects. Car Parking should not be a problem at this Mass either in the church / school car parks and if necessary, on St Margaret Drive. On Wednesday we will ask the Council if they will kindly relax parking restrictions while the funeral is taking place. Please be aware there will be no parking available at the school side on Wednesday. We are not taking bookings for either Mass so seats will be allocated on a 'first come, first served' basis, so please arrive in good time for Mass.

November of course is the month when we remember all our deceased relatives and friends, particularly those who have died as a result of Covid-19. If you would like to have their names recorded here in the book of Remembrance, please contact the parish office by post or email and the secretaries will write them in the book.

God Bless, Canon Bill



**SUNDAY 7 NOVEMBER
THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**

'Happy the Poor in Spirit'

Our readings this week explore the concepts of generosity, humility and self-giving. With the help of the Holy Spirit, they encourage us to live our lives as generously as Jesus did.

The First Reading (**1 Kings 17: 10–16**) tells us of a poor destitute widow who shows great generosity in her willingness to share what she has with the prophet Elijah, even though widows were among the most vulnerable people in biblical times.

In the Gospel, too, (**Mark 12: 38–44**), it is a widow who wins the praise of Jesus as he observes her give everything she possesses to the Temple treasury. He contrasts this woman's action of deep faith and generosity with that of others, whose behaviour he roundly condemns. Jesus holds her up as a role model to his disciples.

The letter to the Hebrews (**Hebrews 9: 24–28**), explains how Jesus undertook an even greater sacrifice, and as the compassionate high priest, offered the gift of his own life for the salvation of mankind. (**Second Reading**)

The Psalmist (**Psalms 145**) encourages us to call on our innermost self, our 'soul', to give praise to God: our true God who has great concern for the poor, including widows and orphans. Let us pray this week to the Lord who supports the vulnerable and poor for the grace to be his instruments on earth. We ask for his help to show our care for the outcasts and marginalised of our own day through our loving actions.

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 6 Nov	5.30pm	As per Book of Remembrance
Sun 7 Nov	Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	10.30am	As per Book of Remembrance
	5.30pm	As per Book of Remembrance
Mon 8 Nov	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Tue 9 Nov	Feast of The Consecration of the Lateran Basilica	
	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Wed 10 Nov	Memoria of St Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor	
	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Thu 11 Nov	Memoria of St Martin of Tours, Bishop	
	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Fri 12 Nov	Memoria St Josaphat, Bishop, Martyr	
	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Sat 13 Nov	5.30pm	As per Book of Remembrance
Sun 14 Nov	Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time	
	10.30am	As per Book of Remembrance
	5.30pm	As per Book of Remembrance

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.

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, Eddie Bell, John and Jean Childs.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for Margaret Renton, Chris McKay, John Gilbert and Sister Margarite who have recently passed away. Please keep their families in your prayers.

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

Some of you may be aware that we are hosting two Confirmation Masses on Saturday 13 November. We are looking for Altar Servers for both Masses. We also need 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 as soon as possible.

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 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

UNWANTED CLOTHES FOR ZAMBIA

Sr Ann Kelly is looking for women's clothes, (no trousers) and clothes for babies and toddlers. They are for the women in the prison who are visited by the prayer guides. Second hand children's white shirts are also very useful. She returns to Zambia on 26 November. Please leave the clothes in the Narthex, clearly marked for Zambia or contact Theresa Park 01372 722352 and she will collect them from you. Sr Ann has a large empty bag at the moment!

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 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 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.

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
Enquiries: 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 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

Contact Us:

Email: 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. 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.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN EPSOM

We look forward to seeing all those who are able to join us, at the next **Churches Together in Epsom** monthly prayer time, Friday Nov 12 9:15 - 9:45 am online, on **Zoom**. The **Zoom** link is: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9901533047?pwd=NU1JS3hzMzNYNVpyZDR3SXhBZHJVUT09>

Young Adults' (18-30's) Advent Retreat: 3-5 December

It is a Christian tradition to use the four weeks leading up to Christmas to prepare oneself for the celebration of Jesus' birth. This weekend retreat will provide an opportunity to start your preparations for the Advent season, including talks, small group discussions, opportunities for reflection and prayer. All this revolving around the rhythm of prayer of the Benedictine community of Worth Abbey. This retreat is offered by The Open Cloister, Worth Abbey in collaboration with The Wellspring Community, Brighton.

For more information visit www.worth.co.uk/retreats or contact our youth adviser lizzie.wakeling@abdio-cese.org.uk