ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER

8 JANUARY 2023

Canon Bill's Update - Friendship

Doing supply work in a parish in upstate New York one summer when I was a full-time school chaplain, and could enjoy long summer holidays, my dear mother suggested that I should look for some of her relations. To this end, I began by looking up the many phone books for the New York area. When the Pastor of the Parish asked me what I was doing, I said that I was looking for my relations, Bill, he said, your relations are people who are given to you, but thank God you can choose your friends. Later on, I discovered that he did not get on with any of his relations!

Our relations then are a given, but the friends we make especially in our youth, and if we are lucky, as we grow older, are very important and should never be taken for granted.

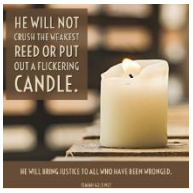
The Bible contains many references to the value of friendship: "A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity" (Proverbs 17:17). No pun intended in reference to the present domestic relationship between Harry and William. Sadly, I do not expect that there will be peace between them any time soon.

As Christians, our first and deepest friendship is to be with the Lord: "You are my friends if you do what I command you. No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing, but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. (John 15:15).

While it may be fashionable today to research for your relations, such as, "Who do you think you are", the friends we make and indeed all our friendships, are essential for a happy life and for the joy we give and receive supporting one another, as it is more poetically expressed in the words of the Prophet Kahlil Gibran: "And in the sweetness of friendship let there be laughter, and sharing of pleasures. For in the dew of little things the heart finds its morning and is refreshed".

A resolution perhaps for this New Year to refresh or renew old friendships, and hopefully make some new friends.

Peace and Joy
God Bless
Canon Bill



THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

SUNDAY 8 JANUARY 2023

First Reading Isaiah 42: 1–4, 6–7.

Written around 550 BC, this chapter of Isaiah speaks to the Jewish exiles and tries to comfort them. It is helpful to recall the events which took place after the people of Israel left Egypt, crossed the desert and settled in the land of Canaan. Here they built a Temple, and their kings and military power varied in quality and success. In the 6th century BC, the Babylonians successfully invaded their land, destroyed their Temple and took the people in bondage back to Babylon. The country suffered total devastation. The Israelites then wondered if God had abandoned them or was punishing them. But Isaiah reminds them that God is not vengeful. He is working at restoring their self esteem. He is sending them a 'servant'. In today's passage we encounter this servant for the first time, in the first of four 'Servant Songs' in Isaiah. Although innocent, he suffers for God's people, thus acquiring the name of 'Suffering Servant' (Isaiah 53). Early Christians saw in him a prefiguration of Jesus Christ.

Described here as a crushed reed or a wavering flame, he will not break or be quenched because God's spirit is with him. Nothing is said about the servant's identity, but we learn about his character and activity. Like Moses, David, and indeed the whole of Israel (see Isaiah 41: 8), the servant is the chosen one of God, formed by him as a potter would shape the clay (Genesis 2:7). He will open the eyes of the blind, and free prisoners. His main task is to bring true justice – a role normally reserved for kings and priests, and to be light to the nations, to those who live in darkness. These words were clearly designed to encourage and support the exiles who by the rivers of Babylon ... sat and wept, remembering Zion (Psalm 136). They also give us hope.

DATE		MASS INTENTION
Sat 7 Jan	10.00am 5.30pm	Zenaida Chumroo and Raymunda Chachuela RIP People of the Parish
Sun 8 Jan	***The Baptism of The Lord***	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Private Intention John Barrett RIP
Mon 9 Jan	10.00am	Edmond Kelly RIP
Tue 10 Jan	10.00am	The Late Her Majesty The Queen
Wed 11 Jan	10.00am	Hugh Richards RIP Lottie and Will Walter (Fisher) RIP
Thur 12 Jan	10.00am	Emma Brauer's Intention
Fri 13 Jan	10.00am	Mansoor Bholah and Elpidio De Castro RIP
Sat 14 Jan	10.00am 5.30pm	Mary McCrory RIP People of the Parish
Sun 15 Jan	***Second Sunday in Ordinary Time***	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Onofrio and Antonina Montalto Monella RIP Edmond and Catherine Barrett 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, 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, Ethan Foley and Baby Trevor Agius.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the happy repose of the souls of Michael Smith, Graham Robertson and Baby Sanjay Ali. Please also keep their families in your prayers

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT TEAM

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.

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.

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.

Two years ago, the greatly esteemed Fr Mike Schmitz took us on an amazing exploration of the Bible in a Year. It was a fabulous opportunity to dive deeper into the wonderful blessing that is the Word of God, and it helped thousands of people to grow in faith and understanding. In 2023, Fr Mike, in association with Ascension Press, will be taking us on another exciting journey – through the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The Catechism holds the great treasures of the teachings of the Church, some of which are beautiful in their simplicity, whereas others can be more challenging. Visit the **Ascension web-site** to find out how you can join many others undertaking this potentially life changing adventure.

Sharing the Church's Story

11 Feb, 10am-5pm, QEII Centre, SW1P 3EE

Catholic Voices and **Word on Fire** are hosting a one-day conference with dynamic speakers - including the internationally renowned Bishop Robert Barron. Whether you are a volunteer, parent, catechist, clergy, religious, or just want a boost for your faith life - this conference is for YOU. **Register here**.

Starting School in September 2023?

A reminder to parents who have a child who will start school in September 2023 that the deadline for applications is 15 January 2023. Parents applying to St Joseph's School should submit their Supplementary Information Form directly to the school also by 15 January 2023.

We offer 60 places a year and priority is given to baptised Catholic children. Please refer to the school Admissions Policy for all details. If you would like to tour the school, please contact the school office on 01372 727850.

SUNDAY 10.30A.M. MASS

We would like families to play a more active role in the Sunday Morning Mass from January 2023. So, if you or your children would like to read at the 10.30a.m. Mass, then please contact 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 bags
- **loose cash**: please place in the collection bags.

Thank you for your support.

SAVE THE DATE!!
CONFIRMATION ENROLMENT WILL TAKE PLACE ON MONDAY 16 JANUARY AT 7.30P.M. IN THE CHURCH. PARENTS AND CHILDREN NEED TO ATTEND.

Churches Together in Epsom:
Monthly Prayer Meeting

All are invited to the next **CTiE** meeting: 10.00a.m. – 11.00a.m. on Friday 13 January for **Prayer, Fellowship and Coffee,** indoors at **Old Moat Garden Centre Cafe**, Horton Lane, Epsom KT19 8PQ.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - United Service in Epsom January 22nd

You are warmly invited to an Ecumenical Service in St. Barnabas church at 6:30pm. This Week of Prayer for Christian Unity seeks to explore how the work of Christian Unity can contribute to the promotion of racial justice across all levels of society.

REQUEST FOR A LIFT

A Parishioner needs a lift to the 10.30a.m. or 5.30p.m. Mass on Sundays – can you help?

If you can, please phone 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.

SECOND COLLECTION
WEEKEND OF 14 AND 15 JANUARY 2023
There will be a second collection next weekend for Peace Sunday. Gift Aid does not apply.

Diocesan run events

Annual Justice and Peace Assembly - Hungry for Change Saturday 28 January 2023 9.30am-1.30pm. The Philip Howard Centre, Crawley RH10 6RP

Evenings of Reflection

7.00pm- 9.00pm with a choice of dates and venues across the Diocese

Externally run events

TIME OUT: Self-Guided Retreat Friday 20 - Sunday 22 January 2023 Cost: £90 per person, per night

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.

Concessionary rate for shared occupancy and bursary assistance available. Please contact us for further information T: 01342 710318 E: retreats@worth.org.uk W: worth.co.uk

VACANCY FOR FOUNDATION GOVERNOR AT ST PHILOMENA'S HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

There is a vacancy available for a Foundation Governor from the Spring term of the academic year 2022/2023.

We would be most interested to hear from practising Finance or HR. If you are interested, please contact our Clerk to the Governors by email: cmingay@stphils.org.uk at your earliest convenience.

An exciting opportunity for young people:

The Catenian Bursary Fund

The Bursary Fund was formed by the Catenian Association which is an organisation of Catholics founded to promote friendship and support, and to strengthen Catholic family life. Catenians work and help to support Catholic youth throughout the world.

The Catenian Bursary Fund is a UK registered charity with the aim of offering financial help to young people about to volunteer to do something wonderful for others.

The Bursary Fund makes two types of awards:

Lourdes Awards.

Every year many young Catholics travel to Lourdes to work as a helper or as support staff to an assisted pilgrim. This can be a life-changing experience and the Catenian Bursary Fund can help with expenses. This can be as an individual or with an HCPT or Diocesan Pilgrimage. The fund also supports those providing the same service to assisted pilgrims on the Jumbulance

Individual Project Award

This is a financial grant made to assist a young Catholic, who wishes to undertake some individual project by volunteering to do something wonderful for someone else in the UK or overseas. This could be as an individual or with others, organised individually or through another organisation. The essential issue is that you will be doing something to benefit others – not yourself.

To find out more information about the Catenian Bursary Fund and how to apply, please access: www.catenianbursary.com or contact Eric Doherty, Epsom Catenian Charity Officer: eric.doherty@ntlworld.com

Evenings of Reflection for Confirmation Candidates/Youth Groups

Bishop Richard is running Evenings of Reflection for Confirmation Candidates and Youth Groups. Prior to lockdowns, these evenings were very well received, so we are looking forward to bringing them back as the young people always enjoyed them and found the opportunity to explore prayer, meet a larger group of other young Catholics and have some fun together uplifting and encouraging.

The event that is most accessible for our group is taking place at Sacred Heart in Cobham on Friday 17th March from 7pm to 9pm. You can book your places here Evenings of Reflection (17-Mar-2023) · ChurchSuite Events

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

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.

Days of Reflection for Ministers, led by Bishop Richard

Saturday 21 January 2023 at St Bernadette's church, Tilgate, Crawley – for Ministers of the Word 11am – 4pm

The day will include talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary and its use in the Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word, preparing to read, using microphones, Lectio Divina and Mass. Arrival from 10.30am for refreshments. Please bring a packed lunch. Please sign up at: Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word (21-Jan-2023) · ChurchSuite Events E: Catherine.Christmas@abdiocese.org.uk for more information.

Saturday 18 February 2023 at Christ the Prince of Peace, Weybridge – for Ministers of the Eucharist 11am - 4pm

The day will include theological and practical talks, Eucharistic Adoration and mass. Arrival from 10.30am for refreshments. Please bring a packed lunch.

Please sign up at: Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Eucharist (18-Feb-2023) · ChurchSuite Events E: Catherine.Christmas@abdiocese.org.uk for more information.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Clarification to newsletter regarding Christmas offering in support of our Priests:

If you would like to send a bank transfer for your Christmas offering in support of our Priests, please use the usual Parish bank details, being sure to include "Christmas" in your bank reference.

The bank details are:
account name: RCD A&B St Joseph's Epsom
sort code: 40-05-20
account number: 71076221
bank reference: "Christmas".

Other methods of payment: contactless giving devices; gift aid envelopes; Christmas Day collection bags.