ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER 4 FEBRUARY 2024

FR STEPHEN'S UPDATE

I come from what you might call a Health Service family. My mum and uncle were both qualified nurses in the field of patients with learning difficulties, and I grew up therefore with the understanding that caring for others and nursing them is one of the most important parts of life. Canon Bill, too, worked diligently as a nurse before going to seminary. The impulse to care is a natural human instinct.

It is also a vocation from God. We are all called to do God's work wherever we are - this is what is called our "common baptismal vocation". If we look at this Sunday's Gospel, we can see that a key part of Jesus' mission was to heal the sick. He goes unquestioningly to heal Simon Peter's mother-in-law. He goes on to heal many others.

There are of course many forms of healing. Tending a physical wound or disease is perhaps what comes most readily to mind, and it is certainly a wonderful way to live out our baptismal vocation. However, to help someone suffering under the burden of a mental illness is equally important - and equally following Jesus. It may be helping someone who suffers from anxiety by listening to them. It may be anything which helps a fellow human to feel better. All of this is God's work.

I feel a special privilege when I anoint someone who is ill. I have been called by God to help a fellow human who is suffering. We can and should all seek to help someone who needs assistance when they suffer. We may not have the joy of being called to work in a caring profession, but we can all do what we can - and know that we are truly following Jesus.

God Bless,
Fr Stephen

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY 2024

This Sunday, the readings invite us to look more deeply into the experience of human suffering. It is only through Christ that our pain and despair can and will be transformed. Just like the suffering people in today's Gospel, we all long for Christ. It is through prayer that our yearning will be fulfilled.

The first Reading ***(Job 7: 1–4.6–7),*** expresses total despair at the great losses that he has experienced; he seems overwhelmed by the frailty of life. The suffering in our world today perhaps makes it easy to relate to his sentiments.

The Psalm (***Psalm 146)***, however, is like an antidote to the howls of loss that Job exclaims. It speaks of healing for broken hearts and minds; of wounds being bound and tended by our loving God, whose wisdom extends across a universe that he knows and loves intimately.

In the Second Reading ***(1 Corinthians 9:16–19.22–23),*** Paul writes of how his own experience of Christ and the Gospel impels him to share the Good News with others. He feels that he is like a slave to the Gospel and is happy to accept this role.

Today's Gospel ***(Mark 1: 29–39)*** portrays the early days of Jesus's healing ministry in Galilee. After praying with the community in the synagogue, Jesus responds with compassion to all the sick and suffering people who are brought to him. He begins his days in prayerful solitude and is drawn by a desire to bring his Good News to as many people as possible.

May we centre our lives in prayer and by the grace of God be determined like St Paul to bring the Good News to our broken and hurting world.

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 3 Feb	10.00am 5.30pm	Hugo Lopez RIP For the people of the Parish
Sun 4 Feb	***Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time***	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Elio Di Carlo RIP Geoff and Mary Barrett RIP
Mon 5 Feb	***Memoria of St Agatha, Virgin and Martyr***	
	10.00am	Holy Souls in Purgatory
Tue 6 Feb	***Memoria of St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs of Japan***	
	10.00am	Asunta Girardi RIP
Wed 7 Feb	10.00am	Fr John Chatterton RIP
Thur 8 Feb	10.00am	Funeral Mass for Sandra McNamee
Fri 9 Feb	10.00am	Evarista Ebrada RIP and Ned Kelly RIP
Sat 10 Feb	***Memoria of St Scholastica, Virgin***	
	10.00am 5.30pm	Mary Tomnie RIP Barbara Whitefield RIP and Family
Sun 11 Feb	***Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time***	
	10.30am 5.30pm	People of the Parish Joseph Theva RIP

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.

The Jubilee of Hope began in December 2024 with Pope Francis opening the "holy door" in St. Peter's Basilica, offering the world's 1.3 billion Catholics the possibility of obtaining a plenary indulgence and a year of special graces. The Jubilee of Hope will end on the feast of the Epiphany in 2026. For more information on the Vatican's Jubilee Year go to: www.giubileo-2025.it/en

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.

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, Graham Bell, Anju Bell and Baby Trevor Agius.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of Giulia Auletta. Please also keep her family in your prayers.

BEREAVEMENT CAFE

The Bereavement Café will be open again this Monday 5 February in the Chatterton Room at 10:30 am. Please come and join us.

Early Years Practitioner/Playworker

The Kindergarten at St Joseph's are looking to recruit a qualified Early Years Practitioner to work as part of the preschool and D2D team. Ideally you will also have at least two years nursery experience and some experience working with older school aged children. If you would like to know more, please contact Louise or Liam Phone 01372 720218 Email welcome@kindiejoes.co.uk

Lent course – Saints, helping us today

Following the success of our Advent groups we are delighted to offer CaFE's Saints course this Lent, showing how the age-old wisdom and teachings of the saints can be a practical help to us today. Come and join us for tea and cake as we watch and discuss this series of 5 films on:
St Patrick (Spreading the Good News)
St Benedict (a Rhythm of Prayer)
St Francis of Assisi (God's Heart for the Poor)
St Ignatius of Loyola (Discerning Life's Journey)
St Therese of Lisieux (Simplicity of Faith)

We will meet at 7.30pm in the Chatterton Room on the following Mondays: 19th February, 26th February, 4th March, 11th March and 18th March. We will finish each evening with a time of prayer inspired by the Saint of the day. If you would like to come, please email mary@marygortondesign.co.uk

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.

Young Adults Social (Ages 21 to 30)

We would like to invite you to join us for a quick drink at a nearby pub following 17:30 mass on Sunday 25th February.

This will be a great opportunity to meet other young adults in the parish and to catch-up with old classmates.

Please gather with Thomas Andrews at the back of the church following evening mass and we will head to the pub as a group.

World Day of Prayer Friday 1 March 10:30 am

Every year, on the World Day of Prayer, ecumenical services take place all over the world and Epsom Christian Churches have been hosting them in turn over the past 50 years; now it is time for St Joseph's to host the event! This year the service is written by the Christian women of Palestine for all men and women - we all need to pray for Peace in the Holy Land. Please come and support us to ensure that St Joseph's Parish is well represented in the congregation. Mass that day will be at 12 before the Lenten Lunch.

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.

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.

Safeguarding

The Diocese is arranging the following Zoom Sessions for Parish Safeguarding Representatives, Group Leaders, and Coordinators of activities in the parish, as well as those keen on learning about 'Creating a Safer Environment Policy' in the Diocese: 29th February (11:00-12:30), 14th March (14:00 – 15:30), 20 March (19:00 – 20:30). Please email Safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk to register your interest in attending any of them.

FOODBANK UPDATE

Thank you so much for all your donations over the Christmas period. We know that this is an expensive time of year, especially trying to keep warm with high energy prices. During the month of December, we fed 1,324 people, slightly higher than the number we fed in December 2022. None of this could be achieved without your donations, your generosity and kindness.

This week's urgent's list includes:

- Jars of cooking sauce; Tinned vegetables
- Tinned pasta/beans with meat; Jam
- Instant mash; Sponge pudding (long-life)
- Long life juice; Powdered milk
- Sugar (500g bags)
- Cereal bars; Loo rolls
- Shampoo/conditioner; Deodorant
- Toothpaste/toothbrushes adult
- Washing up liquid; Nappies 5+, 6
- Bags for life

After the **amazing success of our Advent season**, we are delighted to bring you the next season IV of **Invited this Lent**. It is a **deeper dive into our faith** and is designed to help us **grow as Disciples** of Jesus by offering a **richer level of formation** as well as some practical challenges along the way. Suitable for those who have already said yes to Jesus and are looking for **concrete ways to conform their lives more closely to Christ.**

We are joined this Lent by a collection of amazing Diocesan and Religious priests, who offer their insights into what it means to make Jesus the Lord of our lives, how we the Church can be the beacon of light this world needs, and also how we can be transformed by all that Mother Church has to offer.

- Ep 1 Centre – Fr Toby Lees OP speaks about Jesus as Lord of our lives and issues an interesting challenge.
- Ep 2 Renewal – Canon Kieron O'Brien inspires us to become Missionary Disciples
- Ep 3 Community – Fr Thomas Mannion OP explores Ecclesiology. What is the Church and how do we fit in?
- Ep 4 Reconcile – Fr Kevin Dring leads a beautiful reflection on Reconciliation.
- Ep 5 Summit – Fr Gabriel Dobson OSB talks us through Holy Week, enabling us to enter more deeply into the Paschal mystery.

Speaking during last week's General Audience, Pope Francis renewed his appeal for peace in our war-torn world and expressed his solidarity with people living in countries enduring the horrors of war. Speaking to those assembled, he said: "Let us pray to the Lord that He may sow the seed of peace in the hearts of the authorities of these countries." Pope Francis has made appeals for peace a near-constant refrain during his public audiences. He delivered his annual State of the World address to ambassadors accredited to the Holy See, highlighting that while peace is primarily a gift of God "it is also a responsibility incumbent upon all of us". Speaking during the address, the Pope expressed his deep concern about escalating conflicts worldwide, once again describing the current state of affairs as a "third world war fought piecemeal".

Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist
Saturday 10 February 2024

Bishop Richard will lead a day of reflection and formation for Ministers of the Eucharist at St Michael's, High Salvington, Worthing 11-4pm. The day will include theological and practical talks, Eucharistic Adoration and mass. Please register using the link W: Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist (10-Feb-2024) ChurchSuite Events

There will be a second collection next weekend for the Lourdes Pilgrimage Fund. Gift Aid applies.

FOR HEALTHY COUPLE RELATIONSHIPS, AND SUPPORT WHEN THEY'RE NOT .....

Catholic Marriage Care offers:

- Confidential, low-cost, accredited relationship counselling to all who approach us.
- Approved marriage preparation courses
- Contact : www.marriagecare.org.uk or call 0800 389 3801

PLEASE CONSIDER VOLUNTEERING WITH US!
Receive excellent training, and make a real difference.
Contact as above or local Centre contact: 07815 854007 and 0208 393 1607
'Volunteering with Marriage Care is one of the most rewarding and worthwhile things I do'

Lenten Lunches 16th February

Lenten Lunches will once again take place this year. The lunches are part of our Lenten observances. They consist of soup and bread and take place in the Hall on Fridays after 12 o'clock Mass.
Please note there will be no 10.00 a.m. Mass on Fridays during Lent. If you are willing to make soup, please contact Breeda Walsh on 07748 505752 or email:walsh.breeda@gmail.com.
All donations received at the lunches will go to MISSIO.

Ofsted Inspection December 2023

*St Joseph's Catholic Primary School continues to be an **outstanding** school. Some extracts from the report:*

- *St Joseph's is a community where pupils thrive and feel safe.*
- *The curriculum exceeds the demands of the national curriculum in several respects and pupils are taught by highly skilled adults.*
- *Teachers structure learning incredibly well and ensure that pupils benefit from frequent opportunities to revisit and remember what they have been taught.*
- *Pupils also excel in other areas of school life, such as providing a service to others, behaving responsibly, and developing their own talents and interests.*
- *Pupils' behaviour is excellent in classes and around school. They play and learn incredibly well together.*
- *Staff have very high expectations of pupils' behaviour. This helps pupils to concentrate very well in lessons. They are also extremely well-mannered and welcoming to visitors.*
- *Parents are extremely supportive of the school and are very happy with their child's progress and development.*

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 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.

Contact Us: Email: epsom@abdiocese.org.uk
Telephone: 01372 723573

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