ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

27 NOVEMBER 2022

Fr Stephen's Update

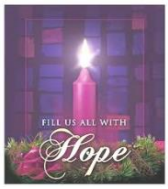
I am always slightly surprised at my ability to reread or rewatch a drama – particularly, say, a Miss Marple murder mystery- and yet be able, in a funny sort of way, not to know who the murderer is, even though I know the story backwards! I can still be urging a character not to do the dastardly deed, even though I know it's about to happen. Therefore, I can feel something of the same as we enter Advent. I know what will happen on December 25th, and yet. And yet.

There are several reasons as to why we celebrate Advent, despite knowing that Jesus has come. One is that we make present again this world-changing event in our lives. The end moment of all the centuries before, and the true meaning of all those afterwards, deserves and needs to be celebrated, and we need to prepare for this celebration. This is the main reason why, as Canon Bill noted a fortnight ago, Advent used to be a season of abstinence, like Lent.

Another is that we, as humans, need psychologically to make these moments real in our minds – not just abstract ideas, but real happenings. However, this goes far beyond that basic need. We need to know the joy of "preparing the way for the Lord", in the world, but especially in our hearts.

However, this Sunday's readings point us towards another advent – Jesus' return. We have welcomed him on earth once. We need to prepare for the coming of his kingdom on earth – "The Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect". We are called to live our lives, in fact, in a sort of permanent Advent. It will be daylight soon, as St Paul says. So let's, in this season, prepare to recall those world-changing events of two millennia ago, and prepare for Jesus' return to our world, and into our hearts.

Yours ever, Fr Stephen



FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT
SUNDAY 27 NOVEMBER 2022

This Sunday we enter into the beautiful season of Advent. Our attitude at this time is one of watching and waiting, and the graces to pray for are joy and hope. Our weary world is in so much need of this spirit, and of the light and peace of the coming Christ.

The First Reading ***(Isaiah 2: 1-5)*** from Isaiah looks forward to the time when the whole world will be gathered together in the peace of God's kingdom.

The Psalm ***(Psalm 121)*** – one for pilgrims going joyfully up to Jerusalem – picks up this theme. They pray for peace: peace in the city, in their homes, and among all whom they know.

The Second Reading ***(Romans 13: 11-14)*** from the letter to the Romans is a reminder to 'wake up', for salvation is near. It is also an encouragement to live in the light.

Jesus tells us in the Gospel ***(Matthew 24: 37-44)*** to stay awake – we must not become so engrossed in our daily lives that we are unprepared when the Lord comes. Let us renew our spirit of joyful hope this week. We also place the needs of our world before Jesus as we prepare for his coming.

Opening Prayer

Grant your faithful, we pray, almighty God,
the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ
with righteous deeds at his coming,
so that, gathered at his right hand,
they may be worthy to possess
the heavenly Kingdom.

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 26 Nov	10.00a.m. 5.30pm	As per Book of Remembrance As per book of Remembrance
Sun 27 Nov	***First Sunday of Advent***	
	10.30am 5.30pm	As per Book of Remembrance As per Book of Remembrance
Mon 28 Nov	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Tue 29 Nov	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Wed 30 Nov	***Feast of St Andrew, Apostle***	
	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Thur 1 Dec	10.00am	Linus and Michael O'Shea RIP
Fri 2 Dec	10.00am	Kieran Bradley RIP John Carmichael RIP
Sat 3 Dec	***Memoria St Francis Xavier, Priest***	
	10.00am 5.30pm	Mary Tomnie RIP People of the Parish
Sun 4 Dec	***Second Sunday of Advent***	
	10.30am 5.30pm	To the Most Holy Trinity Josephine and Arthur Brown and Lynette Taylor RIP and Family

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, Tom and Mary Makinson, Kate O'Hare, and Kevin Murphy.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray the happy repose of the souls of Rita Finnigan and Linda Palladino. Please also keep their families in your prayers.

RECONCILIATION SERVICES FOR CHRISTMAS

The following Reconciliation Services have been organised by the Deanery:-

St John's Tadworth
Tuesday 6 December at 7.00p.m.

St Joseph's Epsom
Wednesday 14 December at 7.00p.m.

Sacred Heart Cobham
Friday 16 December at 7.30p.m.

St Ann's Banstead
Tuesday 20 December at 7.00p.m.

HANDEL'S MESSIAH

On Saturday 3rd December at 7.30pm, Epsom Choral Society will be performing **Handel's Messiah** at the Epsom Playhouse.
This will be a very special concert as it is the choir's Centenary celebration concert. There are 4 outstanding soloists and the English Sinfonietta conducted by Julian Collings. Tickets are available from the Epsom Playhouse or online here.
Epsom Choral Society was founded in 1922 and has continued to sing through wars, pandemics, lockdowns etc and we are still going strong - with over 100 members.

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.

DOREEN DONOHUE

A Celebration of the life of Doreen Donohue who died on 27th October will be held at St Barnabas, Temple Road, Epsom at 4.30pm on Friday, 2nd December.
For catering purposes, please let Jane Donohue at janedonohue@hotmail.com know if you are coming. You are welcome to wear bright clothes.

BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ

The Bereavement Cafe will be open again on Monday 28 November at 10.30a.m. We meet in the Fr. Chatterton Room. If you are bereaved, either recently or in the past, please do come along, and feel free to bring a family member or friend with you. You will be assured of a warm welcome.

Communion to the Housebound

We know there must be many Parishioners who are housebound at home or in care homes and unable to get to Mass. If you know of anyone who would like to receive Holy Communion from a lay Eucharistic Minister, please let the Parish Office know.

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.

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.

SECOND COLLECTION 3 AND 4 DECEMBER

There will be a second collection next weekend for Church Flowers for Christmas

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 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.

Time Out: Self Guided retreat. Cost £90 per person, per night. Monday 12 - Friday 16 December (minimum 2 nights).

Spend a few days at Worth Abbey enjoying the rhythm of the monastic prayer and liturgy, time in reflection and the peace of the Sussex countryside. There is no set programme other than an optional daily Lectio Divina session, the usual monastic timetable of divine office and liturgy and the opportunity for a 1:1 meeting with a member of the monastic community.
Please contact us for further information. T: 01342 710318. E: retreats@worth.org.uk W: www.worth.co.uk

Fr Ruslan Ukrainian Children Appeal

As the cold is coming, we are starting to bring out thick coats, gloves and scarves, maybe even turning the heating on!

Now imagine children not having any of these items and no electricity or heating and in temperatures even lower than the ones in the UK… Hard to think isn't it?

Well we can do something about it!

St Erconwald's is collecting good condition (preferably new) coats, gloves, hats, scarves (all sizes adults and children).

Or can you sponsor these items and contribute to the cost of the lorry (£2,500)?

If you can help, please bring items to St Erconwald's Parish Office (not St Joseph's) or if you can sponsor please use the link below:

https://donate.mydona.com/st-erconwalds-walton

The deadline is 12th December 2022.

I am extremely grateful for your generosity and help in this matter.

Thank you and God Bless,

Fr Ruslan

FOODBANK UPDATE

In October 2022, the Foodbank fed 780 people (443 adults and 337 children), in September 2022 we fed 783 people (468 adults and 315 children). We know we are feeding around 22% more than this time last year. None of this is possible without our army of volunteers and your donations so Thank You!!

The Foodbank has begun its Christmas Campaign. We hope to make Christmas a special time of year for everyone so please give what you can.

If you would like to help support our families this Christmas, you can donate between £1 and £20 by texting: CHRISTMAS GIFT followed by your chosen amount of 1-20 to 70450.

We're also making Christmas goodie bags – with Christmas cake, selection boxes, yule logs, mince pies etc. – see the poster in the Atrium and Hall Entrance for further details. Please donate by 2 December.
Thank you so much for your continued support.

CHILWORTH ABBEY

A gentle reminder about the next Study Day, on **Saturday, December 10th**, 2022, at Chilworth Abbey by Fr John Seddon OSB of Bishop Barron's 'Catholicism', Episode 4, **'Our Tainted Nature's Solitary Boast',** on Our Lady. Mass, 9.00am, Presentations and Talks 10.15am-3.30pm. Bring a packed lunch and a friend if possible. See chilworthbenedictines.com for more details

Finding Stillness: 5 - 8 December Cost: £330 per person, single occupancy.
'Be still and know that I am God' (Psalm 46). Come to Worth Abbey and encounter this refreshing and empowering stillness. Through the Benedictine tradition, discover how stillness can be part of your everyday life and how transformative it can be. The retreat will include: teachings in Lectio Divina and stilling the mind, as well as an opportunity to have a 1:1 meeting with a member of the monastic community.
Please contact us for further information. T: 01342 710318. E: re-treats@worth.org.uk W: www.worth.co.uk

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

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.

THE NATIVITY JOURNEY
14-19 DECEMBER 2022

Come and enjoy the real Christmas story at Wintershall Walk with Mary, Joseph and the donkey on the winding, steep road to Bethlehem. Register for the census and journey with other travellers, Roman soldiers and shepherds as you enter the stable to watch the miracle unfold.

The Wintershall Nativity Journey is an unforgettable experience, bringing the true meaning of Christmas to life for the whole family. Each performance lasts approximately 90 minutes. Please note that some scenes are performed outside and some inside Holly Barn Theatre, your visit includes a 10 minute walk up a steep hill. Limited disabled parking is available for those who need it most next to Holly Barn Theatre but this must be pre-booked by emailing admin@wintershall.org.uk. Holly Barn, Bramley, Guildford GU5 0LR

MESSAGE FROM AFRICAN PALMS

Dear Friends,
Over the past three years, Covid 19 has really reduced the demand for Palm Crosses. We decided to ask the villagers to handcraft some bags and baskets along with the Palm Crosses they make. We saw this as a way to keep the whole project going forward. We now have many wonderful bags and thought they would be ideal Christmas presents. They are made from the same material as the Palm Crosses and are available in five styles, although each bag is unique so colour and design will vary – cost is £29.00.

Please email - enquiries@africanpalms.co.uk or telephone 0207 703 0719 for further information.

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