ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH—EPSOM

NEWSLETTER— 11 JANUARY 2026

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WEEKLY UPDATE - FATHER SIMON

Baptism of the Lord

'Jesus' is the gift that keeps on giving well beyond the warranty and lifespan of the gifts and tokens of love we will have given to and received from loved ones over Christmas. How do we receive this gift of Jesus? Baptism.

Baptism (from the Greek - to immerse/plunge) is the doorway or Sacrament into our Life with Christ.

At the moment of Baptism, through the humble gesture of a few drops of water and the prayer of Baptism the Holy Spirit is poured into our hearts, the theological virtues of Faith, Hope and Charity are gifted to us and we receive the Gifts of the Holy Spirit to guide us and empower us for the work entrusted to us.

This Sunday, Our Lord is himself Baptised by John in the River Jordan. We are told that at that moment 'the heavens were opened'. Let us pray that for us to the 'heavens may be opened'. Sometimes we may feel that Baptism is a gift that lies asleep in ourselves and others - and so it can be.

Like our Christmas gifts they can remain unopened, unappreciated and forgotten or they can be opened up, received with gratitude and joy - the choice is ours. Let us ask the Holy Spirit to awaken in us the grace and gift of our Baptism and our calling into our Life in Christ.

With every blessing and prayer

Father Simon

The Baptism of the Lord

11 January 2026

'I have called you….'

Today's feast day invites us to respond to the calling of our baptism. God delights in us. We are one with the risen Christ and his Spirit is upon us.

First Reading (Isaiah 42:1-4. 6-7) In union with Christ we are called to act with compassion, justice and integrity in order to reveal God's kingdom to the 'nations'.

Fittingly, The (**Psalm 28**) for today's feast overflows with the imagery of water. Water is a symbol of cleansing and new life. The Holy Spirit breathed her wisdom across the primordial waters in the creation story.

In the **Second Reading (Acts 10:34-38)** Peter proclaims Jesus Christ (the 'Anointed One') as Lord of all.

Then in **Gospel (Matthew 3:13-17)** the Spirit descends upon Jesus when John baptises him in the River Jordan. This is another new beginning blessed by the Spirit. Jesus is anointed by God and begins his ministry to live out the good news that was proclaimed by Isaiah.

For we who call ourselves Christian, we are united with Christ through our baptism, we share in his priesthood and are tasked with transforming the world through living out his Gospel values of love, compassion and justice. Let us pray that throughout the whole Church, there will be a spirit of renewal, enlivened and enriched by the gifts of the Spirit.

"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— Next Week

Date	***Time***	***Mass Intention***
Sat 10 Jan	10.00am 5.30pm	Francis John Aloysius Harrington RIP John and Jean Childs RIP
Sun 11 Jan	***Feast of The Baptism of The Lord***	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Eric and Julia Mortimer RIP People of the Parish
Mon 12 Jan	10.00am	Mary Mackenzie RIP
Tue 13 Jan	10.00am	Vittorio Carlo Dyer RIP
Wed 14 Jan	10.00am	Mary Ellen McCrory RIP
Thu 15 Jan	10.00am 12.00noon	Dulcie Evelyn Miranda RIP Funeral Mass for Karen Ramirez
Fri 16 Jan	10.00am 11.30am	Mark Millen RIP Funeral Mass for Antonia Tufo
Sat 17 Jan	***Memorial of St Anthony, Abbot***	
	10.00am 5.30pm	Jason Taylor RIP Kevin Regan RIP
Sun 18 Jan	***Second Sunday of Ordinary Time***	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Vivian Camero Tobias RIP People of the Parish

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.

Please pray for those who are ill within our Parish:

Graham Bell , Kay Pledge, Matty Horkan, Lorraine Corsini, Gill Beenham, Alan Lucas, Angela Brett, Edmund Louis, Katherine Humphries, Teresa Weeks & Fr Sebastian Paul.

RECENTLY DECEASED *Please pray for the happy repose of the souls who have died recently, including :*

Lorraine Denise Seymour, Ken Ellis, Antonia Tufo, Vic Dyer, Imelda "Dada" Calong Calong, Trevor Humphries, Solomon Salvaddor, Karen Ramirez & Marayan Knight

Please keep their families in your prayers.

The Baptism of the Lord

Colour: White

The Feast of the Baptism of the Lord is the second of the three manifestations of Christ remembered at the Epiphany. This feast also marks the end of Christmastide.

From Monday 12th January, Ordinary Time begins (Colour: Green) and will continue until Ash Wednesday (18th February).

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.

DISCUSSION GROUP

The Discussion Group will next meet in the New Year at 7.30pm on Tuesday **13 January** in the Chatterton room.

Topic: "Are indulgences still 'a thing'? What do they mean and how do we qualify?"

For further information and suggestions for future topics please contact chris@thetimminsfamily.co.uk

CONFESSION TIMES

Saturdays after 10am Mass and at 5pm before 5.30pm Mass or by appointment by contacting the Parish Office.

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION

There is no better way to spend time than by praying in front of the Blessed Sacrament for our world and its needs in this year.

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.

TEA AND COFFEE—THIS WEEK

SUNDAY in the Hall after 10.30am Mass

FRIDAY in the Chatterton Room after 10.00am Mass

(If a funeral is taking place, Tea & Coffee will not be offered)

BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ

The café will next meet on Monday 26 January at our usual time, 10.30am after Mass and in the Chatterton Room.

If you are bereaved, do come and join us for coffee and biscuits and a friendly chat. The setting is very informal, and you will be sure of a warm welcome. If you are newly bereaved, or have lost your loved one some while ago, we know that grief has no time limit.

PARISHONERS UNABLE TO ATTEND MASS

If you are unable to attend Mass due to being in or going into hospital or know someone who would like to receive Holy Communion, then please contact the Parish Office.

We have several Eucharistic Ministers who are willing to bring Holy Communion to you, either at home or in hospital.

NEW TO THE PARISH

To anyone who has moved into the Parish recently, a warm welcome. We hope you'll find a spiritual home here amongst us. Please fill out a new parishioner form, (available in the Narthex) and pop it into the Parish office.

Keep an eye on the newsletter for ways in which you can become involved in Parish life.

Olive wood carvings from Bethlehem Artisans

After all the Masses this weekend Theresa Park will be selling small wooden carvings made by residents of Bethlehem who have relied on pilgrims and tourist to buy their work. Since October 2023 there have been no buyers.

A project has been set up by funds received by FMDM in Godalming, her sister's congregation, to support the artisans and their workshops. By buying these handmade items you will be adding to this fund.

There are small carved items costing between £2 and £5. Please come and support these Christian Palestinians.

Family Faith Formation

Last Saturday of the month, 3:00 to 5:00 pm

A new monthly group will begin on Saturday, 31 January.

We will meet in St Joseph's Church Hall on the last Saturday of each month for prayer, activities, and a picnic tea. The group is aimed at Mums, Dads, and their children, to equip parents to be the best teachers of their children in matters of faith. We will share resources and help to build a network of faith-filled families who love Jesus and wish to proclaim Him in their daily lives. Please contact the parish office for more information.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025—2026

Just a reminder that Attendance Registers still are required to be signed after Saturday evening and Sunday morning and Sunday evening Masses. Saturday morning Mass is not part of the Sunday obligation.

When you arrive for Mass please place your Attendance Registers in the basket which you will find on top of the bookcase as you enter the Church. Your Register can be collected in the normal way after Mass has ended.

Those of you who arrive late for Mass please go to the Chatterton room after Mass has ended to get your Register signed.

The Pastoral Plan – The Word Who is Life

Bishop Richard's appointment as the next Archbishop of Westminster means there are some immediate consequences for us regarding the implementation of the Pastoral Plan in the Epsom Deanery. Whilst some things, by Church Law, are put on hold until a new Bishop arrives – particularly any decision to combine the existing nine parishes into one new parish – other key elements of the Plan remain as important for us as ever; prayer, formation and mission continue to be the priorities that shape our pastoral life. Whilst the parishioner meetings around the nine parishes will not now go ahead as planned (as a significant factor in the planning for these – particularly the timetable – was the proposed changes to structure), the Parish Leadership Team will be working on proposals to enable us to continue our reflections on mission, to celebrate and develop co-operation between our parish communities, and continue to invite all parishioners to get involved. You'll be able to hear more about this in the next Deanery newsletter which will be available next weekend, 17th/18th January.

FAREWELL BISHOP RICHARD

After 10 years as Bishop of Arundel and Brighton we bid farewell to Bishop Richard as he takes up new responsibilities as Archbishop of Westminster.

There will be a farewell Mass at **Arundel Cathedral on 30 January 2026 at 6.00pm.**

Being a Diocesan event numbers will be restricted but for those who would like to attend there is a sign up sheet in the Narthex to register an interest and we will get information to you as soon as possible.

In the meantime let us all hold Bishop Richard in Prayer: Grateful for his time amongst us and entrusting him to the Lord in that all lays ahead.

WINTER TIME IS HERE

A gentle reminder to take extra care with winter here, as the paths may be icy and please keep the doors closed to keep the warmth in and the cold out. Thank you

Volunteer Ambassador Role

Friends of the Holy Land

Can you offer us a few hours each month?

Are you concerned about the situation in the Holy Land and want to do something practical to help?

☐ Are you willing to speak on behalf of your fellow Christians in the Holy Land?

☐ Do you have contacts with groups and individuals locally and across your diocese?

What We Need from You

☐ A commitment to make up to 8 talks, appeals and presentations a year in Catholic parishes and other Christian communities in your region

☐ Be willing to deliver presentations to Catholic and other Christian student groups, colleges and schools to help raise awareness of our work and inspire fundraising activity among young people

What You Can Expect from Us

☐ Support and training in the role from the Advocacy and Engagement Manager

☐ Fees of £250 per parish appeal completed

☐ Ongoing mentoring and being part of a growing network of people who are passionate about making a difference in the lives of Christians who are struggling

For a detailed role description please contact the team by email office@friendsoftheholyland.org.uk, telephone 01926 512980, or

contact Edmund Adamus, Advocacy and Engagement Manager on Edmund.adamus@friendsoftheholyland.org.uk

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

Diocesan run events/news

Day of Reflection for Ministers of the Word

Saturday 24 January 2026 11-4pm at St Michael's church, High Salvington , Worthing BN13 3AL
Cost: £40
Led by Bishop Richard and Catherine Christmas, Liturgy and Music Adviser. On the weekend of the Sunday of the Word of God, this day will include talks on the Scriptures, the Lectionary and its use in the Liturgy, the Liturgy of the Word, and preparing to minister as a reader. There will be a time of Lectio Divina, and the day will conclude with the celebration of Mass. To book a place go to the Events page of the Diocesan website W: www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events or scan the QR code on the poster in the Narthex. If you have any questions about this day, do not hesitate to contact Catherine Christmas at E: catherine.christmas@abdiocese.org.uk

Mental Health Awareness training

Saturday 7 February 2026 10-3pm at the St Philip Howard Centre, Crawley
One of the challenges that we are experiencing in our modern world is the growing number of people, of all ages, experiencing the darkness and challenge of various mental health conditions. Thanks to the support of Mental Health England, we are able to offer this training, to explore the realities, symptoms and impact of living with these many debilitating conditions.

Thanks to the support of the trainer, we are able to highly subsidise the event. Tickets are now £40 per delegate (usual price £120). To register scan the QR code which can also be found on the poster in the Narthex, or go to the Events page of the Diocesan website W: www.abdiocese.org.uk/diocese/events If you have any questions about this course, do not hesitate to contact Simon South, Marriage & Family Life Adviser at E: simon.south@abdiocese.org.uk

LAUDATO SI' – HOPE

Join us on Saturday 24th January from 7.15pm to 8.45pm in St Ann's hall annexe.

Pope Leo calls for urgent climate action.
Let's join our efforts and be part of the solution.
There will be an opportunity for discussion after the film.
Refreshments will be provided

If you would like to attend, please contact St Ann's Church at banstead@abdiocese.org.uk or call 01737 3533724.

This year our **Crib Collections** will be donated to The Holy Childhood Society, also known as the Pontifical Missionary Childhood Society, is a Catholic children's association dedicated to the benefit of foreign missions. No cash—you can donate on our contactless machine or use the QR Code.

Epsom & Ewell foodbank

This December, we supported 1,027 people, 480 were children. Each year I'm surprised at the number of clients we reach in December but I shouldn't be. We all know that it is an expensive time of year. The comfort of a warm home and food to sustain us in this winter weather all come at a cost. Thankfully your generosity and kindness have meant our donations keep coming and these make a difference to our clients. Thank you.

All items are Urgent

- Squash
- Sponge pudding
- Noodles
- Long life juice
- Shampoo
- Cooking Sauces
- Microwave Rice
- Pasta/Beans with meat
- Milk UHT
- Sweetcorn

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.

mary's meals
a simple solution to world hunger

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)

No Cash?
Prefer to make your offering by phone?
Scan our QR Code with your smartphone.

GIFT AID NOTICE Statements for Tax Year 24/25 can now be collected from the Parish office.

Making your weekly donation go further! Signup to our Parish Gift Aid Scheme so we can claim an extra 25p for every £1 you give at no extra cost to you! For more information contact the Parish office.

Thank you to everyone for your kind donations...
Last weekend
Offertory collection— **£1,196.99**
Note: this does not include regular Standing orders

UPCOMING—SECOND COLLECTIONS
Friends of Holy Land—11 January
Lourdes Pilgrimage (Gift Aid) - 08 February