ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH—EPSOM

NEWSLETTER— 18 JANUARY 2026

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WEEKLY UPDATE - FATHER GARY

'January Blues?'

Are we in the midst of the 'January blues'? Has the joy of Christmas already left us in these wet, short, seemingly mundane days? For so many of us, January is often a month that we can dread, endure or merely tolerate. It should come as no surprise that things such as 'Dry January' or 'Veganuary' have emerged as a secular answer to a lethargy and a yearning that are, in reality, spiritual.

Given this atmosphere for so many, it is even more important for us to bring the joy of Jesus into the world through our lived Christian pilgrimages. Our Gospel this Sunday reminds us that we have all been baptised with water and the Holy Spirit. When we intentionally live out our baptism, the fruits of the Holy Spirit such charity, joy, peace, patience, goodness and faith radiate from us to all around us. We become little lights of the love of God for others. We become like St John the Baptist in his proclamation of 'Behold the Lamb of God' by our words, our actions and our being.

St Francis de Sales, who we remember on Saturday, reminds us that God calls us to be his joyful witnesses to God wherever we are, whatever we do, whoever we are. Let us ask for his prayers to be God's instruments to move others from 'January blues' to 'January joy'.

With every blessing, Father Gary

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

18 January 2026

John bore witness: 'I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove'.

The main events of Christmastide are now behind us, and until Lent, we follow the Sundays of 'Ordinary Time'. This Second Sunday in Ordinary Time returns to the event of Jesus's baptism.

First Reading (Isaiah 49:3,5-6) the Prophet Isaiah speaks of the Servant, whom Christians have long identified with Jesus. He will be a light for the nations, so that salvation can

The (**Psalm 39**) gives thanks for the help he has received. He delights in doing God's will, offering his skills of listening and speaking to those around him.

In the **Second Reading (1 Corinthians 1. 1-3)** Paul, greets the young Church in Corinth with grace and peace from God.

Then in **Gospel (John 1:29-34)** John the Baptist recognises in Jesus the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. John bears witness that Jesus truly is the Son of God.

This week, we might reflect on the witness that we ourselves give as Christians, and determine to listen to those around us with an 'open ear'. We also pray for salvation and peace to reach everyone throughout the world.

"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 17 Jan	***Memorial of St Anthony, Abbot***	
	10.00am	Jason Taylor RIP
	5.30pm	Kevin Regan RIP
Sun 18 Jan	***Second Sunday of Ordinary Time***	
	10.30am	Vivian Camero Tobias RIP
	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Mon 19 Jan	10.00am	Lourdes Nicholas RIP
Tue 20 Jan	10.00am	Rose Maloney-Ward RIP
Wed 21 Jan	***Feast of St Agnes, Virgin, Martyr***	
	10.00am	Zenaida Chumroo and Armando De La Cruz
Thu 22 Jan	10.00am	Gerard Sammon and Family Intentions
Fri 23 Jan	10.00am	Marina De Jesus Garzon De Lombana RIP
Sat 24 Jan	***Memorial of St Francis de Sales, Bishop, Doctor***	
	10.00am	Mansoor Bholah and Elpidio De Castro RIP
	5.30pm	People of the Parish
Sun 25 Jan	***Third Sunday of Ordinary Time***	
	10.30am	Giulia Auletta RIP
	5.30pm	Sydney Baya RIP

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, Izzy Pearson & Fr Sebastian Paul.

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

Antonia Tufo, Vic Dyer, Trevor Humphries, Solomon Salvaddor, Karen Ramirez , Marayan Knight and Irene Coombs

Please keep their families in your prayers.

CAR PARKING - AT THE CHURCH

Please do not park on the Access road to the Church at any time, also please be considerate when parking in the bays.

Universalis Each day of the year the Church feeds us with readings from Holy Scripture within the Mass and with the Psalms in what is known as the Liturgy of the Hours or Divine Office. We are able to access the riches of the Bible via 'Universalis', an online app that allows us to pray with the whole Church and engage in the beauty of the Liturgy. Do have a look so that we can nourish our faith.

To quote St Jerome : Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ .

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 at 7.30pm on Tuesday **10 February** in the Chatterton room.

Topic: Yet to be decided.

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

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

A big thank you to everyone who bought the Olive Wood and helped the Christian Palestinians in Bethlehem.

A payment of **£1,434.00** was send to Ladywell in Godalming, along with a very generous anonymous donation of **£1,000.00**

All the money will go back to Bethlehem to help them in their workshops.

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.

Deanery Newsletter

The latest Deanery newsletter is available at the back of the Church. It includes an encouragement to pray for Bishop Richard as prepares to take up his new ministry in Westminster and an encouragement to all of us to continue in prayer, formation and mission for the good of our communities and the people amongst whom we live and work.

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

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

Love & Beauty in St John's Spiritual Canticle

20 - 22 February 2026

2026 marks the centenary of the declaration of St John of the Cross as a a Doctor of the Church. In honour of this anniversary, Fr Matthew Blake, OCD will offer a weekend reflecting on the themes of love and beauty in the most celebrated poetry of the great Spanish mystic.
https://christianheritagecentre.com/events/love-beauty-in-st-johns-spiritual-canticle/

LAUDATO SI'-HOPE

Join us on Saturday 24 January from 7.15pm—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.

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— **£1,219.76**
Second Collection—Friends of the Holy Land—**£865.25**

UPCOMING—SECOND COLLECTIONS

Lourdes Pilgrimage (Gift Aid) - 08 February