# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

# 12 NOVEMBER 2023

## FR BILL'S UPDATE

### Great Expectations

You have probably read the book and maybe even seen the film. Great Expectations follows the childhood and young adult years of Pip, a blacksmith's apprentice in a country village. He suddenly comes into a large fortune (his great expectations) from a mysterious benefactor, and moves to London where he enters high society.

Two years ago, Pope Francis announced that there would be a Synod in which the worldwide church would be invited to participate in a dialogue with him. The process you will recall, involved every diocese, bishop, clergy and laity, in discussions which would form national and international feedback, which was brought together back at the time, and later in Rome in October of this year. Based on the first Synod which is spoken about in Acts chapter 14, the gathering in Rome involved representatives of all the baptized. By all accounts, the discussions were intense and involved spending long hours debating all topics raised. We will hear more about it this evening (Friday) when Austen Ivereigh, who was a lay participant at the Synod, speaks to us in the church. For those who are not able to present, his talk will be live-streamed, and hopefully I will be able to include more about it in the coming weeks.

The Synodal process in itself seems to me to be the most fascinating aspect of it all. The coming together of both clergy and laity, all voting on the discussions that took place during the month-long time there in Rome. But the Synod expectations will not be what some people were hoping for; ultimately, it will be up to the Holy Father to decide. For now, I'm sure he is happy that the Church was able to come together, for what is obviously just the first part of the Synod; it will pick up again next year, and as there is no mysterious benefactor likely for any of us, let our expectations be realistic. Nevertheless, exciting times.

God Bless all,

Canon Bill

## THIRTY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### SUNDAY 12 NOVEMBER 2023

Running throughout the readings this Sunday are themes of longing, seeking, and purposeful attentiveness. We are encouraged to remain alert to the presence of the Lord, who comes to us in every moment, and to be ready to welcome his second coming.

The First Reading ***(Wisdom 6: 12-16)*** describes how the spirit of Wisdom is eager to enter into our lives. She is always close by, sitting at our gates, waiting for us to greet her, so that she may richly bless our lives.

Today's Psalm ***(Psalm 62)*** is a joyful prayer of desire for the Lord. The love of the Lord is better than life itself, and those who seek the Lord will be filled forever, as with a banquet.

In the Second Reading ***(1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18)***, the Christian community is reassured that our hope in the resurrection is not in vain. The longing and desire that we feel for God will be fulfilled both in life and in death.

Jesus uses a cautionary yet humorous parable to stress the importance of remaining prepared and hopeful for the coming of the Lord into our lives ***(Gospel – Matthew 23: 1-13).*** We are all invited to the banquet of the Lord, and yet we can become complacent about the abundant richness that our faith can bring. God is here with us now, but sometimes we may not be ready or do not have the light to see his presence amongst us.

This week, let us pray for a spirit of hopeful, joyful longing for the Lord, so that we may be fully ready to greet him when he comes into our life. We also continue to pray for peace and justice across our suffering world.

| DATE | | MASS INTENTION |
|---|---|---|
| **Sat 11 Nov** | ***Memoria of St Martin of Tours, Bishop*** | |
| | 10.00am<br>5.30pm | As per Book of Remembrance<br>As per Book of Remembrance |
| **Sun 12 Nov** | ***Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*** | |
| | 10.30am<br>5.30pm | As per Book of Remembrance<br>As per Book of Remembrance |
| **Mon 13 Nov** | 10.00am | As per Book of Remembrance |
| **Tue 14 Nov** | 11.00am | As per Book of Remembrance |
| **Wed 15 Nov** | 10.00am | Funeral Mass for Carmine Grieco |
| **Thur 16 Nov** | 10.00 am | As per Book of Remembrance |
| **Fri 17 Nov** | 10.00am | As per Book of Remembrance |
| **Sat 18 Nov** | 10.00am<br>5.30pm | As per Book of Remembrance<br>As per Book of Remembrance |
| **Sun 19 Nov** | ***Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*** | |
| | 10.30am<br>5,30pm | As per Book of Remembrance<br>As per Book of Remembrance |

## ST JOSEPH'S STATEMENT OF ASPIRATIONS

At St Joseph's, we **show God's love to the world**. This means that we:

- ✞ are a welcoming community, where all can explore, develop and deepen their faith;
- ✞ help everyone to discover how much they are loved by God;
- ✞ participate in spiritually enriching liturgies and celebrate sacraments as signs of God's love for us;
- ✞ empower people to use their individual talents and skills for the service of others;
- ✞ put the Gospel into practical, loving action by reaching out to help others, especially the poor and disadvantaged in the local community and beyond.

## Short term temporary accommodation needed

47year old female, working from home, needs temporary accommodation in Epsom from November to 10th January 2024. Can pay up to £950 per month. Please contact 07515 931367.

**There will be a Second Collection this weekend for the Retired Priest's Fund.**

If you, or someone you know is struggling and would appreciate some help or just someone to talk to in confidence, please call Celia Flood on 07767 870035, or Terry Cruise on 07788 454774.

**Car Parking on the Access Road to the Church Sunday 10.30a.m. Mass**

In order to maintain good relations with our neighbours, I would like to remind Parishioners that you should not be parking on the access road to the Church when arriving for Sunday morning 10.30a.m. Mass. If you cannot park in the Car Park on a Sunday morning, please park on St Margaret Drive and St Elizabeth Drive where parking restrictions do not apply on Sunday morning.

**Our Prayers are asked for all those who are ill:**

**Frances Walsh, Merlyn Soares, Ann Schifano, Emma Lee, Ian Watts, Steve Lee, Melitona Leander, Vanessa Tuff, Susan McCrory, Anita Hully, Joseph Poku, Angela Brett, Kay Pledge, Alan Lucas, Tom Makinson, Ethan Foley, Alice Nicolle, Jean Childs, Sue Brackenbury, Matty Horkan, Lorraine Corsini, Jimmy Ward and Family, Graham Bell and Baby Trevor Agius.**

## *RECENTLY DECEASED*

*Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Annamaria Di Meglio. Please also keep her family in your prayers.*

Come and enjoy the **real Christmas story at Wintershall** Walk with Mary, Joseph and the donkey on the winding, steep road to Bethlehem. Register for the census and journey with other travellers, Roman soldiers and shepherds as you enter the stable to watch the miracle unfold. The Wintershall Nativity Journey is an unforgettable experience, bringing the true meaning of Christmas to life for the whole family. Each performance lasts approximately 90 minutes. Please note that some scenes are performed outside and some inside Holly Barn theatre, your visit includes a 10minute walk up a steep hill. Limited disabled parking is available for those who need it most next to Holly Barn Theatre, but this must be pre-booked by emailing admin@wintershall.org.uk. Holly Barn, Bramley, Guildford GU5 0LR. Book tickets now on our website: www.wintershall.org.uk or call 01483 892167.

## BAPTISMS AT ST JOSEPH'S

We very much look forward to meeting new parents and explaining our Baptism preparation which includes regular attendance at Mass prior to joining classes.

You will find one of us (Baptism Catechists') near the font after 10:30 Mass on Sundays. Do come and say hello.

## 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 (this is a business account) - account name **RCD A&B St Joseph 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 bags
- **loose cash**: please place in the collection bags.

Thank you for your support.

### CHRISTMAS YOUTH CELEBRATION

**A shout out to all secondary school, college and Uni students...we'd like to invite you to a Christmas Youth Celebration at St Joseph's Church on Saturday 23rd December from 7pm.**

**This gathering is aimed just for you and please bring along your friends. Everyone is invited no matter where they live, which school they go to and what their beliefs are.**

**Drinks, snacks and plenty of fun-filled options to choose from too, will follow in the Hall and a place to hang out with your friends for the evening.**

**If you'd like to take part in the preparations, share your ideas or have any questions please do get in touch with either May (07970 230246) or Rachel (07899 902051).**

**The 28th Conference of the Parties (COP) climate change conference will take place in Dubai between 30 November and 12 December this year.**

As Pope Francis explained in his recent apostolic exhortation Laudate Deum, "the world in which we live is collapsing and may be nearing breaking point". Global temperatures continue to rise, and instances of extreme weather are becoming more frequent and more destructive.

Those who are most affected by climate change, and upon whom the impact is greatest, are poor, marginalised communities in the Global South. As the Holy Father made clear, we are not acting quickly enough, nor strongly enough, when it comes to addressing climate change.

Inspired by the need to respond to such issues, Jesuit Missions is running a campaign, in collaboration with the Jesuit European Social Centre and the Jesuit Centre for Faith & Justice, throughout COP28. To access daily prayers, updates from COP28, regular blog posts, specialist tools for schools and parishes, and a dedicated podcast series. Please visit the Jesuits' Justice at COP28 website and find out more

### HELP WITH WEEDING

If you have green fingers and are able to commit to a few hours a week to help with keeping the weeds at bay around the Church, then please do email the Parish Office.

**A new sponsor is urgently required for a Ukrainian lady in her early 40's. She speaks excellent English and has a strong faith.**

**If you feel you can help or would like to find out more about being a sponsor, please contact the Parish Office and they will forward your details onto those concerned.**

**Would you like to join our team? The Diocese is seeking to recruit an experienced part time Communications professional** to produce and edit accurate, well-written, online and offline content across diocesan platforms which tell the Church's story and its contribution to society. The successful applicant will support our Head of Communications in managing the digital and print presence of the Diocese, working on a range of projects and campaigns and supporting the content management of our website and social platforms.

**Salary:** £17,500 (FTE £35,000) - 17.5 hours per week
**Location:** Crawley - with hybrid remote working
**Closing date:** Wednesday 15 November
Visit our website **at https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/careers/ to find out more and apply.**

### ADVENT GROUPS

**ONLINE:**

*Invited (Season 3)* is a series of 4 films supplied by our Diocese. Zoom groups will meet from 7pm – 8.30pm on Thursday 30 November and Thursdays 7, 14 and 21 December.

To join a group please email: formation@abdiocese.org.uk

**IN PERSON:**

Come and join us for tea and cake as we watch and discuss *Belong and Believe*. This 5 session course by Catholic Faith Exploration (café) is inspired by Celtic spirituality and explores themes such as: welcoming communities, growing in faith and renewal in the Holy Spirit. We will meet at 7.30pm in the Chatterton Room on the following Mondays: 20 November, 27 November, 4 December, 11 December and 18 December.

If you would like to come, please email: mary@marygortondesign.co.uk so we knowhow much cake to provide!

***The Sword and the Cloak: St. Martin, Armistice Day and the Gospel of Peace***

*A talk by Canon Rob Esdaile at St. Martin of Tours Anglican Church, Church Street, Epsom, this* ***Remembrance Sunday - November 12, 2023 at 6.30pm****.*

*St. Martin has been described as "the first Christian Conscientious Objector" and his feast-day ironically became Armistice Day when the guns fell silent on the Western Front in 1918. Can St. Martin speak to us today in a world riven by armed conflict? And how should our responses as Christians to questions of peace and war differ from those of our non-Christian neighbours? Admission free and refreshments available from 6pm. All are welcome.*

**NATIVITY SCENE COMPETITION**

Join us during advent 9-17th December in a nativity scene competition. This year we celebrate 800 years since St Francis of Assisi created the first Nativity display in Greccio, Italy. We would like to commemorate this by encouraging people to get creative and make their own nativity scene to display in the Church. People will be invited to vote on their favourite at £1 a vote and money raised will be donated to our Parish charities Faith in Action. For more information contact Kathy Maskens at kathymaskens@hotmail.com.

**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 write their names in the book. You will find Holy Souls envelopes beside the book for your donations. If you have any queries, please contact the Parish Office.

**Advent Lectio Divina, 28 November, 5, 12 & 19 December, 2pm-3pm at The House of Prayer, East Molesey (donations welcome)**. An opportunity to join a small group led by Helen Healy, a spiritual director and a member of the Lay Community of St Benedict, meeting at the House of Prayer. Lectio Divina is divine reading, listening to Scripture with the ear of the heart with a short passage of scripture read slowly and meditatively. Visit the website to find out more.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS**

**Fairtrade chocolate Advent calendars and Christmas Cards are now available to buy in the Repository, which is open after all weekend Masses. Please do take a look!**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023 – 2024**

For those of you who have enrolled your Child on this year's FHC Programme, please don't forget to bring your Child's Attendance Record Card with you when you attend weekend Masses and ask one of the Priests or Catechists to sign it for your Child.

**PARISH OPENING HOURS**

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

**Our Parish email address has changed: Contact Us:**
Email: epsom@abdiocese.org.uk
Telephone: 01372 723573

**The Good Counsel Black Tie Ball** will take place at 6pm on Saturday 18 November 2023 in Kensington, London. Live Band. Silent Auction. London's Catholic Pro-Life Ball raising money to help save lives and change lives. Tickets £125 each. For bookings and enquiries email GCNBall@gmail.com or telephone 07795205117

**Marriage Catechists' Day – Saturday 18 November 11am-3.30pm at The St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley RH10 6RP**

Are you involved with, or would like to be involved with, supporting couples on their engagement journey towards marriage? Bishop Richard invites you to join him for our annual day of formation. We will be looking at the impact of the new pastoral plan on the Diocesan preparation scheme and on the need to support couples in their communities. Please register using the link Marriage Catechists Day (18-Nov-2023) · ChurchSuite

**Advent Carol Service at St Augustine's Abbey Guildford GU4 8QR on 10 December, 3.30 pm.**

Enjoy Advent Carols, Scripture Readings, Gregorian Chant by the Monks, Poetry and Solo Organ Pieces followed by Mulled Wine and refreshments after the service. All are welcome.

**Churches Together in Epsom: Council Meeting**

You are warmly invited to attend and contribute to the CTiE Council meeting at 7:55pm on Tuesday 21 November 2023, to be held at St Martin's Church, Church Street, Epsom KT17 4PX. Refreshments from 7:30pm. Visit the website for the Agenda.

**FOODBANK UPDATE**

What a wonderful community!! Between both St Joseph's School and Church, our harvest collection came to a staggering 257 kilos! These donations mean that meals can be made and eaten by those in need within our wider community. Thank you for your unstinting support for the Foodbank.

Unfortunately, demand is still high and we now feed over 700 people each month (September was 705, August was 777). Below is a list of items we are very low on.

Long Life Sponge Puddings, UHT milk full fat and semi-skimmed, Powdered Milk, Tinned Vegetables, Long Life Juice, Squash, Packet Soup, Instant Mash, Marmalade, Chocolate Spread, Toilet Rolls