ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

19 MARCH 2023

Canon Bill's Update

NOBODY CAN DO EVERYTHING BUT EVERYONE CAN DO SOMETHING. (Thanks Anne!)

Thank you for listening last weekend and for giving me the opportunity to have an informal chat with you at the end of Mass. Following on from our participation as a parish in the Synod called by Pope Francis, I set up a core group of Parishioners to coordinate our parish responses from which we have drawn up our parish Aspirations as we make plans for the future.

In all my time here as Parish Priest, collaboration with the laity has been at the heart of all that we have achieved. St Joseph's has always been a warm and friendly parish where so many Parishioners have generously given their time and talent to the service of the whole community. Diocesan initiatives like the Renew Programme was the catalyst for establishing many small groups where people would gather for discussion and support. In time these became known as SIGS, or special interest groups and these groups would come together regularly to share highs and lows of life.

Well, that was then and now we are in a new place where we must face an uncertain future, which we will do together. It struck me very early on in my priesthood that change was coming in the Church, attendance at Mass and the sacraments would decline and also vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. We may have fewer priests and fewer Parishioners in our Parishes and so we will need to share with our neighbouring Parishes in the deanery, and at the same time we must unite to ensure that our Parish will not be fazed by any changes that come our way.

It was good to hear some contributions made during our chat time together and from those who have taken the time to send in emails to the Parish Office. I look forward to receiving some more of your views and of course your willingness to become more active in the life of our Parish. Nobody can do everything but everyone can do something.

God Bless
Canon Bill

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY 19 MARCH 2023

Before we enter the darker days of Holy Week, we celebrate Laetare ('Rejoice!') Sunday. Today we are reminded of the joy of the presence of Jesus, the light of our world, and of the love of God shining through our lives.

Both the First Reading ***(1 Samuel 16:1, 6-7)***and the Psalm speak of the shepherd caring for the flock. Despite David's youth and outward appearance, the Lord sees the strength of his heart, which will enable him to lead God's people.

The Psalm ***(Psalm 22)*** speaks of the certainty that I can rely on the Lord as my shepherd, keeping me safe from harm whatever happens in my life.

In the Second Reading, ***(Ephesians 5: 8-14)*** St Paul reminds the Ephesians (and us) that God's light in us shines out for others when we live in goodness and right living and truth.

In the Gospel ***(John 9: 1-41)***, the blind man's sight is restored and he comes into the light. Not only is he physically able to see for the first time, but he also recognises Jesus as the Son of Man. In contrast, those around him remain in the darkness of un-belief, trapped by their unwillingness to see Jesus as he really is. This week, we pray for those who have yet to allow the light of Christ into their lives. We pray that we will carry Christ's light to others as we walk beside them, sharing their hardships and sorrows.

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 18 Mar	10.00am 5.30pm	John Mills and Rossi Raffa RIP Anneline Klinjsma's Intention
Sun 19 Mar	***Fourth 'Laetare' Sunday of Lent***	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Mansoor Bholah and Julita De Castro RIP People of the Parish
Mon 20 Mar	***Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of The Blessed Virgin Mary***	
	10.00am	Tom and Rosie's Intention
Tue 21 Mar	10.00am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Wed 22 Mar	10.00am	Cinchy Sing Fat RIP Jeffrey Forage RIP
Thur 23 Mar	12.00noon	Anthony Campbell RIP Deceased Members of the Castro Family
Fri 24 Mar	10.00am	David Condron RIP
Sat 25 Mar	***Solemnity of the Annunciation of The Lord***	
	10.00am 5.30pm	Marcelle Copus RIP Marie Moncado RIP
Sun 26 Mar	***Fifth Sunday of Lent***	
	10.30am 5.30pm	George Earle RIP 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.

REPOSITORY OPENING

The Repository is now open in St. Joseph's Church on Sundays after the 10.30am and 5.30pm Masses.
Mass cards, Mother's Day, Easter, Birthday, Sympathy and Get-well cards are available. There are cards and gifts available for, Baptism, First Holy Communion and Confirmation, also Rosaries, Statues and Sunday Missals. Please do come and have a look.

LENTEN LUNCH – 23 MARCH

The next Lenten Lunch will be on Thursday 23 March. The lunches can contribute to our Lenten observances, consisting of soup and bread. The lunch will take place in the Hall, after Mass, which will be at 12.00 o'clock. Please note there will be 10.00a.m. Mass on Thursdays during Lent.
If you are willing to make soup, please contact Breeda Walsh on 07748 505752 or email walsh.breeda@ gmail.com. Donations this year will go to: 'Faith in Action'.

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, Debbie Swain, Alan Lucas, Tom and Mary Makinson, Kate O'Hare, Ethan Foley, Alice Nicolle, Jean Childs, Sue Brackenbury and Baby Trevor Agius.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Laurence Mackintosh who has recently passed away.
Please also keep his family in your prayers.

BEREAVEMENT CAFE

The Bereavement Cafe will be open again on Monday 27th March. We meet in the Chatterton Room at 10-30 a.m. Everyone is welcome, and please bring along a family member or friend.

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.

Epsom at Arundel - calling all singers!!

Our Confirmations this year are at Arundel Cathedral at 11.30am on Saturday 22nd April and it is our job to make sure the music on the day reflects the standard we maintain at Joseph's!

Please join our choir for the day, especially if you are already going to be there to witness family / friends being confirmed. There will be one rehearsal the weekend before, plus a run-through in the Cathedral before the service. Most of the music should be familiar from our Sunday Masses and there is only one ceremony for us to sing at, so you get the afternoon to enjoy Arundel in the Spring. Transport arrangements will be investigated depending on the number of volunteers. **If you can help, please e-mail George on george.a.matthews@talk21,com, or talk to him after 10.30 Mass on 26th March.**

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 bags
- **loose cash**: please place in the collection bags.

Thank you for your support.

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN EPSOM

Churches Together in Epsom (CTiE)

This Good Friday at 10.30am there will be an ecumenical Service of Worship and Praise in Epsom market place, organized by CTiE. This will be followed by family crafts and outreach activities. All are invited.

If you can help in this event, such as in stewarding, crafts, manning the stall, prayer ministry, preparing hot cross buns etc. please email Jane Williams: chair@ctie.org.uk.

If you can sing in the choir, brought together to lead the singing in this one event, please email David Williams: admin@ctie.org.uk. Rehearsal information is on the CTiE 'Upcoming Events' webpage.

LENTEN RECONCILIATION SERVICES

The following services have been arranged:

Tuesday 21 March at 7.00p.m.
St John's Tadworth

Wednesday 29 March at 7.30p.m.
St Joseph's Epsom

Thursday 30 March at 7.30p.m.
Our Lady of Sorrows Effingham

Externally run events/items

Gidea Park Talk on the Holy Eucharist - Wednesday 22 March at 7pm in the Church Hall at Christ the Eternal High Priest, Gidea Park. Fr Adrian Graffy, Parish Priest and member of the Pope's Biblical Commission, will speak about the Eucharist. The talk, entitled 'Do this in memory of me', will examine the New Testament material, and trace the understanding of the Eucharist through the centuries, including the latest teaching of Pope Francis. This talk is in person and can also be followed live stream by going to W: www.whatgoodnews.org

The next **Chilworth Abbey Study Day** is on Saturday 1 April led by Fr John Seddon OSB, of Bishop Barron's 'Catholicism', Episode 8, 'A Vast Company of Witnesses: the Communion of Saints. Mass 9am, Talks 10.15am-3.30pm. Bring a packed lunch and a friend if possible. See W: chilworthbenedictines.com for more details.

Men's Way of the Cross – 31 March 2023 starting from Christ The King church in Eastbourne and walking through the night over the cliffs to Birling Gap. Join for a prayer over the South Downs Beachy Head trail to rediscover yourself and reflect on your God given purpose on this earth.

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.

DRIVERS NEEDED

Drivers needed to get a parishioner to the Saturday 5.30pm Mass. Currently we have 2 drivers, but one is unable to assist for the time being. Please consider carefully whether you might be able to help, even on an occasional basis. Many thanks. Please contact: Mary Liszka on 07774 249410.

The Diocese is recruiting for three exciting new roles based at our diocesan Central Office, The St Philip Howard Centre (SPHC) in Crawley

SPHC sits geographically at the heart of our faith community and is an important place of mission within the Diocese providing a vibrant, faith-centred workspace for all our diocesan teams. To find out more about joining the Diocese as:

- Reception Administrator (30 hours per week, term time only)
- IT Administrative Apprentice (full time)
- Choral Director working with our Education Service and diocesan schools,

please visit the Careers section of the diocesan website.

Signing in for First Holy Communion

A reminder to Parents of all children making their First Holy Communion in May this year that they need to sign in when attending weekend Mass. If you attend the Sunday 10.30a.m Mass, you can sign in in the Hall after Mass and if you attend one of the evening Masses, signing in will be in Our Lady Chapel.

St Joseph's Admissions – September 2024

For admissions to St Joseph's School from September 2024, there is no longer a need for parents and carers to be signing in at Mass.

The requirement for entry from September 2024 is that you provide the school with a copy of the baptism certificate for your child and that you have the Supplementary Information Form signed, dated and stamped by Canon Bill.

Parents may submit their Supplementary Information Form to the parish office at any point from now in advance of January 2024.

ALTAR SERVING

If you have made your First Communion and would like to join our team of altar servers, there will be an induction session on Friday 24th March at 4.15pm in the church. Please pick up an application form from the sacristy or the Parish Office. For further details contact John Turner jaandciturner@btinternet.com

FUNDRAISING FOR BRAIN TUMOUR RESEARCH

WEAR A HAT
SATURDAY 25 MARCH 2023
ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH HALL
2.00PM – 4.00PM

HAT MAKING COMPETITION – FREE ENTRY
THIS YEAR'S THEME IS FRUIT AND VEG
Come and have a browse at the many stalls: unique hand crafted jewellery; Pastel Nagomi Art; hand-made pottery; hats for all occasions; tropic skin-care.
And watch the dancers from Ni Cholmain Academy of Irish Dance

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.

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

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

Ceramic Flower Painting on Sunday 25th March after 10.30am Mass

Please come along after mass to the church hall where there will an opportunity for families to work together to decorate a ceramic flower.

Your flower will be one of 900 installed near to the cemetery at an event in October; each flower represents one of the 9000 people who died at one of the Epsom psychiatric hospitals. Each of these is buried in Epsom in the forgotten Horton cemetery.

Also join us next October for the event. Visit www.hortoncemetery.org for more information.
Horton Cemetery is adjacent to the land where the proposed new 5000 housing estate would be. Safeguarding the cemetery is the key focus of the work of the charity.
We look forward to seeing you.

MISSIO RED BOX SPRING COLLECTION

The red box Spring collection is due to take place during the month of March. Your promoter will be in touch with you to arrange collection. It would be helpful to promoters if box holders could count their box and leave a cheque for the amount in the Parish Office (cheques payable to 'Missio-APF'). Alternatively leave your box in the Parish Office for your promoter to collect.
Thank you for supporting our brothers and sisters in 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.

FOODBANK UPDATE

Thank you to all our wonderful supporters for your generosity. The foodbank centres remain busy and your continued help is essential as we seek to respond to those who are most affected by the cost-of-living crisis. In February, we fulfilled 305 vouchers to feed 880 people. In January we fed 1013 people. Without your donations, this would not be possible - thank you.

We urgently need:

- UHT milk (Full fat, semi-skimmed only)
- Long life fruit juice
- Hot Chocolate
- Noodles
- Long life sponge puddings
- Squash
- Mayonnaise
- Sugar (500g bags please)
- Washing powder/pods
- Female deodorant
- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Toilet Rolls