ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

24 JULY 2022

Core Group Update

The core group formed by Fr Bill continues to meet regularly. We are reflecting on the emerging outcomes from the on-going Synod and their implications for our parish in a post-pandemic world (and a world with fewer clergy).

Our current focus is on developing a proposed vision statement for our parish. We want to use this to galvanise the whole parish community and to help us all to fully participate in the mission that Jesus has given us.

We have already identified several key questions, all of which are mentioned in the national synthesis document recently produced by the Bishops' Conference. The five questions below do not cover the full range of issues we are thinking about, but give a good indication of the scope of our deliberations.

1. How do we become a truly inclusive community hub, where all feel welcomed and valued?
2. How do we best support younger people so that they stay active in their faith?
3. How do we develop liturgy and formation to help all parishioners deepen their faith?
4. How do we empower every parishioner to use her or his individual talents, gifts and experience to participate more fully in the mission of the Church?
5. How do we become a more outward-looking parish, engaged in evangelisation, ecumenism and charity?

These are challenging questions and there are no 'quick fixes'. However, being clear about the challenges is the first step in attempting to meet them. In due course, our group also intends to come up with proposals about how the parish could be organised in order to address these questions.

The next update will be after the summer holiday period.

Chris Donovan

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SUNDAY 24 JULY 2022

The readings for this Sunday remind us again of the boundless love God offers to those who believe.

Our faith in God will be rewarded more than we can imagine, if we but ask in prayer. God's mercy for the sinful people of Sodom and Gomorrah is revealed in the First Reading (**Genesis 18: 20-32**). Abraham pleads with the Lord not to destroy them, even though few good people remain there. Abraham's persistence and belief in God are an example for us of the power of prayer.

The Psalm ***(Psalm 137)*** similarly speaks of God's constant faith and mercy. The psalmist offers praise and thanksgiving to the God who hears the cry of the people in distress.

In the Second Reading ***(Colossians 2: 12-14)***, Paul reminds the community in the city of Colossae – and ourselves – that Christ's sacrifice on the cross has brought everlasting life and forgiveness for all our sins.

As Jesus teaches the disciples in the Gospel ***(Luke 11: 1-13)*** *how* to pray to the Father, he also encourages us to believe that we can ask God for anything, and that our faith will be rewarded simply because of the immensity of God's love.

In the week ahead, we might renew our efforts to take every opportunity to show our faith and trust by placing the needs of those who are suffering before the God who loves us all. We particularly remember those who are suffering in war and conflict in Ukraine and beyond.

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 23 July	5.30pm	Jenny Sambrook RIP
Sun 24 July	***Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time***	
	10.30am 5.30pm	People of the Parish Christopher and Dorothy Phillips RIP
Mon 25 July	***Feast of St James, Apostle***	
	10.00am	Gwen Marshall RIP
Tue 26 July	***Memoria Sts Joachim and Anne***	
	10.00am	Alice Whitehead RIP
Wed 27 July	10.00am	Maurice Carden RIP
Thur 28 July	10.00am	Ramilo Gaspar RIP
Fri 29 July	***Memoria Sts Mary, Martha and Lazarus***	
	10.00am	Rita Fernando RIP
Sat 30 July	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sun 313 July	***Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time***	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Eric and Julia Mortimer RIP Christie Myles 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, Francis McCrory, Anita Hully, Joseph Poku, Angela Brett, Bob and Maria Adams, Kay Pledge, Jean Child, Debbie Swain, Alan Lucas, Rita Finnigan and Joe Soriano.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

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.

ONLY 2 WEEKS TO GO!

Time is now running out to add your name to those who will participate in the 2nd Pat Hall Sponsored Memorial Walks on Sunday 31 July 2022. Fr Simon will be delighted to be accompanied by Epsom Parishioners for the walks in memory of his father, Pat, whose 4th anniversary was a fortnight ago. Please contact John Flood NOW if you wish to join one of the 4 walks, ranging from 12+ to 1+ miles, or if you just wish to join the Mass in memory of his parents at the Kairos Centre in Roehampton that evening and the supper afterwards in the King's Head (cost £23). Details and application forms are in the Narthex. John can be reached at johncaflood@gmail.com or on 07775 914717. Sponsorship in favour of HCPT will also be most welcome at **www.justgiving.com/fundraising/justgiving-compathallmemorialwalks** - final numbers are needed shortly - the 1st Walks were a great day out for the large number of all ages and abilities who took part.

World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly 24 July 2022

The second World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly is on Sunday 24 July 2022 with the theme: "In old age they will still bear fruit" (Psalm 92:15) . Pope Francis has requested that we use this day to honour those who have further steps on their life journey and particularly Grandparents.

He says “Along with old age and white hairs, God continues to give us the gift of life and to keep us from being overcome by evil. If we trust in him, we will find the strength to praise him still (cf. vv. 14-20). We will come to see that growing old is more than the natural decline of the body or the inevitable passage of time, but the gift of a long life. Aging is not a condemnation, but a blessing!” you can read his inspiring message here: https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/events/event.dir.html/content/vaticanevents/en/2022/5/10/messaggio-giornata-nonni.html

Relic Tour: St Bernadette

In September and October this year, the relics of St Bernadette will journey on pilgrimage to England, Scotland, and Wales for the very first time. This very special once in a lifetime event will provide an opportunity for people of all ages and backgrounds to experience the special gifts and charisms of Lourdes, in a church or cathedral near them. Full details of the tour dates can be found at this link:

Relic Tour Dates - Catholic Bishops' Conference (cbcew.org.uk)

Altar Serving

Congratulations to Anna, Caipher, Edward, Louis and Sean who successfully completed their induction and served for the first time, last weekend.

For anyone who missed the last session, there will be a further opportunity in late September.

GIFT AID STATEMENTS 2021-2022

Gift Aid Statements for the previous tax year 2021/22 are now ready for collection from the Parish Office.

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.

POOH CORNER

Pooh Corner is looking for helpers! Could you spare a couple of hours on a Monday morning? If so, please would you think about joining us. We need helpers to make teas and coffees, welcome new mums and carers as well as looking after the toys, and enable the session to run smoothly.

We are a lovely friendly group of mums, dads and grandparents who help out in running the community playgroup here. We want everyone to feel welcome and included, the children to be able to play and socialise in a safe fun setting, and the carers to be able to enjoy a hot cup of tea and a chat with others!

You don't need to have a child with you to help out - in fact, we really need some helpers with hands free.

Please contact the Parish Office who will pass on our details. Thank you!

Tributes Website for St Fionnuala

As we did after Sr Margarite's death [www.forevermissed.com/srmargaritewindle], we have created a website to enable all those who wish to do so, to add a tribute that others can review. The website for Sr Fionnuala is **www.forevermissed.com/srfionnuala-ellen-byrne** and can be visited both to add a tribute and to read those posted by others. For those who don't have the facility to do so, arrangements can be made to add your tribute on your behalf, if you send your tribute to the Parish Office.

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

In St Joseph's Catholic Primary School's admissions criteria, priority is given to Catholic children whose parent/carer attends Sunday Mass (this can include the Saturday evening vigil Mass) at least once a month. Normally this is expected to have been the case for at least one year prior to the closing date for applications. However, due to COVID, the Bishops of England & Wales suspended the obligation to attend Sunday Mass on 18 March 2020.

On 6 May 2022, the Bishops announced that they were lifting the suspension of the obligation from Pentecost Sunday (i.e. 5 June 2022). This means that for those Catholic parents/carers who are seeking priority of admission to St Joseph's that reference Mass attendance, they need to attend Mass at least once a month from now through to the closing date for applications (i.e. 15 January 2023). In the parish of St Joseph's, Epsom, such parents will need to sign in at Mass when they attend Mass between now and 15 January.

Just for further clarification, the school's admission policy states:

"In most cases, attendance at Mass will be by the parent/carer. However, it is recognised that in certain circumstances, such as those involving bereavement, a separation or where one of the parents is not a Catholic, a child may attend Mass with another family member, such as a grandparent. In such circumstances, governors will accept this attendance as meeting the requirement of the policy as long as the duration and frequency of Mass attendance is met. If such a situation does apply to a family, they will need to ensure that the priest is familiar with their particular circumstances and can verify it, providing an explanation of the Mass attendance on the Supplementary Information Form."

FOODBANK UPDATE

It was lovely to see our donation boxes full this week. Thank you so much for your continued support and generosity. This is especially needed now at a time when the Foodbank is running out of much needed items as the demand increases. Please only give the items listed below. Thank you.

We have completely run out of:

Pasta sauce, Cooking sauce, Long life fruit juice,
Meat pies (microwaveable), Tinned spaghetti i.e. hoops,
Sponge puddings, Mayonnaise, Small bags of sugar,
Biscuits, Chocolate, Crisps, Sanitary towels

We urgently need:

Tinned vegetables, Custard, Noodles, Rice pudding, Squash
Microwaveable rice, Packet soup, Pasta sauce, Deodorant
Shampoo, Baby wipes, Dog food,
Many thanks once again.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY AT ST JOSEPH'S

We are hoping to recommence our Children's Liturgy at the 10.30a.m. Sunday Mass in September 2022.

If you would like to be part of the Team delivering this very valuable ministry then please do let the Parish Office know - we look forward to hearing from you!

Join a pilgrimage with a difference this summer (13-28 August). The Arundel & Brighton Ecumenical Walking Pilgrimage began in March 1975 with 32 pilgrims journeying more than 240 miles together in faith. It has continued ever since as an annual event, with pilgrims of all ages and various Christian denominations walking to a cathedral city, sacred shrine, or place of religious interest. The pilgrimage is open to people of all ages with people invited to join us for the day, several days, or the duration of the journey. Everyone is welcome, though attendees need to have a reasonable level of physical fitness - our group aims to walk about 15 miles a day, travelling along footpaths and not roads, wherever possible. We enjoy pub lunches and opportunities to eat out, while spending our nights camping inside on the floors of school halls and churches. **Our St Thomas Pilgrimage takes place 13-28 August. To view the itinerary please** click here**. To book your place** visit the Pilgrims Live website**.**

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

CAFOD IN ST JOSEPH'S

Fr Bill has asked me to become the CAFOD parish contact for St Josephs. The role will be to lead a parish team to undertake the following tasks on behalf of CAFOD (Catholic Agency for Overseas Development)

- Fundraising
- Responding to emergencies
- Campaigning
- Prayer and reflecting
- Working with young people

If you have an interest in and passion for CAFOD's mission to make our world a more just place and could use your skills to make a real and lasting difference why not join the Parish team. Please contact the Parish Office leaving you contact details and I (Jonathan Inns) will get back to you

A Day at the Seaside for Young Adults (18-35) (rescheduled) Saturday 20 August at Our Lady Star of the Sea, East Preston at 11am

A day at the seaside with Fr Stephen Ortiger! Fr Stephen, a Benedictine monk who is currently working in Parish Ministry is looking forward to celebrating Mass and then spending the day with the young adults of our Diocese. After Mass we will walk along the sea front to a beach side cafe where we will share lunch together. Contact E: lizzie.wakeling@abdiocese.org.uk for more information.

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

VISIT TO HEVER CASTLE SATURDAY 13 AUGUST

Would you like to visit Hever Castle and be reminded of events in its Tudor-related history? If so, you are invited to join a coach trip with St Paul's Church (Banstead) on Saturday 13 August. Further details can be found in the Narthex or by contacting Jill Bakker (01737 210241 or jill.bakker@gmail.com)

Dominic Munro, 18, a member of the St Joseph's Parish Community, is currently cycling from Lands End to John O' Groats, primarily as a personal challenge, but also as a fundraiser for The Royal Marsden Cancer Charity. He started on Saturday (16th July) and is hoping to reach John O' Groats on 3rd August.

If you would like to follow Dominic's progress and donate to the charity, please use this link: www.justgiving.com/Andrew-Munro13

Save the date CAFOD Walk –18 September 2022

Join us on **18 September at 12.30pm in Nonsuch Park (London Road Car Park entrance with war memorial)** as we walk and learn together about the problems of the global food system, some solutions, and afterwards meet for a shared picnic and complete a simple action you can take with CAFOD to help.