# ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

# 5 NOVEMBER 2023

## BISHOP RICHARD'S UPDATE

Dear brothers and sisters,
At this time in the Church's Year, the readings at Mass direct us towards 'The Last Things.' The tone of the readings becomes in some ways a little sterner, and in the Gospel, we read Jesus' warnings to the people, especially the Scribes and Pharisees.
It is clear from Sunday's Readings that warnings to the leaders of the people were not new. The prophet Malachi has stern warnings for the priestly class of his own day - Jesus warns his followers that the example of their leaders is not all that it should be.
What, then of our own day? These passages of Scripture are, certainly, a reminder to those of us with positions of leadership in the Church that we must be truly authentic in our ministry. As the recent gathering for the Synod has come to its close, let us pray for all who have been involved in the meetings in Rome and who will be gathering again in a year's time, for bishops, priests, deacons and all with positions of responsibility in the life of the Church - that the message preached will always be spoken and lived authentically. Indeed, there are aspects in the life of every one of us where we know we are called to give a good example. Whether we are thinking of political life, the business world, our universities and schools, our homes – may the witness to the Gospel message be spoken with fidelity and lived out with authenticity.
At this time, with conflict raging in Gaza and Ukraine and with tensions rising in other parts of the world; when the lives of many are being affected by weather systems, where refugees and asylum seekers continue to seek a place of safety, may our witness be thoroughgoing and our response to need generous and welcoming, expressed in a spirit of peace and reconciliation for all.

With every blessing,

Bishop Richard

## THIRTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### SUNDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2023

In our readings today, we hear how easy it is for human pride and laxity to diminish or even falsify God's message. Instead, let us follow the invitation to honour God in humility, sincerity and truth.

In the First Reading ***(<+Malachi 1: 14-2.2, 8-10)***, the prophet Malachi does not mince his words. His message is hard-hitting: the priests are reproached for their spiritual negligence and failure to instruct the people properly, as well as for their half-hearted service of God.

Religious leaders are also criticised in the Gospel ***(Mattthew 23: 1-12)***, Jesus castigates their hypocrisy: they are more concerned with drawing attention to themselves and exploiting their social position, rather than committing themselves to the message they preach. This type of self-aggrandisement and pride is the exact opposite of what the followers of Jesus should aspire to. Jesus himself is our role model: he teaches us that the route to leadership is through service of God in all things.

In contrast, the Second Reading presents Paul as a truly devoted pastor: enthusiastic, hard-working, full of love for his people; endlessly sharing the living word of God with this community. ***(Thessalonians 2: 2-9, 13)***

To follow Christ is to serve him humbly; and humility, together with complete trust in God, is the theme of today's Psalm ***(Psalm 130)***. Let us pray this week: Lord God, you are both Father and Mother to us. We beg you: help us to be sincere and joyful in our practice of faith and prayer; to serve you in our daily lives; and to be even more alert and awake to your presence in nature all around us. We also pray with all our hearts for that peace which this world cannot give.

| DATE | | MASS INTENTION |
|---|---|---|
| **Sat 4 Nov** | ***Memoria of St Charles Borromeo, Bishop*** | |
| | 11.00am | Bereavement Mass – As per Book of Remembrance |
| | 5.30pm | As per Book of Remembrance |
| **Sun 5 Nov** | ***Thirty First Sunday in Ordinary Time*** | |
| | 10.30am | As per Book of Remembrance |
| | 5.30pm | As per Book of Remembrance |
| **Mon 6 Nov** | 10.00am | As per Book of Remembrance |
| **Tue 7 Nov** | 10.00am | As per Book of Remembrance |
| **Wed 8 Nov** | 10.00am | As per Book of Remembrance |
| **Thu 9 Nov** | ***Feast of the Consecration of the Lateran Basilica*** | |
| | 10.00 am | As per Book of Remembrance |
| **Fri 10 Nov** | ***Memoria of St Leo the Great, Pope, Doctor*** | |
| | 10.00am | As per Book of Remembrance |
| **Sat 11 Nov** | ***Memoria of St Martin of Tours, Bishop*** | |
| | 10.00am | As per Book of Remembrance |
| | 5.30pm | As per Book of Remembrance |
| **Sun 12 Nov** | ***Thirty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*** | |
| | 10.30am | As per Book of Remembrance |
| | 5,30pm | As per Book of Remembrance |

## 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.

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.

**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.

**Our Prayers are asked for all those who are ill:**

**Frances Walsh, Merlyn Soares, Ann Schifano, Emma Lee, Ian Watts, Steve Lee, Melitona Leander, Vanessa Tuff, Susan McCrory, Anita Hully, Joseph Poku, Angela Brett, Kay Pledge, Alan Lucas, Tom Makinson, Ethan Foley, Alice Nicolle, Jean Childs, Sue Brackenbury, Matty Horkan, Lorraine Corsini, Jimmy Ward and Family, Graham Bell and Baby Trevor Agius.**

## *RECENTLY DECEASED*

*Please pray for the happy repose of the soul of John Totman and Antonio Reillo who have recently passed away. Please do keep their families in your prayers.*

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 10minute 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. Book tickets now on our website: www.wintershall.org.uk or call 01483 892167.

## 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 us (Baptism Catechists') near the font after 10:30 Mass on Sundays. Do come and say hello.

## 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.

### CHRISTMAS YOUTH CELEBRATION

**A shout out to all secondary school, college and Uni students...we'd like to invite you to a Christmas Youth Celebration at St Joseph's Church on Saturday 23rd December from 7pm.**

**This gathering is aimed just for you and please bring along your friends. Everyone is invited no matter where they live, which school they go to and what their beliefs are.**

**Drinks, snacks and plenty of fun-filled options to choose from too, will follow in the Hall and a place to hang out with your friends for the evening.**

**If you'd like to take part in the preparations, share your ideas or have any questions please do get in touch with either May (07970 230246) or Rachel (07899 902051).**

**Austen Ivereigh is coming to talk to us on Friday 10 November 7:30 pm in St Joseph's Church**

**Your invitation to: What happened at the October 2023 Synod in Rome, and why it matters to us all.**

Austen Ivereigh, the Papal biographer, and a well-known writer and speaker on Catholic affairs, is in the synod as part of a team of "expert theologians" helping with the process. He will explain why this has been a synod like no other: who was there, how it worked, and how it is set to change the Church in surprising ways. He is an exceptional speaker who is interesting and amusing and easy to listen to. You won't be disappointed. As always, he is open to questions from the floor.

The Synod of Bishops taking place in Rome, the first of two concluding the three-year "synod on synodality", is the most important event since the Second Vatican Council. It is set to transform the culture of the Catholic Church by recovering a way of "walking together" that is as old as the Church itself. Austen is known for his two biographies of Pope Francis, and a New York Times bestselling book written in collaboration with him: Let Us Dream: The Path to a Better Future (Simon & Schuster, 2020).

### HELP WITH WEEDING

If you have green fingers and are able to commit to a few hours a week to help with keeping the weeds at bay around the Church, then please do email the Parish Office.

**A new sponsor is urgently required for a Ukrainian lady in her early 40's. She speaks excellent English and has a strong faith.**

**If you feel you can help or would like to find out more about being a sponsor, please contact the Parish Office and they will forward your details onto those concerned.**

**Would you like to join our team? The Diocese is seeking to recruit an experienced part time Communications professional** to produce and edit accurate, well-written, online and offline content across diocesan platforms which tell the Church's story and its contribution to society. The successful applicant will support our Head of Communications in managing the digital and print presence of the Diocese, working on a range of projects and campaigns and supporting the content management of our website and social platforms.

**Salary:** £17,500 (FTE £35,000) - 17.5 hours per week

**Location:** Crawley - with hybrid remote working

**Closing date:** Wednesday 15 November

Visit our website **at https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/careers/ to find out more and apply.**

### ADVENT GROUPS

**ONLINE:**

*Invited (Season 3)* is a series of 4 firms supplied by our Diocese. Zoom groups will meet from 7pm – 8.30pm on Thursday 30 November and Thursdays 7, 14 and 21 December.

To join a group please email: formation@abdiocese.org.uk

**IN PERSON:**

Come and join us for tea and cake as we watch and discuss *Belong and Believe*. This 5 session course by Catholic Faith Exploration (café) is inspired by Celtic spirituality and explores themes such as: welcoming communities, growing in faith and renewal in the Holy Spirit. We will meet at 7.30pm in the Chatterton Room on the following Mondays: 20 November, 27 November, 4 December, 11 December and 18 December.

If you would like to come, please email: mary@marygortondesign.co.uk so we knowhow much cake to provide!

***The Sword and the Cloak: St. Martin, Armistice Day and the Gospel of Peace***

*A talk by Canon Rob Esdaile at St. Martin of Tours Anglican Church, Church Street, Epsom, this* ***Remembrance Sunday - November 12, 2023 at 6.30pm****.*

*St. Martin has been described as "the first Christian Conscientious Objector" and his feast-day ironically became Armistice Day when the guns fell silent on the Western Front in 1918. Can St. Martin speak to us today in a world riven by armed conflict? And how should our responses as Christians to questions of peace and war differ from those of our non-Christian neighbours? Admission free and refreshments available from 6pm. All are welcome.*

## 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.

## NOVEMBER – MONTH OF THE HOLY SOULS

November is the month of the Holy Souls when we pray for our deceased relatives and friends - if you would like to have the names of relatives or friends entered into the Book of Remembrance during the month of November, please do write their names in the book. You will find Holy Souls envelopes beside the book for your donations. If you have any queries, please contact the Parish Office.

## Churches Together in Epsom: Invitation to Coffee, Fellowship and Prayer

**You are invited. We meet on Friday 10 November from 10am-11am at the Old Moat Garden Centre Cafe, Horton Lane, Epsom KT19 8PQ. All are very welcome.**

## CHRISTMAS CARDS

**Christmas Cards are now available to buy in the Repository, which is open after all weekend Masses. Please do take a look!**

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PROGRAMME 2023 – 2024

For those of you who have enrolled your Child on this year's FHC Programme, please don't forget to bring your Child's Attendance Record Card with you when you attend weekend Masses and ask one of the Priests or Catechists to sign it for your Child.

## PARISH OPENING HOURS

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

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

The Good Counsel Black Tie Ball will take place at 6pm on Saturday 18 November 2023 in Kensington, London. Live Band. Silent Auction. London's Catholic Pro-Life Ball raising money to help save lives and change lives. Tickets £125 each. For bookings and enquiries email GCNBall@gmail.com or telephone 07795205117.

**Marriage Catechists' Day – Saturday 18 November 11am-3.30pm at The St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley RH10 6RP**

Are you involved with, or would like to be involved with, supporting couples on their engagement journey towards marriage? Bishop Richard invites you to join him for our annual day of formation. We will be looking at the impact of the new pastoral plan on the Diocesan preparation scheme and on the need to support couples in their communities. Please register using the link Marriage Catechists Day (18-Nov-2023) · ChurchSuite

## Pope asks for prayers for peace and for the Synod

**Pope Francis notes it is the month of the Rosary and of missions and invites all Catholics to pray the Rosary and implore peace in Ukraine and in all war-torn regions and also for the Synod of Bishops on Synodality.**

**"Let us pray for peace, in the tormented Ukraine and in all lands wounded by war," Pope Francis said to pilgrims and believers following the Sunday Angelus prayer as he recalled the fact that October that "begins today" is the month of the Rosary and of missions.**

## FOODBANK UPDATE

What a wonderful community!! Between both St Joseph's School and Church, our harvest collection came to a staggering 257 kilos! These donations mean that meals can be made and eaten by those in need within our wider community. Thank you for your unstinting support for the Foodbank.

Unfortunately, demand is still high and we now feed over 700 people each month (September was 705, August was 777). Below is a list of items we are very low on.

Long Life Sponge Puddings, UHT milk full fat and semi-skimmed, Powdered Milk, Tinned Vegetables, Long Life Juice, Squash, Packet Soup, Instant Mash, Marmalade, Chocolate Spread, Toilet Rolls