

# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

## EPSOM NEWSLETTER

### 21 APRIL 2024

#### FR STEPHEN'S UPDATE

This weekend we celebrate Good Shepherd Sunday. On one level, this is simply because today's Gospel is from John, where Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd. However, because of this inspiration for us both to be guided by Jesus, and to lead others in his path, it is traditionally a day when we pray for vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life.

It is therefore a good day to remember and pray for our seminarians. Eddie, whom some of you will know from Dorking and Guildford, and Gustavo are already Deacons, and Bishop Richard will ordain them to the priesthood for our Diocese this summer. Scott and Gary, whom some may know from Father Ruslan's parish, will be ordained Deacon, in preparation for priesthood. I was at Seminary at Womersley with all four, and I look forward to seeing them ordained. Similarly, Barnabas is studying in Rome for our Diocese. Let's pray for all of them, and all considering their call.

Let's also pray for those in formation for the Permanent Diaconate. Also, let's pray for those discerning a call, both women and men, to religious life, in our communities, monasteries and convents. Don't forget that God calls priests, deacons and religious all the time. If you think that might be you, have a chat with Canon Bill or myself.

Let's also pray for all of us. We all have our calling from God. Many are called to do superb work in our hospitals and schools, for example. To be a nurse, doctor or teacher is also a wonderful vocation from God. To bring up a family- the "first school of the Church"- is a vital calling. Whenever we show God's love, we are following our calling, whatever it might be.

God Bless,  
Fr Stephen



#### FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER SUNDAY 21 APRIL 2024

We continue our journey through Eastertide, experiencing the joy of the Risen Lord. This fourth Sunday of Easter traditionally features Jesus as the Good Shepherd and is also kept annually as the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

In the **First Reading, (Acts 4: 8-12)**, Peter explains that the miracle he has been able to perform came not from him, but from the name of Jesus Christ, the keystone rejected by the builders.

The **Psalm (Psalm 117 (118))** normally sung by pilgrims on their way to Jerusalem, is a thanksgiving prayer from someone who has been rescued from an ordeal. It uses the same cornerstone image as the First Reading. Like Peter, the psalmist acknowledges the Lord as his Saviour.

The writer of the **Second Reading (1 John 3: 1-2)** stresses that we are God's children. Although we might find the path difficult, and feel unsure of what the future holds, we will be transformed into God's likeness when we meet him.

In the **Gospel, (John 10: 11-18)**, Jesus describes himself as the Good Shepherd, who is prepared to lay down his life for us; he knows us intimately and wants to bring everyone into his fold.

On this Day of Prayer for Vocations, we might pray that everyone should be willing and able to fulfil their own vocation. We continue to pray for war-torn countries, that they will find a Good Shepherd to guide them out of conflict.

DATE		MASS INTENTION
<b>Sat 20 April</b>	10.00am 5.30pm	For all Confirmation Candidates Angela Inzani RIP
<b>Sun 21 April</b>	<b>Fourth 'Good Shepherd' Sunday of Easter</b>	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Ned Kelly RIP People of the Parish
<b>Mon 22 April</b>	10.00am	Donna Overington RIP
<b>Tues 23 April</b>	<b>Solemnity of St George, Martyr, Patron of England</b>	
	10.00am	Brigid Thomas RIP
<b>Wed 24 April</b>	10.00am	Catherine Reilly's Intention
<b>Thu 25 April</b>	<b>Feast of St Mark, Evangelist</b>	
	10.00 am	Lynette Taylor RIP and Family
<b>Fri 26 April</b>	10.00am	Bernard Capus RIP
<b>Sat 27 April</b>	10.00am 5.30pm	Pedro Roldon Corpuz RIP Fr Ruslan's Father RIP
<b>Sun 28 April</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday of Easter</b>	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Concetta Lepore RIP People of Parish

**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 Mark Sagrott and Tom Sweeny who have recently passed away. Please also keep their families in your prayers.*

**The Bereavement Cafe**

Will be open again on Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April. All those who have suffered a bereavement, whether recently or in the past, is warmly welcome to join us. Please bring a family member or friend. We meet in the Chatterton Room at 10-30 a.m. after morning Mass.

**Modern Slavery & Human Trafficking – Communities and Parishes**

Bishop Richard Moth kindly invites all to attend a presentation and discussion on Saturday 29 June 2024 between 11.00am - 1.00pm. St Peters Hall, Shoreham-by-Sea, West St, BN43 5WG.

The next **St Joseph's discussion group meeting** will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 14th May in the Chatterton Room; Fr Stephen will once again attend to offer guidance. The topic will be announced in the next newsletter. All welcome. In the meantime, please forward any suggestions to [chris@thetimminsfamily.co.uk](mailto:chris@thetimminsfamily.co.uk).

The **boxes of Gift Aid envelopes for the new tax year 2024/25** can now be collected from the Narthex. PLEASE NOTE - we rationalised the numbering system, so your box number may have changed from last year. Please do NOT use any "old" envelopes from previous tax years after 6 April 2024.

There is a **second collection** this weekend for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations and Education of Priests. Gift Aid applies.

**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.

**Parish Visit to Arundel Cathedral - Corpus Christi Carpet of Flowers - Wednesday 29 May 2024**

The coach for this trip is now full. Thank you for your support.

**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.

**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.

### A parish pilgrimage to Medjugorje

Is planned for 15-22nd October 2024. Several people have booked already, and we still have places available. The cost is from £789 per person and the travel company is All Saints Travel. For more details, please contact Kathy Maskens by email on [kathymaskens@hotmail.com](mailto:kathymaskens@hotmail.com) or call 07722457830.

### 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](mailto:epsom@abdiocese.org.uk).

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.

There will not be **tea and coffee** after the 10 am Mass on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> in the Chatterton Room; we hope to offer this again each week from 3<sup>rd</sup> May. If you would like to help, please contact Celia Flood on 07767870035.

### 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.

### ACTION IN AFRICA

Miss Palser, a teacher at St Andrew's Secondary School, has volunteered to run the **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, helping 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:  
[https://2024tcsllondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/shan\\_nonsfundraisingpage](https://2024tcsllondonmarathon.enthuse.com/pf/shan_nonsfundraisingpage)

### FOODBANK UPDATE

In March, we supported 710 people who visited our foodbank centres. Of these, 295 were children. We don't just give them food and toiletries, we listen to understand their situation and to ask if they need any further support, advice or information. Then we seek to meet these other needs or signpost them to other local support services.

We offer holistic support to ensure that people who need to access the foodbank are given the respect and dignity they deserve, and that we are helping to meet their underlying needs so that hopefully they won't need to keep coming back to the foodbank.

Thank you so much for your continuous flow of donations throughout lent and Eastertide. Our current wish list includes:

- Sugar (500g bags)
- Tinned Fruit
- Noodles (not super or pot)
- Ketchup
- Biscuit bars (penguins, etc.)
- Crisps
- Kids toothbrushes and toothpaste 0-2 and 6yrs plus
- Male deodorant
- Shaving foam/gel
- Washing up liquid
- Nappies 5 and 6 plus

We are looking for a compassionate companion to provide support for a parishioner. The opportunity will include taking her to the local wellbeing centre and involve three hours on three days weekly. Contact Hyacinth on 01372 202968 if interested.

### Lenten Lunches – THANK YOU

Thank you very much to all those who supported our Lenten Lunches by making the delicious soups, helping in the kitchen and particularly, to all those who came every week. We are delighted to say that we raised a total of £1314.04 for Missio.

### Parish Easter Lunch - THANK YOU

A big thank you for all those who supported the lunch last Friday. Lunch donations amounted to £545. We also sold cards, preserves, and gifts which raised a further £136. All the profit is given to the Faith in Action Charities in Zambia and Peru. We look forward to seeing you all at our September Harvest Lunch. Thank you again from The Creative Ladies.

### Youth Ministry Training - 20 April and 18 May at The St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley

Do you want to see more young people in our Parish? Sign up for the Diocesan two-day Youth Ministry Training course. Be inspired, encouraged and equipped for the new era of mission that we find ourselves in.

E: [lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk)

### Mass for Engaged Couples

Join Bishop Richard for a special Mass celebrating the momentous journey of discernment that is engagement towards the lifelong commitment made by couples preparing for marriage. Join us afterwards for a small drinks reception in the Cathedral Centre. We look forward to meeting many engaged couples from across the Diocese and sharing in their joy. Please book here [Mass for Engaged Couples \(05-Jul-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

### Live Life to the Full

#### Summer Camp for young people in School years 7-11

The Lay Community of St Benedict are running a residential event for young people. With opportunities for inspiring talks, uplifting prayer, fun activities and space to just be, this summer camp will help your faith soar! 20-24 August at Worth Abbey. Contact Pete for more information E: [lcsb.pete@gmail.com](mailto:lcsb.pete@gmail.com). Early bird prices available before 30th June.

### Mental Health Awareness Seminar Cost £30 (subsidised by Diocese)

Led by a Member of the Mental Health First Aid England team and suited to those involved in pastoral activities, leading events and those who work and support youngsters. **Dates: Saturday 13 April in Crawley or Saturday 15 June in Burgess Hill.** Places can be booked through the attached links [Mental Health Awareness Seminar \(13-Apr-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#) or [Mental Health Awareness Seminar \(15-Jun-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

### Worth Abbey June Gathering

The Abbott and Community invite you to Worth Abbey from 11.00am to 4.30pm on Saturday 1st June for a social and spiritual day, share monastic prayer in the Abbey Church and enjoy the beauty that is Worth. Enjoy a guided walk through the woods and fields and visit St Bruno's retreat centre. Families welcome, there will be activities for children. [www.worthabbeypilgrims.com](http://www.worthabbeypilgrims.com)

### Grandparents Pilgrimage to West Grinstead Wednesday 26 June

A day of sharing and prayer with other Grandparents led by Bishop Richard to include Mass, Benediction, Rosary, tours of the secret chapel and lots of chat. Please bring a packed lunch and a travel mug if possible. Arrival from 10.30am for refreshments. As always please car share if possible as parking is limited. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Places can be booked through this link [Grandparents Pilgrimage to West Grinstead \(26-Jun-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

### Children's Liturgy Saturday 18 May

Following on from the success of our previous Children's liturgy training the Diocese is repeating the training. This will take place at the St Philip Howard Centre in Crawley. Please join them for a morning exploring an exciting style of delivering the liturgy of the word for children. Lucy Hall will be demonstrating a hands on, tactile approach to wondering about the Gospel. Whether you have been working in this ministry for a long time or if you are new, come to be enthused by Lucy and to meet others who share your passion. Please sign up here: [Liturgy of the Word with Children - Leaders' training \(18-May-2024\) · ChurchSuite Events](#)

## 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 taxpayer. (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](mailto:epsom@abdiocese.org.uk)  
Telephone: 01372 723573

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