# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER 17 MARCH 2024

## BISHOP RICHARD'S UPDATE

Dear brothers and sisters,

Our season of preparation for the celebration of the Passion, Death and Resurrection of the Lord takes on a new intensity this Sunday. We enter Passiontide. There are special texts for the celebration of Mass and statues in our churches are veiled, calling us to fix our gaze on the Cross of Christ.

The first reading is a powerful reminder of the sins of the people – the departure of the Chosen People of God from the ways God had marked out for them through the breaking of the Covenant, the solemn bond that God had made with them. In response to this failure, God promises a new Covenant that brings with it forgiveness and life. That Covenant is Christ Himself who, in the words of the letter to the Hebrews, is totally obedient through suffering and death and is our way to salvation.

The Gospel brings us to the very heart of things. Jesus exclaims: "It was for this very reason that I have come to this hour." This hour is the moment of death – death that is not the end, but the way to Resurrection. The moment when the seed dies and – because it dies – brings the harvest of life.

In the days of Lent that remain, let us fix our gaze on the Cross of Christ – the instrument of death that is the tree of life. Our reflection on the Cross casts a light into our minds and hearts, into our lives that enables us to see ourselves as we really are, that calls us to the repentance that is truly necessary if we are to be ready to welcome the new life of Easter.

With every blessing,

+ Richard

## FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT SUNDAY 17 MARCH 2024

As Lent draws to a close, each Spring Day is gradually suffused with increasing light. All around us, nature is waking up from the long darkness of winter. This Sunday's readings encourage us to stir from our own darkness and turn towards growth and transformation out of pain and suffering.

In the **First Reading *(Jeremiah 31: 31–34),*** the prophet makes a great proclamation: 'See, the days are coming ... when I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel'. God's eternal covenant of love and forgiveness is written deep within our hearts.

It is because of this same promise, that Christ became human to share with us in our suffering, forever praying for us and with us **Second Reading (*Hebrews 5: 7–9).*** In Christ, all suffering and death are transfigured into growth and new life through his resurrection.

This Sunday's **Psalm *(Psalm 50 (51))*** would have been familiar to Jesus as he prayed for us during his time on earth, earnestly encouraging us to turn from our sinful ways towards God's love and compassion.

In the **Gospel (*John 12: 20–33),*** Jesus speaks of the personal suffering and death that he will soon be facing. He knows that he could ask his Father to save him from this fate, but instead he willingly makes a choice that leads to our salvation. Jesus invites us to follow his way of living. It is not an easy path to travel, but Christ is always with us, helping and sustaining us.

Let us pray for each other that through God's infinite grace, we will remain true to the law of love that is written deep within us.

| DATE | | MASS INTENTION |
|---|---|---|
| **Sat 16 Mar** | 10.00am<br>5.30pm | Daniel Harkin RIP<br>Barbara Whitefield RIP and Family |
| **Sun 17 Mar** | ***Fifth Sunday of Lent*** | |
| | 10.30am<br>5.30pm | Bob Hunter RIP<br>People of the Parish |
| **Mon 18 Mar** | 10.00am | Josefina Guevara RIP |
| **Tue 19 Mar** | ***St Joseph, Spouse of the B. Virgin Mary*** | |
| | 10.00am | Holy Souls in Purgatory |
| **Wed20Mar** | 10.00am | Sydney Charles Smith RIP |
| **Thu 21 Mar** | 10.00am | Holy Souls in Purgatory |
| **Fri 22 Mar** | 12.00noon | Jamie Prieto RIP |
| **Sat 23 Mar** | 10.00am<br><br>5.30pm | Health and Well-Being of Graham and Anju<br>Anthony Campbell RIP |
| **Sun 24 Mar** | ***Palm Sunday of the Passion of The Lord*** | |
| | 10.30am<br>5.30pm | Marcelle Copus RIP<br>People of the Parish |

## 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.

The **funeral of Brigid Thomas**, who you all would have seen and heard reading beautifully here at St Joseph's until recently, will be held on Wednesday 17 April at St Joseph's Church in Redhill, at 10:30am (122 Ladbroke Road, Redhill, RH1 1LF). Her family would be delighted for anyone from our parish to attend her funeral.

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

It has been brought to our attention that several Parishioners are parking on the access road to the Church at the 10.30a.m. Sunday Mass - this is not permitted.

Please refrain from this practice so that we can maintain good relations with our neighbours. If you cannot park in the Car Parks 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, Emma Lee, Ian Watts, Steve Lee, Melitona Leander, Vanessa Tuff, Anita Hully, Joseph Poku, Angela Brett, Kay Pledge, Alan Lucas, Tom Makinson, Ethan Foley, Alice Nicolle, Sue Brackenbury, Matty Horkan, Lorraine Corsini, Jimmy Ward and Family, Esther Gilbride, Graham Bell, Anju Bell, Francis Taylor, Eddie Bell and Baby Trevor Agius.

## *RECENTLY DECEASED*

*Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Benino Rodriguez, Donna Overington and Brigid Thomas who have recently passed away. Please also keep their families in your prayers.*

## *BEREAVEMENT CAFE*

*The Bereavement Cafe will be open again on Monday 25 March. We meet in the Chatterton Room at 10.30a.m. and all those bereaved, whether recently, or in the past, are warmly invited to come and join us.*

There is a **Second Collection this weekend** for **Easter Flowers.** Parish Gift Aid applies.

## Lenten Reconciliation Services

- Our Lady of Lourdes, Thames Ditton, 18 March, 7.30pm
- St John's, Tadworth, 19 March, 7.00pm
- St Ann's, Banstead, 21 March, 7.00pm
- St Dunstan's Parish, Woking, 22 March, 7.30 pm.
- Cobham with Effingham & Fetcham 22 March 7.30pm

**Eucharistic Adoration** during the remainder of Lent from Monday to Thursday immediately after the 10.00am Mass, until 11:30 am. Regular Eucharistic Adoration is a form of prayer which is strongly encouraged by Pope Francis. Do include this in your Lenten activities if you can and include in your prayers the needs of the Parish and the Diocese as the Pastoral Plan - The Call to Mission - comes into effect. All welcome.

**MARY'S MEALS** wants to collect all your foreign currency and turn it into cash to feed hungry children in the 18 countries it works in. You will find envelopes in the Narthex; please take one when you leave and put all your foreign coins and notes into it. Then pop your envelope into the Parish Office when it suits you.

***Young Adults Easter Retreat at Worth Abbey (Ages 18- 35)***

*A fantastic opportunity to meet young Catholic's from across London and the South East, to journey together through the Easter liturgies being led by the monastic community of Benedictine Monk's at Worth Abbey in the West Sussex countryside. The retreat offers time for personal reflection, talks from Benedictine Monks, and time to socialise with like minded individuals, with many attendees creating friendships that last a lifetime.*

***Dates:** Maundy Thursday Evening 28th March to Easter Sunday Afternoon 31st March* ***Price**: £195*

*Includes: All main meals (breakfast, lunch, & dinner), private room with en-suite bathroom, towels & bedding.*

https://worth.co.uk/retreats/retreat-programme/

## VOLUNTEERS FOR HOLY WEEK SERVICES

If you are one of our **readers, welcomers, altar servers or eucharistic minister**, and are able to help, please sign up on the sheets you will find in the atrium and in the Narthex. We also need **car park stewards**. Thank you for your help.

## ALB WASHING WEEK

Would all servers please take a couple of Albs home to be washed this week, and **please return by Saturday 23rd March**. If any parishioners would please like to help with the washing, we would be really grateful. The Albs will be in the link corridor between the church and the hall.

## 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 the Baptism Catechist's near the font after 10:30 Mass on Sundays. Do come and say hello.

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.

## Safeguarding

The Diocese is arranging the following Zoom Sessions for Parish Safeguarding Representatives, Group Leaders, and Coordinators of activities in the parish, as well as those keen on learning about 'Creating a Safer Environment Policy' in the Diocese: 29th February (11:00-12:30), 14th March (14:00 – 15:30), 20 March (19:00 – 20:30). Please email Safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk to register your interest in attending any of them.

## FOODBANK UPDATE

For a few weeks your donations were so plentiful we needed extra boxes!! Thank you so much for your continued generosity and kindness. In January, we fed 737 people.

The findings of a recent Joseph Rowntree Foundation research into poverty in our country don't make for good reading. 6 million people in the UK are currently living in very deep poverty (their income is far below the poverty line), if they doubled their income, they would still not be comfortable. 7 out of 10 people that use a foodbank are from families where an adult is working. The full report can be foundhttps://www.jrf.org.uk/uk-poverty-2024-the-essential-guide-to-understanding-poverty-in-the-uk

While ever there is a need, the Epsom and Ewell Foodbank will help those in poverty in our area, distributing your donations, signposting to organisations to support them and monetary donations going toward energy top-ups for heating and electricity.

The current wish list includes:

- Tinned fish - urgent (we have none);
- Sponge puddings - urgent (we have none)
- Deodorant both male and female - urgent
- Kids toothbrushes and toothpaste - urgent
- Tea; Custard; Squash; Squash; Powdered Milk
- Mayonnaise, Chocolate Spread; Peanut Butter;
- Shampoo; Shaving Foam

**The MISSIO red box** Spring collection is taking place during March. Your promoter will be in touch to arrange collection. It would help if box holders could count their box and leave a cheque for the amount in the parish office (payable to Missio-APF). Alternatively leave your box in the parish office to be collected. Thank you for supporting the church across the world. Never doubt that you are making a difference: there are thousands of people who will tell you that you are. Red boxes are available from the parish office.

## HOLY WEEK TRIDUM AT ST JOSEPH'S

**Palm Sunday Passion of The Lord - 24 March -** Weekend Masses at usual times.

**Holy Thursday - 28 March** - 7.30pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper.

**Good Friday - 29 March-** 3.00pm Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion and Death.

**Holy Saturday - 30 March-** 7.30 pm Easter Vigil Mass – A Celebration of the Lord's Resurrection.

**Easter Sunday - 31 March -** 8.30am Dawn Mass, 10.30am Family Mass.

Following the success of the first **discussion group** for those wishing to know and understand more about their religion, the next meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9th April at 7.30pm in the Chatterton room. Once again Fr Stephen will attend to offer guidance. Please email any suggestions for topics to chris@thetimminsfamily.co.uk

We will soon prepare the **Gift Aid envelope boxes** for the coming tax year 2024 /25. If you no longer wish to receive a box of envelopes, can you please notify Anja Johnson at ga.epsom@abdiocese.org.uk. Thank you.

## MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to have a Mass said for someone, please do pick up one of the Mass Intention envelopes in the Narthex and pop into the Parish Office. Alternatively, you can email your request to the Parish Office at: epsom@abdiocese.org.uk.

Kathy Maskens is arranging a **parish pilgrimage to Medjugorje, 15-22nd October 2024**. The cost is from £789pp, with All Saints travel company and she is planning to book by 12 April with a deposit. Please contact her by email at kathymaskens@hotmail.com to book or if you want to know more. Poster also in Narthex

## STATIONS OF THE CROSS

There will be Stations of the Cross here at St Joseph's Church on Wednesday 27 March at 6.30pm. As this is the Wednesday of Holy Week, it will be a very good preparation for the celebration of Our Lord's Passion, Death and Resurrection over the following days. The Stations will be led by a member of the Epsom Teams of Our Lady. All parishioners are invited to attend, and children will be very welcome as the reflections will be suitable for them.

## Lenten Lunches

Lenten Lunches are once again take place this year. The lunches are part of our Lenten observances. They consist of soup and bread and take place in the Hall on Fridays after 12 o'clock Mass.

Please note there will be no 10.00 a.m. Mass on Fridays during Lent. If you are willing to make soup, please contact Breeda Walsh on 07748 505752 or email: walsh.breeda@gmail.com. All donations received at the lunches will go to MISSIO.

## NATIONAL NOVENA TO ST JOSEPH: 10TH -18TH MARCH

At St Joseph's Church, Maidenhead. The Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph with a special Novena of Masses and prayers. Masses are at 10am every day of the Novena except Sunday, when it is at 11am. The Masses will be on Zoom via the Mill Hill website: **www.millhillmissionaries.com/novena.** Also available on Zoom will be Evening Prayer together with the Novena Prayer at 6pm every day during the Novena.

## ACTION IN AFRICA

Miss Palser, a teacher a St Andrew's Secondary School, has kindly volunteered to run the upcoming **London Marathon to raise funds for the Charity "Action in Africa"**, to support a new project which will aid, amongst other things, the refurbishment and equipping of buildings for children with disabilities at the Ruhinda School in Nyaishozi (Tanzania). St Andrews has always supported this charity and developed a close link with this school, which they have helped in different ways for over 20 years. Every penny raised will go directly to this project. Please use this link if you would like to sponsor Miss Palser for this worthy cause: **https://2024tcslondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/shannonsfundraisingpage**

## 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 both located in the narthex. 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.

**Contact Us:** Email: epsom@abdiocese.org.uk
Telephone: 01372 723573

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