ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH
EPSOM NEWSLETTER
17 NOVEMBER 2024

Contact Us: Email: epsom@abdiocese.org.uk **Telephone:** 01372 723573 **Website:** www.stjosephsepsom.org.uk

PARISH OPENING HOURS :MONDAY, WEDNESDAY. THURSDAY - FRIDAY 9.15A.M. – 3.15P.M.

UPDATE FROM FR STEPHEN

One of the many courses which caught my eye when I was deciding which subjects to do as part of my degree was archaeology. I didn't in the end plump for it if you have heard me tell the story of my vocation to the priesthood, you may remember that I have always said that it was studying St Augustine and the Religions of Greece and Rome course that set me on the path to ordination.

Still, I am fascinated by what archaeologists discover. This is especially true when they find what you might call "vestigial remains"- a prehistoric footstep preserved in rock, or a fragment of pottery, say. The word "vestigium" means footprint in Latin, in fact. This can then tell them so much about how our ancestors lived.

In these past more than three years, I have been privileged to serve you in so many ways. And yet I know that I can only hope to leave the most vestigial things behind. Life will move on here, with Canon Bill working wonderfully for you as he has always done.

However, Epsom will leave more than mere traces in my memory. I have been so privileged to work with such a superb parish priest, and such a kind, supportive and helpful community. So many of you have offered me prayers and kind wishes in the last few weeks, for which I am truly grateful. As they (possibly!) say, you can take the priest out of Epsom, but you can't take Epsom out of the priest!

God Bless

Fr Stephen

THIRTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

'You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence.'

As we approach the end of the Church year, the readings challenge us to reflect on the 'End Times' and judgement that follows; our own death; and the hope we have in Christ.

Today's Scripture reveals the fidelity of our God who stays with us through it all, encouraging us to remain faithful to God's love, even in difficult times.

In the **First Reading (Daniel 12: 1–3)**

the poetic, symbolic language offers hope to those facing persecution. It includes one of the earliest Old Testament references to resurrection, where the faithful will rise from the dust to 'shine as bright as stars for all eternity'. .

In today's **Gospel (Mark 13:24-32)**

Jesus uses similar imagery to describe a world beset by turmoil and distress, just like our own. Jesus nevertheless assures his disciples (including us) of his constant presence and his ultimate victory. God's promises will be fulfilled: we can be confident in knowing that we will rejoice with Christ forever.

In the **Second Reading *(Hebrews 10: 11–14,18)*** the Letter to the Hebrews was written to Jewish Christians who were struggling with their faith. It speaks of Jesus as the perfect high priest who offered himself as the final sacrifice for our sins. Through Jesus, we are forgiven and made holy.

The Psalm ***(15)*** is a hope-filled song of trust that God will offer deliverance from death. It praises God for his care and protection.

This week, let's pray for each other. We ask to follow the Lord's path of life closely, showing it to others through the way we live our own lives.

"From the "Prego" leaflet produced by the St Beuno's Spirituality Centre in North Wales. For the full leaflet go to www.stbeunosoutreach.wordpress.com

DATE	TIME	MASS INTENTION
Sat 16 Nov	10.00am 5.30pm	As per Book of Remembrance As per Book of Remembrance
Sun 17 Nov	***Thirty Third Sunday in Ordinary Time***	
	10.30am 5.30pm	As per Book of Remembrance As per Book of Remembrance
Mon 18 Nov	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Tues 19 Nov	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Wed 20 Nov	10.00am	Funeral Mass for Alice Butterworth
Thu 21 Nov	***Memoria of the Presentation of The Blessed Virgin Mary***	
	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Fri 22 Nov	***Memoria of St Cecilia, Virgin, Martyr***	
	10.00am	As per Book of Remembrance
Sat 23 Nov	10.00am 5.30pm	As per Book of Remembrance As per Book of Remembrance
Sun 24 Nov	***Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Universal King***	
	10.30a.m. 5.30p.m.	As per Book of Remembrance As per Book of Remembrance

MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to have a Mass said for someone, please do pick up one of the Mass Intention envelopes in the Narthex and pop into the Parish Office. Alternatively, you can email your request to the Parish Office **at:epsom@abdiocese.org.uk.**

THERESA KENEFICK

RETIREMENT MASS
12 DECEMBER

Theresa Kenefick, Headteacher of our primary school, will be retiring in December following nearly 40 years of service to the school and the parish. Theresa will be celebrating her retirement mass at St Joseph's on Thursday 12 December at 5.30pm. Members of the school and parish community are welcome to attend.

If you cannot make the mass, but would like to send Mrs Kenefick a message on her retirement, then please email to the below address:

Email: specialevents@stjosephs-epsom.surrey.sch.uk.

Our Prayers are asked for all those who are ill:

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, Francis Taylor, Eddie Bell, Rosalina Stanislawski and Baby Trevor Agius.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the happy repose of the souls, that have fallen asleep recently,

Please keep their families in your prayers.

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 for your donations beside the book of Remembrance , Please pop them into the Parish Office. You can also make a donation using the contactless payment machines.

If you have any queries, please contact the Parish Office.

ANNUAL BEREAVEMENT MASS

Please come and join us on Saturday 23 November at 10.00a.m. for the parish Annual Bereavement Mass. During this Mass we will remember all our family and friends who have died, and especially those parishioners whose funerals have been held at St. Joseph's since November of last year.

You are warmly invited to come and join us for tea and coffee in the hall afterwards.

There will be tea and coffee after the 10am Mass on Fridays in the Chatterton Room, unless there is a funeral on Friday morning.

If you would like to help Please contact Celia Flood on 07767870035.

BEREAVEMENT CAFE

The Bereavement Cafe will be open on Monday **25 November** at 10-30a.m in the Chatterton room after morning Mass.

Do please come and join us, especially if you are newly bereaved. You are assured of a very warm welcome..

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.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The Catechist Team has emailed all parents who have registered an interest for their child to join the 2024 - 2025 First Holy Communion Programme. If you did register an interest but have not received an email, please contact the Parish Office at epsom@abdiocese.org.uk.

Please do continue to get your Attendance Registers signed - if you visit another Parish for weekend Mass, then do bring your attendance Register with you and ask a member of the Parish Team to sign it for you.

Saint Joseph's, Epsom
Parish Pilgrimage to Walsingham,2025

We are planning a parish pilgrimage to Walsingham in Norfolk. This is the site of probably the best known English shrine of Our Lady.

2025 will be a Jubilee Year for the Church, with the theme of Pilgrims in Hope. A pilgrimage to Walsingham will be a special way to deepen our faith in and reliance on Our Lord Jesus Christ

Key information is : -

Depart Epsom (Saint Joseph's Church) on
Friday 19 September 9.00
Depart Walsingham on
Sunday 21 September 15.00

Please collect a Flyer at the back of the Church after Mass. And for any further information or questions please contact :
Jenny and John Mortimer—jennyandjohnm@netscape.net

CONFIRMATION

Should you like to enrol on next year's programme please contact Neil by email: ntwhitmore69@gmail.com

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.

SCHOOL CAR PARK (TOP)

The school have advised us they will be locking the school gates to the entry and exit of the car park. On a daily basis—This means Saturday and Sunday parking will be affected. The gates will be unlocked and locked again—Please leave promptly to ensure you are not locked into the car park.

Also when parking in the lower part these bays are double parking, use the bay lines to park correctly so all cars are able to park.

Jubilee for Youth – Pilgrims of Hope.

Rome 28 July – 4 August 2025

A pilgrimage for young adults aged 18-30 to celebrate this special year of forgiveness and reconciliation. Join with other like-minded people, as we travel to the beautiful city of Rome for opportunities to hear from, and pray with, Pope Francis on the theme of Hope. Including flights, half-board hotel and entry to events, the Diocese is offering this trip for only £995.00

Contact formation@abdiocese.org.uk to find out more.

ADVENT COURSE

A Biblical Walk through the Mass

Following the success of our Lent groups we are delighted to offer Ascension Press's Biblical Walk through the Mass this Advent. Come and join us for tea and cake as we watch and discuss this series of 5 films which explore the extraordinary biblical roots of the Liturgy and reveal what it all means and why it matters. We will meet at 7.30pm at St Michael's church hall, The Marld, Ashtead, SurreyKT21 1RS on the:
19 & 26 November, 3 ,10, & 17 December.

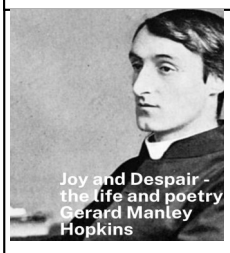
Places are limited so, if you would like to come, please book your place by emailing: mary@marygortondesign.co.uk

ADVENT CAROL SERVICE

At St Augustine's Abbey, Guildford GU4 8QR on 8 December 3.30pm

A special Advent Carol Service including the singing of ancient Gregorian Chant ,Advent Carols, Scripture Readings by the Monks, Poetry and Solo Organ pieces followed by Mulled Wine and refreshments after service. All are welcome.

Visit online at http://www.chilworthbenedictines.com



Joy and Despair— the life and poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins:
Thursday 16 January 2025, 7.30pm at St Augustine's Abbey,
Chilworth, Guildford GU4 8QR
BOOK NOW:
Limited Spaces at £10 per person.
Advanced booking essential at WWW.TICKETSOURCE.CO.UK (Search Manley Hopkins)

FOODBANK UPDATE

The Foodbank has begun its countdown to Christmas 2024! Please help us as we support people experiencing financial hardship in our community throughout December. Thank you so much in advance for your continued support and generosity.

Items we still urgently need include:

* Long life sponge puddings
* Jam/Honey/Chocolate Spread
* Crisps /Cereal bars
* Chocolate Biscuits
* Sugar (500g)
* Deodorant (male & female)
* Shampoo & Conditioner
* Tampons /Toilet Roll
* Washing powder / Washing up liquid
* Rice (microwavable) / Noodles
* Cooking sauces
* Packet soup
* Tinned Meat
* Ketchup/Brown sauce/Mayo
* Long life milk /Powdered milk
* Instant coffee
* Squash
* Adult toothbrushes

Please also look at the Christmas Wishlist of Items required.

Diocesan vacancies—Current

Receptionist (P/T) closing date 25November 2024, interviews Monday 2December 2024

The successful applicant will provide a warm welcome to colleagues and visitors and facilitate their use of the Diocesan Centre. Other duties will include managing room bookings and hospitality, light administrative duties and procuring consumables .

Private Secretary to the Bishop (P/T) closing date 5 December, interviews Friday 13 December 2024

The successful applicant will work closely with the Bishop supporting his work and mission and must be a practising Catholic. Excellent administrative and written communication skills and competency in Microsoft Office are needed, and an openness to deepen your understanding of the life of the Church, particularly in Canon Law.

ASSIST US TO LIVE, NOT TO DIE

Bishop Richard has written a pastoral letter about the assisted suicide bill and copies are available in the entrance as you leave the church. Please do take a copy to read for yourselves and if you are also minded, please do make your views known to the local MP.

WORLD GIFTS—For Christmas

World Gifts are a wonderful way for our parish communities to share the hope and joy of Christmas with our Global family.

GIFT AID STATEMENT'S

Gift Aid Statements for tax year 2023/24—There are still a lot of statements un-collected from the office. Please can we kindly ask you to collect these asap.

If you have any queries, please contact using the below address:

Email :ga.epsom@abdiocese.org.uk

UPCOMING NOTICES

- Arundel Cathedral Maintenance Fund -2nd Collection 24 November (gift aid eligible)
- Parish Christmas Lunch—5 December after Mass

Creative Ladies

Sales after Mass

After the masses over the weekend of Saturday 30th and Sunday 1st December the Creative Ladies will be selling their crafts and other goods in time for Christmas. Our table will be in the narthex. Please bring cash and all the money will go to the Faith in Action charities.

Upcoming—Parish Christmas Lunch

This event will be held after the 12.00 Mass on Thursday 5 December in the hall. Please sign up on the sheets in the narthex. There is no charge but a donation can be given towards our charities that we support in Zambia and Peru.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING…

Advent is 2 Weeks away—In the Repository you can find the Real Advent Calendars with chocolate and Christmas Cards and Gifts - From this weekend

Please do pop along after Mass to have a look.

CHURCH OFFERTORY

Ways for you to contribute to the Finances:

Please set up your standing order directly with your bank using the details below, or use the contactless machine located in the narthex or loose change into collection bags, all is greatly appreciated.

RCD A&B St Joseph Epsom

A/C No. 71076221

Sort Code: 40-05-20

Bank Reference: Your Name + GA

(If you are a member of our Gift Aid Scheme)

Retired Priest Fund

if you missed this 2nd collection last week —and would like to donate, please use the contactless machines at the back of church.

Also should you like anything to go into the Newsletter –Please email the details to the Office by Wednesdays.