ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH—EPSOM

NEWSLETTER— 15 MARCH 2026

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WEEKLY UPDATE - FATHER GARY

'Coming Home'

One particular quirk about the United Kingdom, Ireland and some Commonwealth countries is that we celebrate Mother's Day on Laetare Sunday. This came about as an evolution of the Medieval celebration of 'Mothering Sunday', where the faithful would return to their parish of baptism or 'mother church' to give thanks and rejoice (laetare) for God's work in their lives. It is particularly poignant that a large group of children will be baptised here at St Joseph's this weekend.

It is important that we keep the concept of 'returning home' in our minds on our journeys through life. When we think of home we can think of where we grew up and, on this Sunday, the nurturing of our mothers and those who acted as spiritual mothers to us. We can think of the towns in which we grew up or where we had important experiences in life. Our true home is, of course, with God Himself and we are all on that journey towards Him so that we can be with Him.

The Church is also our true home whilst on this earth. The Body of Christ is where we truly dwell wherever we may be. Perhaps this on this Mothering Sunday, we can give thanks to God and rejoice in Him for our place in this home which prepares, sustains and equips us for our eternal home. Let us thank God for the gift of Our Blessed Mother who we receive through St John at the foot of the Cross. Let us also give thanks to God for all mothers and for those who have been spiritual mothers in His Church as their witness and love across the years is incalculable.

Be assured of our prayers

God bless, Father Gary

Fourth Sunday of Lent

15 March 2026

'Lord, I believe!'

Before we enter the darker days of Holy Week, we celebrate Laetare ('Rejoice!') Sunday. Today we are reminded of the joy of the presence of Jesus, the light of our world, and of the love of God shining through our lives

The **First Reading (1 Samuel 16:1.6-7)** and the Psalm speak of the shepherd caring for the flock. Despite David's youth and outward appearance, the Lord sees the strength of his heart, which will enable him to lead God's people.

The (**Psalm 22**) speaks of the certainty that I can rely on the Lord as my shepherd, keeping me safe from harm whatever happens in my life.

Second Reading (Ephesians 5:8-14) St Paul reminds the Ephesians (and us) that God's light in us shines out for others when we live in goodness and right living and truth.

Gospel (John 9:1-41) the blind man's sight is restored and he comes into the light. Not only is he physically able to see for the first time, but he also recognises Jesus as the Son of Man. In contrast, those around him remain in the darkness of un-belief, trapped by their unwillingness to see Jesus as he really is.

This week, we pray for those who have yet to allow the light of Christ into their lives. We pray that we will carry Christ's light to others as we walk beside them, sharing their hardships and sorrows.

MASS TIMES— Next Week

Date	***Time***	***Mass Intention***
Sat 14 Mar	10.00am 5.30pm	Antonia Tufo RIP People of the Parish
Sun 15 Mar	***Fourth Sunday of Lent***	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Joan Whiteley RIP Barbara Whitefield RIP and Josephine and Arthur Brown RIP
Mon 16 Mar	10.00am	Election of a new Bishop
Tue 17 Mar	***Feast of St Patrick, Bishop, Missionary***	
	10.00am	Vincent Man Pak Loh RIP
Wed 18 Mar	10.00am	Rose Maloney-Ward RIP
Thu 19 Mar	***Solemnity of St Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary***	
	10.00am	Carmelo (Charlie) Spiteri RIP
Fri 20 Mar	12.00noon 7.30pm	Mansoor Bholah and Julita Jamarang RIP Lenten Penitential Service
Sat 21 Mar	10.00am 5.30pm	Jeannette Storace-Rutter RIP Health and Well-Being of Graham Bell
Sun 22 Mar	***Fourth Sunday of Lent***	
	10.30am 5.30pm	Edward, Georget and Mary 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, Izzy Pearson , Fr Sebastian Paul , John Purcell ,Paulette Bowyer, Patricia Leahy and Janet Johnson

Recently Deceased, Please keep their families in your prayers.

Please pray for the happy repose of the souls who have died recently, including :
Antonia Tufo, Karen Ramirez , Marayan Knight ,Irene Coombs, Anthony Hayward, Vincent Man Pak Loh, Jeanette Storace-Rutter and Bernard Smith.

MOTHER PRAYERS There will be an opportunity to say the Mother Prayers after Mass in the Lady Chapel on Thursdays. Please do come along and join us.

Eucharistic Adoration in Lent

During Lent, there will be an additional time of Eucharistic Adoration on Saturday mornings for half an hour after Mass during the usual time for Confession. This will begin on Saturday 21 February (the Saturday after Ash Wednesday) and conclude on Saturday 28 March. All are most welcome.

There will be NO Eucharistic Adoration on Saturday 4 April (Holy Saturday).

Laetare Sunday - Fourth Sunday of Lent (Year A)

Colour: Rose

The Gloria is not said during the Season of Lent (apart from on the Solemnity of St Joseph, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord and the Feast of St Patrick). The Alleluia is now omitted entirely until the Easter Vigil and replaced with a Lenten Gospel Acclamation (such as 'Praise to you O Christ').

Laetare Sunday takes its name from the Entrance Antiphon for the Mass, 'Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her'. The Rose vestments are a combination of the penitential violet of the Lent Season and the white of the Easter season which we are awaiting.

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 at 7.30pm on Tuesday **07 April** in the Chatterton Room.

Topic: **Yet to be confirmed**

For further information and suggestions for future topics please contact Chris
Email :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

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

BEREAVEMENT CAFÉ

The café will next meet on Monday **30 March** 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.

EPSOM DEANERY WEBSITE Epsom Deanery A calendar has been added to the new deanery website. You will find activities, adoration, extra Mass times in Lent and more.

Visit: **www.epsomdeanery.com/lent2026**

FLOWERS IN CHURCH

No Fresh Flowers to be left in Church during Lent

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025—2026

Just a reminder that Attendance Registers are still 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.

MISSIO SPRING COLLECTION

The Spring collection of Missio Red Boxes is due to take place during the month of March. Your Missio promoter will be in touch to arrange collection of your box. If your promoter has not been able to collect your box please leave your box in the parish office. Thank you for your support for Missio.

HELP for UKRAINE - As the suffering in Ukraine continues, our hearts remain with the poorest of the poor, especially those who are struggling without electricity, heating and basic necessities. Gloria Saliba who is in close contact with Bishop Alex has already started a collection and if you would like to make a contribution you may do so via the Parish office, by leaving your donation in an envelope marked "**UKRAINE**" or you may also speak directly to Gloria or contact her on 07941233409. Any help will be much appreciated. Thank you.

LENTEN LUNCHES 2026

Now that Lent has began. Friday Lenten Lunches have started.
Each Friday there will be a simple lunch of soup and bread, following Mass at 12.00.
All donations raised will go to the Peace in Holy Land.

HOLY WEEK TRIDUM AT ST JOSEPH'S

Palm Sunday Passion of The Lord 29 March

Weekend Masses at usual times

Holy Thursday (Maunday) 02 April

7.30pm Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, followed by watching at the Altar of the repose.

Good Friday 03 April

3.00pm Solemn Celebration of the Lord's Passion and Death

Holy Saturday 04 April

8.00pm Vigil Mass—A Celebration of the Lord's Resurrection.

Easter Sunday 05 April

8.30am Dawn Mass, 10.30am Family Mass

Looking for Volunteers—Sign up sheets will be in the Narthex from next week.

ALB WASHING WEEK

Could all servers please take at least two albs home to wash during the coming week. Ideally take the albs after the evening Mass on Sunday 15th and return them before the evening Mass on Saturday 21st. From Monday 16th the unwashed albs will be on a rack in the link corridor. Due to the floor polishing works in the church this coming week, access will be through the courtyard. Please return washed albs to the servers' room.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

"There is no greater love than this, that a man should lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13)

The purpose of Lent is to provide all of us with an opportunity to draw closer to God through prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. It is a time to reflect on one's own spiritual life and to seek forgiveness and reconciliation with God and others.

We will meet at 6.30pm at St Joseph's Church, St Margaret Drive, Epsom, Surrey KT18 7JQ on the following Fridays: 20 Mar and 27 Mar.

If you would like to help lead the Stations of the Cross, please contact Ron Vaz on ron_vaz@hotmail.com

FUNERAL PLANNING BOOKLETS

We have available, from the parish office, Funeral Planning Booklets which have been sent to us by the Diocese of Arundel & Brighton.

This leaflet helps you, as a practicing Catholic, to reflect on how you would like your funeral to be comes.

Although thinking about death can be daunting, planning key parts of your funeral allows you to share your thoughts and ease future decisions. Choosing meaningful readings, hymns and liturgy can bring clarity and comfort, especially for those unfamiliar with the Catholic faith.

We hope this document helps reduce uncertainty and concern for you and your family. If you would like help or advice please do not hesitate to contact the Bereavement Team via the parish office.

Day Retreat at Worth Abbey on 04 May

Canon Bill and the Coordination Team at St. Joseph's, would like to invite you to a day retreat at Worth Abbey on Bank Holiday Monday 04 May 2026.
The cost for the day is £30 per person which will be paid directly to Thomas Andrews who is organising the event.

You will need to arrange your own travel to Worth Abbey, should you need a lift, you might want to consider coordinating with fellow volunteers who you know, who may be attending as well before signing up. There are plenty of car parking spaces at Worth Abbey.

The day will begin at 10.00a.m. and finish at 4.00p.m. and a hot lunch is included in the cost. You will need to bring walking shoes/boots, a waterproof coat/jacket and pen and paper with you on the day.

If you would like to go on the Retreat, or have any further questions, please do contact Thomas Andrews at Thomas.andrews002@gmail.com

SAVE THE DATE

Wear a Hat Day Event for Brain Tumour Research !

St Joseph's are hosting a Glamour Movie & Oscars Themed Fundraiser Evening

27 March 7.30pm –11.00pm in the Hall

£30.00 Per Person

Contact Anne McEntee

07923 961 668 for Advance booking only

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH– REDHILL

Life in the Spirit Seminars are taking place at St Joseph's Church, Redhill. This journey over seven sessions is an opportunity to deepen your relationship with Jesus and to experience anew the abundant power of his Holy Spirit.

Sessions are on 14, 21 and 28 April, 12 , 19 May and 2 June At 7.30pm.

There is also Pentecost Vigil at Our Lady of Consolation at 6pm on 23 May.

Our Lady Help of Christians Church
West Byfleet, KT14 3RE

March, 20th / 21st 2026

Friday 10pm to Saturday 6am

All Night Lenten Vigil before the Blessed Sacrament

Some of the prayers will be for:
Peace in the world
Vocations to priesthood and religious life
Pray for those nearing the end of life

Please come and join us in prayer

Eco Church at EMC welcomes our next speaker, William Ward, Chair and Co-Founder of

Epsom and Ewell Climate Action Network

Wednesday March 25th 7.30pm, Epsom Methodist Church Ashley Road KT18 5AQ

Come and find out who they are, the FREE community services that they offer, and how to reduce your home energy bills and access FREE home insulation products and grants.

Epsom & Ewell foodbank

We currently have 156 fewer crates of food than at this same time last year. Our stocks are running low, with many essential items now urgently needed. Please donate what you can to help support people facing financial hardship in our community. Thank you for your continued support and generosity.

All items are Urgent

- Instant Coffee
- Sponge puddings
- Tea bags
- Tinned Fruit
- Washing Powder
- Shampoo
- Powered Milk
- Savoury Biscuits
- Cereal Bars
- Custard

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.

SAVE THE DATE

Joint Parish School Mass:
Feast of St Joseph the Worker
10.30a.m. Mass on Sunday 26 April 2026

We are delighted to announce that there will be a joint parish school Mass to celebrate the Feast of St Joseph the Worker at the 10.30a.m. Mass on Sunday 26 April 2026. All parishioners and families are warmly invited to join us for this special occasion as we honour St Joseph.

Mass will be followed by hot and cold food in the field (weather permitting) or hall. Soft drinks, wine and beer will be available. We look forward to celebrating with you all.

Altar Servers, Arundel Cathedral Chrism Mass, Wednesday 1 April.

Those planning to attend the Chrism Mass, who would like to altar serve, should please note that there are new protocols in place at the Cathedral to ensure that the appropriate Safeguarding procedures are followed. Anyone who wishes to altar serve at the Cathedral will need a DBS and appropriate training and will need to contact the Cathedral Office;

E: arundel@abdiocese.org.uk or T: 01903 882297 to register for events. To register to altar serve for the Chrism Mass please contact the cathedral team by Wednesday 18 March.

SAVE THE DATE

25th Anniversary of the
Consecration of St Joseph's Church
10.30a.m. Mass on Sunday 3 May 2026
A Silver Jubilee of Faith and Community Spirit

We are delighted to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the consecration of our church. This milestone marks a quarter of a century since St Joseph's was dedicated, serving as a beacon of faith, hope, and unity within our community.

To honour this special occasion, a commemorative Mass will be held on Sunday 3 May at 10.30am, followed by a gathering in the hall where parishioners and friends can reflect on the church's journey and share stories of fellowship. We warmly invite all to join us in celebrating the enduring legacy and spiritual heritage of our parish.

Let us come together in gratitude for the blessings received over the past twenty-five years and look forward with faith and optimism to many more years of service and devotion.

Further details to follow in due course.

GIFT AID BOXES TAX YEAR 26/27

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.

UPCOMING—SECOND COLLECTIONS

21/22 March—Flowers for Easter
03 April– Holy Places of Palestine

Thank you to everyone for your kind Donations, Last weekend.
Offertory collection— **£1,453.03**
Note: this does not include regular Standing orders

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