ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

18 DECEMBER 2022

Aspirations for our Parish

Advent marks the start of a new Church Year. Soon, it will be the start of a new calendar year. Such occasions invite us to look ahead and think about how we can make the coming years better than this one. As a parish, we are doing just this. We are looking to the future and thinking about how best to respond to the aftermath of the pandemic, Bishop Richard's updated pastoral plan for our Diocese and the on-going Synodal process, which has now reached its 'continental stage'.

Our parish is an active and vibrant one but we can always strive to be better, to better fulfil the mission given to us by Jesus. The statement below has been written to describe our aspirations for the future. I hope it will act as a guide for how we move forward in the coming years. A key theme is to build on what we already do by actively involving more parishioners.

Early in 2023, you will hear much more about our aspirations. In the meantime, please think about what you might be able to do to help make these aspirations for our parish become a reality. The success of our ambitions will depend on each and every one of us.

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.*

God Bless, Canon Bill

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

SUNDAY 18 DECEMBER 2022

Arriving at the climax of Advent, today's readings show God asking for our love and our trust. They also demonstrate God's faithfulness to us, sending Jesus to save us.

Isaiah is sent to comfort King Ahaz ***(First Reading – Isaiah 7: 10-14),*** who has turned away from God. Isaiah sees through the false humility of Ahaz, but still gives him a sign: a maiden will give birth to a son, Emmanuel – 'God-is-with-us'.

This same prophesy is echoed in the Gospel ***(Matthew 1: 18-24)***. Joseph also faces a difficult situation, but God speaks through an angel in Joseph's dreams, reassuring him that his son is a gift of the Holy Spirit destined to be the Saviour. Joseph follows the angel's command, placing his whole trust in God.

For us, Jesus is the King of Glory in today's Psalm ***(Psalm 23)***. The earth and all within it belong to the Lord, and all who follow his ways shall receive a blessing.

St Paul emphasises both the human and divine aspect of Jesus, who is both a descendant of David and the Son of God. It is Jesus alone who can bring us grace and peace. ***(Second Reading – Romans 1: 1-7).***

As we wait in expectant hope for the Lord's coming, let's pray for the grace that, like Joseph, we might listen with the ear of faith, and respond obediently to the Lord's call. We also pray especially for peace throughout the world. Just as we welcome Jesus into our own hearts, we ask the Lord to help embrace and welcome all those whom we encounter.

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 17 Dec	10.00a.m. 5.30pm	Philip Begley RIP People of the Parish
Sun 18 Dec	***Fourth Sunday of Advent 'O Adonai'***	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Eric and Julia Mortimer RIP Tom Mannion RIP
Mon 19 Dec	10.00am	Nora and Stephen McDonagh RIP
Tue 20 Dec	10.00am	Ian and Mary Fisher RIP
Wed 21 Dec	10.00am	John Fulford RIP Margaret McNerny RIP
Thur 22 Dec	10.00am	Xiuzhen Wang and Fushen Li RIP
Fri 23 Dec	10.00am	Mary and Martin Canavan RIP James and Bridget Tuohy RIP
Sat 24 Dec	***Christmas Eve***	
	3.00pm 5,30pm 8.00pm	Jean Claude Sonahee RIP Thomas and Noel Lee RIP In Thanksgiving People of the Parish
Sun 25 Dec	***The Nativity of The Lord***	
	8.30am 10.30am	The De Lord Family Intentions Maurice Carden RIP

Our Prayers are asked for all those who are ill:

Frances Walsh, Merlyn Soares, Ann Schifano, Peter Galipeau, Emma Lee, Ian Watts, Steve Lee, Melitona Leander, Vanessa Tuff, Susan McCrory, Anita Hully, Joseph Poku, Angela Brett, Bob and Maria Adams, Kay Pledge, Jean Child, Debbie Swain, Alan Lucas, Tom and Mary Makinson, Kate O'Hare, Ethan Foley and Baby Trevor Agius.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of Kevin Murphy, Francis McCrory, Paul Rose and Clive Flitter.

Please also keep their families in your prayers.

RECONCILIATION SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS

The following Reconciliation Service has been organised by the Deanery:-

St Ann's Banstead

Tuesday 20 December at 7.00p.m.

SUNDAY 10.30A.M. MASS

We would like families to play a more active role in the Sunday Morning Mass from January 2023. So, if you or your children would like to read at the 10.30a.m. Mass, then please contact the Parish Office.

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School – Admission in September 2023

'Signing in' for St Joseph's Catholic Primary School will take place after all weekend Masses, in the Church Hall after Sunday 10.30a.m. Mass, and in Our Lady's Chapel after the Saturday and Sunday 5.30p.m. Masses.

ST JOSEPH'S IN THE COMMUNITY

As usual, our Adult Choir and St Joseph's School sang carols in the Ashley Centre on 1 and 2 December.

Total money received was £314.24, which was lower than last year, but the efforts of the Choirs must be commended. The money has been sent to the Epsom Medical Equipment Fund, and Dr Andrew M Gregory has sent a letter of appreciation.

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT TEAM

Are you struggling with bereavement or loss? Would it help to talk to someone? We have bereavement supporters trained to listen, support and accompany people experiencing grief. Call Paula Thomas on 07710 099682 or Theresa Park on 07867 625291.

BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ

The Bereavement Cafe will be open again on Monday 19 December at 10.30a.m. We meet in the Fr. Chatterton Room.

We know that Christmas time for the bereaved can be particularly difficult. Do come along and join us, and bring a family member or friend to join you. The atmosphere is relaxed, and you can be assured of a warm welcome.

MASS TIMES OVER CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS EVE SATURDAY 24 DECEMBER

3.00P.M. FAMILY MASS

5.30P.M. VIGIL MASS

8.00P.M.'MIDNIGHT' MASS

CHRISTMAS DAY SUNDAY 25 DECEMBER

8.30A.M. DAWN MASS

10.30A.M. PARISH MASS

BOXING DAY MONDAY 26 DECEMBER

11.00A.M. MORNING MASS

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 - 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).
- **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 buckets
- **loose cash**: please place in the collection buckets

Thank you for your support.

SAVE THE DATE!!

CONFIRMATION ENROLMENT WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY 16 JANUARY AT 7.30P.M. IN THE CHURCH. PARENTS AND CHILDREN NEED TO ATTEND.

SVP NEWS

A date for your diary: Friday 30th December. The SVP are organising an Afternoon Tea at Chessington Garden Centre. We invite all our Senior Citizens to come along. We would also like to hear from anyone who can help with transport. Please contact Terry on 07788 454774.

Do you need a lift to Mass at the weekend? Are you willing to give a fellow parishioner a lift? The SVP would like to bring both parties together. So if you need a lift or can offer a lift please contact Terry 07788 454774.

KNOCK PILGRIMAGE 2023

Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock Shrine, Ireland, 15th March 2023. £699.00 per person sharing. Price includes flight, all transfers, 4 nights' in Knock House Hotel with full board. All entertainment and excursions included.

Day trips to Westport, Ballintubber Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Fr. Peyton Centre and National Museum. Special St. Patrick's Day Celebrations. Single supplement £150.00.

Contact Patricia on 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.

COMMUNION GIFTS AND CARDS

We have received an eviction notice and so have to vacate the shop by the end of the year. We have also received official confirmation that our landlords applied to the local Council to demolish all the shops on the parade and have therefore terminated our lease.

Therefore, we are selling all Communion Gifts and Cards at half price or less because we have no choice but to close the business that we started in 1998 for Christening and Holy Communion business at Clothes Line South West London SW20 9NQ and website www.firstholycommunion.co.uk

Diocesan run events

Annual Justice and Peace Assembly - Hungry for Change Saturday 28 January 2023 9.30am-1.30pm. The Philip Howard Centre, Crawley RH10 6RP

Evenings of Reflection

7.00pm- 9.00pm with a choice of dates and venues across the Diocese

Days of Reflection for Ministers, led by Bishop Richard

Saturday 21 January 2023 at St Bernadette's Church, Tilgate, Crawley – for Ministers of the Word 11am – 4pm

The day will include talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary and its use in the Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word, preparing to read, using microphones, Lectio Divina and Mass. Arrival from 10.30am for refreshments. Please bring a packed lunch. Please sign up at: Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word (21-Jan-2023) · ChurchSuite Events E: Catherine.Christmas@abdiocese.org.uk for more information.

Saturday 18 February 2023 at Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge – for Ministers of the Eucharist 11.00am – 4.00p.m.

The day will include theological and practical talks, Eucharistic Adoration and mass. Arrival from 10.30a.m. for refreshments. Please bring a packed lunch. Please sign up at: Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist (18-Feb-2023) · ChurchSuite Events E: Catherine.Christmas@abdiocese.org.uk for more information.

To find out about and book events hosted by the Diocese please visit our website events calendar W: https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events

PARISH MASS AND LUNCH TUESDAY 20 DECEMBER

We are hosting a Mass at 11.00a.m. followed by Lunch on Tuesday 20 December. This is for all and we hope some families will join us.

If you would like to join us, please sign up on the form at the back of the Church (which shows the menu) by Wednesday 15 December.

If you or someone you know would appreciate some help to feed themselves or their families, please contact the Parish Office or Celia Flood (ideally by email or mobile 07767 870035).

OUR LADY CHAPEL

Just a reminder to parents who join us in Our Lady Chapel for Mass, that it would be much appreciated if you could please bring only soft toys for your children to play with.

REQUEST FOR A LIFT

A Parishioner needs a lift to the 5.30p.m. Mass on Sunday – can you help?
If you can, please phone Terry 07788 454774.

Evenings of Reflection for Confirmation Candidates/Youth Groups

Bishop Richard is running Evenings of Reflection for Confirmation Candidates and Youth Groups. Prior to lockdowns, these evenings were very well received, so we are looking forward to bringing them back as the young people always enjoyed them and found the opportunity to explore prayer, meet a larger group of other young Catholics and have some fun together uplifting and encouraging.
The event that is most accessible for our group is taking place at Sacred Heart in Cobham on Friday 17th March from 7pm to 9pm. You can book your places here Evenings of Reflection (17-Mar-2023) · ChurchSuite Events

PARISH OPENING HOURS

MONDAY, WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY
8.30A.M. – 2.30P.M. and
THURSDAY 8.30A.M. – 12.30P.M.

Contact Us:
Email: office@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk
Telephone: 01372 723573

Car Parking on the Access Road to the Church

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, please park on St Margaret Drive and St Elizabeth Drive where parking restrictions do not apply at weekends.

Eucharistic Ministers, Readers and Welcomers

There are printed copies of the new rota available in the narthex.

CHRISTMAS WISHES

This Christmas we would like to invite all children (and adults!) to write a Christmas wish and hang it on our Christmas tree inside the church. This could be a little activity to do as a family and reflect on what is important to you this Christmas. Simply cut out paper in the shape of a bauble, gift or snowflake, decorate one side if you like and write your Christmas wish on the other. Make a hole and thread with string ready for hanging. Feel free to bring them along to the Church at any time.

At the 3pm Christmas Eve Mass, children will be invited to hang their wishes during the Mass.

For ease, there is a box at the Church entrance with pre-prepared tags to write on.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

The Christmas Day offertory is in support of our Priests, who do not receive a salary and so rely on your generosity. It is eligible for gift aid.
Ways to give:

- **By bank transfer, including "Christmas" in your bank reference. (email accounts@st-josephs-epsom.org.uk for bank details)**
- **By gift aid envelope. Please use a gift aid envelope, available in the church entrance, if you are a standing order giver. (Note: your regular standing order does not go to Christmas offertory)**
- **By using the contactless machines in the Church**
- **By placing your donation in the Christmas Day bag collection. Small white envelopes are available to use if you so wish, and if you are not a gift aider.**

Thank you for your support.