ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH EPSOM NEWSLETTER—30 MARCH 2025

PARISH OPENING HOURS :Monday—Friday 9.15am—2.15pm

UPDATE FROM POPE FRANICS

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

This Sunday we celebrate Laetare Sunday the Latin word from the beginning of this Sunday's Entrance Antiphon at Mass - Rejoice, Jerusalem. Our rejoicing is marked by the use of rose coloured vestments at Mass, highlighting the midway point of our Lenten journey.

In this Jubilee Year, we are called to reflect on our lives as Pilgrims of Hope and this Sunday's readings will assist us in that reflection, for they speak of journeys.

The Old Testament reading celebrates the end of the 40 years in the desert for the people of Israel. It has not been an easy journey, but the Chosen People find the fulfilment of their hope in the Promised Land. No longer will they eat the manna in the desert their journey is over, they are home.

The Gospel, the Parable of the Prodigal Son, which we know so well, finds the son returning home, greeted by his father who loves him, who has been looking out for him and who welcomes him home with open arms and a great feast of celebration. To say that the son's journey was a difficult one would be an understatement. He left safety and the love of his father, travelled to the very depths and, only then, was he able to find his real direction. His Pilgrimage of Hope began hope that he would be welcomed home and his hope was fulfilled.

St Paul speaks of the fulfilment of hope in his second letter to the Corinthians: "For anyone who is in Christ, there is a new creation." As Jesus' followers, we are the people of that new creation. We are recipients of the gift of hope that is our pilgrimage to the Kingdom. As we make this pilgrimage, this journey, we are called to be the Lord's presence for our brothers and sisters.

With every Blessing

Bishop Richard

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

SUNDAY 30 MARCH 2025

Rejoice! In Christ we are a new creation

On this Laetare ('Rejoice!') Sunday at the mid-point of Lent, our liturgy centres on the boundless forgiveness of our loving God. We may choose to turn away from his love, but God forever turns towards us, longing to embrace us with compassion and rejoicing when we come back to him.

In the **First Reading (Joshua 5:9a.10-12)** God tells Joshua that he has taken away the shame of the people of Israel: their years in exile eating manna in the desert are over. From now on, they eat from the bounty of the land.

The **Psalm (33)** The generosity of God's goodness and forgiveness is proclaimed throughout the Psalm. God comes to us in our need and distress, desiring us to put aside our shame and be radiant with his transforming love. .

In the **Second Reading *(Corn 5:17-21)*** Paul's letter to the Corinthians continues this feast of forgiveness. We are reconciled to God through Christ and in him we are a new creation, liberated from our sins.

In today's **Gospel (*Luke* 15:1-3.11-32)** Finally, the beautiful parable that Jesus shares in today's Gospel sums up the whole message of the Good News and the promise of reconciliation. This reconciliation is made complete through the events of Holy Week and Easter that we will soon celebrate.

In this Jubilee Year, we pray as Pilgrims of Hope, made new in Christ. This week, we pray for all those in the world who are unable to secure enough food to eat from their land as a result of a changing climate. May we be moved with compassion to take whatever practical steps we can to alleviate their food poverty

"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

MASS TIMES THIS WEEK

Date	*Time*	*Mass Intention*
Sat 29 Mar	10.00am 5.30pm	Kenson Chan RIP Health and Well Being of Graham Bell
Sun 30 Mar	***Fourth 'Laetare' Sunday of Lent***	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Alejandro Carino RIP People of the Parish
Mon 31 Mar	10.00am	Graham Tooke RIP
Tue 01 Apr	10.00am	Chacko Ouseph RIP
Wed 02 Apr	10.00am	Zosinio Aboga RIP
Thu 03 Apr	10.00am	Mary Tomnie RIP
Fri 04 Apr	**12 noon**	Wellbeing of Coffey and Fitzpatrick Families Catherine, Edmond and Eamon Barrett RIP
Sat 05 Apr	10.00am 5.30pm	Susan and Patrick Halliden RIP Don, Lucy, Clare and Patrick Sammon's Intentions
Sun 06 Apr	***Fifth ('First Passion') Sunday of Lent***	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Vivian Camero Tobias RIP George Joseph RIP

Please pray for all those who are ill within our Parish:

Vanessa Tuff, Kay Pledge, Matty Horkan, Lorraine Corsini, Graham Bell, Gill Beenham, Alan Lucas and Angela Brett.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Please pray for the happy repose of the souls who have died recently, including : Fiorinda Gomez, Joseph Herry, Canon Oliver Heaney, Thomas Davern, Tom Makinson and Angelina Trosino

Please keep their families in your prayers.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

There is no better way in our parish to start the New Year than by praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament for our world and its needs in 2025.

On Mondays there will be an opportunity to pray with others before the Blessed Sacrament after the 10.00am Mass until 11.30am. Please come along.

FLOWERS

Please note that there will not be any flowers in the Church during Lent.

2ND COLLECTION - THIS WEEKEND

There will be a second collection for the Flowers for Easter.

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 Catechists near the font after 10:30am Mass on Sundays. Do come and say hello.

BEREAVEMENT GROUP

The Bereavement Group will meet Monday **31 March** after 10.00am Mass in the Chatterton Room.

If you are having a difficult time and feel you would like to chat to someone, please do contact the Parish Office who will put you in touch with Paula or Theresa from the Bereavement Team.

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 it into the Parish Office. Alternatively, you can email your request to the Parish Office at: **epsom@abdiocese.org.uk.**

TEA AND COFFEE

Sunday in the hall after 10.30am Mass

Everyone is welcome, this is a great opportunity to get to know fellow parishioners.

DISCUSSION GROUP

The next discussion group will be held at 7.30pm on Tuesday, 8th April in the Chatterton Room. Deacon Gary will attend to offer guidance.

The topic "Do good works matter for our salvation?"

For further information and suggestions for topics, please email chris@thetimminsfamily.co.uk"

LENTEN LUNCHES

Every Friday during Lent after the 12,noon Mass. Lunch will be served in the Hall.

The lunch consists of soup and bread, all are welcome! Willing volunteers to make soup would be appreciated. Please contact Breeda Walsh on 07748 505752 or email walsh.breeda@gmail.com. Our chosen charity for this year is Missio.

SAFEGUARDING TRAINING

FOR PARISH GROUP LEADERS.

This training session (ON ZOOM) is aimed at parish Group Leaders and Coordinators of activities in the parish and also anyone who wishes to know the elements of the diocese's Creating a Safer Environment policy.

The dates are:

Tuesday 6th May 19.:00 -20:30

Thursday 8th May 11:00 – 12:30

Tuesday 27th May 14:00 -15:30

To register, please e-mail Safeguarding@abdiocese.org.uk

HOLY WEEK TRIDUM AT ST JOSEPH'S

Palm Sunday Passion of The Lord— 13 April
Weekend Masses at usual times

Holy Thursday (Maunday) - 17 April
7.30pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper.

Good Friday—18 April
3.00pm Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion and Death

Holy Saturday—19 April
8.00pm Vigil Mass—A Celebration of the Lord's Resurrection.

Easter Sunday—20 April
8.30am Dawn Mass, 10.30am Family Mass

Looking for Volunteers—Sign up sheets can be found in the Narthex

ST JOSEPH'S PARISH VISIT TO THE SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE

We are planning a parish coach visit to the shrine of Saint Jude, Faversham, Kent on Saturday, May 10 ,2025.

Our visit will include Mass,a guided tour of the shrine and a guided tour of the historic town of Faversham.

Coach timings are : -

Depart Saint Joseph's church at 09:30

Depart Faversham at 16:15

Approximate arrival at Saint Joseph's church at 17:45

Cost Depending on the number booking, the total will be in the region of £30.

We will ask for a £10 deposit when you book.

To join us please e-mail: jennyandjohnm@netscape.net or speak to Jenny or John Mortimer or leave a note in the Parish Office **by 14 April ,2025**, so that we can confirm our coach and tour bookings.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Teams of Our Lady are leading Stations of the Cross at
St Joseph's Church Wednesday 16th April at 7.30pm

ALL ARE WELCOME PLEASE JOIN US

CAFOD's Big Lent Walk

Catholic charity CAFOD are asking people across our family of faith to "put their best fundraising foot forward" and create the biggest group of sponsored "Big Lent Walkers" yet. Can you walk 200km in 40 days to help fight global poverty? Walkers can take the challenge on their own, or as a part of a school or parish group to sign up and receive your welcome pack, wallchart, and pair of Big Lent Walk laces visit the charity's website: walk.cafod.org.uk/#gridContent

Lourdes Pilgrimage Applications

Applications for this (25-31 July by air or own transport, 24 July-1 August by coach/jumbulance) are now open on the diocesan website: https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/lourdes

Our pilgrimage to Lourdes is one of the most significant pastoral events in our annual Diocesan calendar. Pope Francis has declared 2025 is a Jubilee year, the Lourdes theme is 'With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope'. We are invited to set out on our pilgrimage journey with our Lady and St Bernadette, in the 'hope born of grace, which enables us to live in Christ.' (Pope Francis, Spes non Confundit 2025}

Lourdes is a place of renewal, unlike tourists, visiting a popular attraction, we are pilgrims, making the journey together, we laugh together, break bread together, and we enter a space in which we can be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in ways that, perhaps, we would never have thought possible before.

LENT GROUPS
The Gospel of John

The Faith Development Team are delighted to offer the Lumo Project's *The Gospel of John* this Lent. Come and join us, to watch and discuss 6 instalments of this stunning film which brings the actual Bible text to the screen word-for-word.

We meet at 7.45pm at St Joseph's church hall, on Monday evenings in Lent, finishing on Monday 14th April. We start with tea, coffee and cake and then watch a 30 minute instalment of the movie.
Afterwards we break into small groups to discuss and share our thoughts and the evening finishes at about 9.15pm.
If you would like to come, please email:
mary@marygortondesign.co.uk

THE FRIENDS OF ARUNDEL CATHEDRAL

Invite you to joinnthem in the Cathedral Centre (London Rd, Arundel) Wednesday 9 April 2025
for a talk at 3pm—followed by refreshments.

Dr John Robinson—Architectural Historian will be there to talk " Religious Heritage in an Age of Persecution

Early booking is advised - Tickets are £15.00 per person
Email: **aruncathfriends@btconnect.com**

More details can be found at on the notice board in the Narthex.

HELP WANTED We have a family looking for a retired nurse/ career to go sit with their Mother for an hour a day to keep her company. Please contact office for further details.

KEEPING IN TOUCH

If you know someone who is ill at home or in hospital you can add their name to the prayer list in the newsletter (if they are agreeable) by contacting the office. We have several Eucharistic Ministers who are willing to bring Holy Communion to anyone who is housebound or in a care home and is unable to get to Mass. We think that in a parish the size of Epsom there must be many parishioners who would like a visit, but we don't know who they are, so please ask your family, friends and neighbours, and let us know in the Parish Office.

Thank you for your generous donations.

Epsom & Ewell foodbank

Lent has arrived, your almsgiving has increased and our boxes are overflowing - thank you so much! In February we fed 465 people, 191 were children. Please remember that donations need to be within date and sealed. The cheeky squirrels are keen to nibble too so please make sure the outside lid is securely locked. Alternatively pop your donations in the boxes under the narthex. Thank you once again. Our wish list this week includes:

- Cooking sauces
- Tinned fish
- Powdered Milk
- Long-life milk
- Tea bags
- Instant coffee
- Squash
- Ketchup/Mayonnaise
- Chocolate spread/Honey
- Crisps
- Sugar (500gr)
- Custard
- Tinned fruit
- Long-life sponge puddings
- Savoury biscuits
- Chocolate biscuit bars
- Washing up liquid
- Washing powder
- Deodorant (male/female)
- Shower gel
- Shampoo/condition
- Children's toothpaste

CAR PARKING

CHURCH- 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 - 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.

No Cash?

Prefer to make your offering by phone?

Scan our QR Code with your smartphone.

FUNDRAISER FOR HCPT

Paul Killoughery, will be attempting to cycle 570 miles in seven days from Paris to Lourdes as part of the HCPT Cycle team arriving on Good Friday (hopefully!).

The aim is to raise money for disabled and vulnerable children and young adults to go to Lourdes on holiday. All sponsorship goes to the charity as all participants in the ride pay all costs for the event. Paul's wife Claire will be driving the support Van and keeping the group fed and safe.

Donating is easy just scan the barcode on the poster found in the Narthex or on the church Website with your phone and it will take you to my Just Giving page. Any Parish donations will be matched £ for £ by Paul's employer every £ is worth double.

Help Paul & the team reach their £4,000 Target !!

CREATIVE LADIES

Next weekend the Creative ladies will be selling after all the Masses in the Narthex in aid of Faith in Action. Please come and support us.

Hard Cases Don't Make Good Law

Thursday 3 April, 6.30 pm. The Catholic Union is holding a **webinar** on the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill on Thursday 3 April. Chaired by Baroness Hollins, President of the Catholic Union, it will give members and supporters the chance to unpick the Bill guided by three experts: Dr Matthew Doré; Dr Philip Howard and Professor Julian Hughes. Please register your attendance and the zoom link will be sent to you in due course.

GIFT AID BOXES TAX YEAR 25/26

If you are a Gift Aid Donor Please find your new box for next Tax year in the Narthex .

Old GA boxes must be destroyed and no longer used as you may have been allocated a new reference number.

GIFT AID

Are you are UK Taxpayer ?

(This includes paying tax on your Pension)

Did you know any donations made to the Church by a Gift Aid Donor allows the church to claim an extra 25% on top of their donation!

Please consider joining our scheme, all you need to do is fill in a Gift Aid declaration form, which you can find in the Narthex or on our website.

Any questions contact: ga.epsom@abdiocese.org.uk

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, but any loose change into the collection bags, All donations are gratefully received.

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)

Updates for next week's Newsletter please email by EOP on Wednesday