

9 December 2018

## Second Sunday of Advent

Sundays Year C – Weekdays Year 1 – Psalter Week 2



St Joseph's Parish, Diocese of Northampton

Order of Discalced Carmelites (OCD)

St Joseph's Priory, Austenwood Common, Chalfont St Peter, Buckinghamshire SL9 8RY

Fr Michael Spain OCD (Prior & Parish Priest), Fr Robert Davies OCD, Fr Maurice Flynn OCD, Fr Matt Blake OCD

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 13 December | St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr – Memorial  |
| 14 December | St John of the Cross, Priest of the Carmelite Order and Doctor of the Church - Solemnity |

**NEXT WEEKEND** there is a **Second Collection for Christmas Flowers**.

**THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION** last weekend amounted to **£2,835**. Your continued support is appreciated.

**BISHOP PETER'S PASTORAL LETTER FOR ADVENT** which was read at all Masses last weekend is now available on the website.

**MASS WITH THE SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING** will take place **next Saturday 15 December** at 3:30pm in St Joseph's Church. Fr Michael will celebrate Mass for the Third Sunday of Advent and there will be anointing with the oil of the sick and the opportunity for prayer. Attending this Mass fulfils your Sunday obligation. All of us need healing be it in mind, body or spirit so everyone is most welcome to attend. The SVP invites you for tea and cake after the service in the First Committee Room.

An **ADVENT SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION** (with visiting priests) will take place on Tuesday 18 December at 8pm in St Joseph's Church. As we prepare for Christmas, why not come along to renew and strengthen your relationship with the Lord.

The **LAST MEETING OF THE ROSARY CIRCLE** before Christmas will take place on Friday 14 December.

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** will take a break over Christmas and New Year. The last Adoration before Christmas will take place on Wednesday 12/Thursday 13 December.

**CHILDREN'S ADVENT DISPLAY:** The Children's Liturgy Advent Workshop was a great success last week. Many thanks to everyone who came along or helped in any way. The Star Christmas Tree artwork on display in the Church was created by the children at the workshop.

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please pray for the sick of our parish and for those who have asked for our prayers.

**SALE OF TRADCRAFT GOODS TODAY** after 9am Mass in the Parish Centre and after 11am Mass in the First Committee Room. Pop over for a tea/coffee and browse through the tradcraft products on offer. Stock up on your Christmas essentials or treat yourself to some festive goodies.

### DIOCESAN YEAR OF PRAYER AND VOCATION

*As we come to the end of the Year of Prayer and Vocation we thank God for all who have shared in so many ways during the year. May this commitment continue as part of our daily life as Christians.*

The saint to accompany us this month is **Our Lady**. She is the co-patron with Thomas Becket of our Diocese. It was her hidden life of prayer that graced her with the strength to say "yes" when the big question was asked.

We are asked this month to regularly set aside a little time for personal prayer and listening to God's call in our everyday lives. It may lead to discerning a radical new way of life but it starts in small ways, and at any age. Try to find a regular time for personal prayer, in your home, on the commute or even walking the dog.

**O COME LET US ADORE:** Last week, Bishop Peter helped us in his Pastoral letter to look **UP** to Jesus and open our hearts to his welcome and his love. This weekend at St Joseph's we will watch a video of Bishop Barron who spoke at **ADOREMUS**, the National Eucharistic Congress, and initiative of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, which reflected on the centrality of the Eucharist in the life of the Church. Also recently, Pope Francis encouraged young people to moments of silent reflection in the midst of social media.

In response, the Carmelite Community will have adoration of the Blessed Sacrament in the Church on **Tuesday 1 January** between 8am and 10am. The Community invites you to visit and start 2019 in the presence of Jesus.

It is hoped this will become a monthly invitation.

*"Whatever challenges you face, be joyful and be at peace".*  
Pope Francis

**BRASS CLEANERS NEEDED:** Can you spare an hour or two in the next fortnight? We need help cleaning the church brasses (such as candlesticks) so they are ready for our Christmas services. Please let the Parish Office know if you can help.

**CHRISTMAS CONCERT:** Richard Cottle and the Holy Name Choir, joined by some of their singing friends from St Joseph's, will present a Christmas Concert **TODAY Sunday 9 December** at 7pm in the Most Holy Name Church in Denham. You are invited to join them as they welcome in the festive period with a lovely evening of seasonal music and carols.



**CHRISTMAS CARDS, CALENDARS and CATHOLIC DIARIES** are now on sale from the Repository at very reasonable prices.

**CHRISTMAS LONDON & SLOUGH RUN:** We will be taking Christmas bags of food with a gift to street homeless on **Monday 17 December**. Please see the parish website or pick up a flyer from the church porch for the contents of the bags. We will also cook sausages and warm mince pies to send up on the night. Your donations are much appreciated.

**LONDON AND SLOUGH RUN FOR THE HOMELESS:** Please bring your sandwiches, boiled eggs, crisps, drinks, fruit, biscuits, etc. to the Parish Centre by 3:30pm on Monday. Many thanks for your continued support.



**SENIORS INVITATION TO SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS:** St Joseph's School invites seniors from the parish to join them for a special performance of its **Infant**

**Nativity on Tuesday 11 December** at 1:30pm in the school hall. The performance will be followed by tea and mince pies. Seniors are also invited to the school's **Carol Concert performance on Thursday 13 December** at 1:30pm in St Joseph's Church. Please come and join us.

**WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR CATHOLIC FAITH?** Join us for a basic introduction to the Catholic Faith in four parts: God – The Church – The Moral Life – Prayer. For each part there is a day of engaging teaching with opportunities for interaction and discussion. Cost is £25 per person per day, which includes a full lunch (£10 for the unwaged). No qualifications needed – just interest, good will and a sense of humour! The launch and part one takes place on 31 January 10am-3pm at the NORES Centre, Holy Ghost Parish, Luton LU4 8JD. To book contact [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk) or phone Jackie on 01582 723312.

**"A TRUSTED MAN" FILM:** We are all busy getting organised for Christmas. Joseph and Mary also had a lot of preparations that first Christmas. They had to prepare by saying "yes" to God's plan for the birth of Jesus. When Joseph learned that Mary was with child, what must he have endured? This short film, **available on the new parish website**, tells the story of his encounter with an angel and his subsequent submission to God's plan. St Joseph is Patron of the Church and of our Parish. As we prepare for Christmas we can turn to him and follow his example by opening our hearts in faith and becoming worthy mangers to receive Jesus.

**BRIDGETTINE CAROL SERVICE:** The Bridgettine Sisters invite parishioners to join them for their Carol Service in the Convent Chapel on **Thursday 20 December** at 7pm. You will be assured of a warm welcome and the service will be followed by seasonal refreshments.

### ADVENT THOUGHTS



*"The word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the desert."*

#### PRAY

God of all people, help us to see you in each moment of our day. May we always remember that you come to us in the people, places and things we encounter. Amen

#### REFLECT

Think about your own life: your family, your school, your work and your friends. How is God trying to talk to you?

#### ACT

This week, try to find the "orange peels" in your life. Pay attention to God's presence in one person or situation.

### Sunday Mass Times

St Joseph's, Chalfont St Peter: Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday at 7:45am, 9am, 11am and 5:30pm  
Holy Name, Denham: Sunday Mass at 9:30am  
Bridgettine Convent, Iver Heath: Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30pm, Sunday at 9am

### All the following take place at St Joseph's, Chalfont St Peter

**Weekday Mass:** Monday to Friday at 7am and 9am, Saturday and Bank Holidays at 10am  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturday from 10:30 – 11am and 4:45 – 5:15pm  
**Rosary:** Tuesday and Friday at 7:30pm in the Oratory (enter via Sacristy)  
**Eucharistic Adoration:** Wednesday and Thursday from 10am until 9pm in the Oratory

Website: [www.stjosephs.org.uk](http://www.stjosephs.org.uk)

Telephone: 01753 886581  
Registered Charity Number 234091

Email: [office@stjosephs.org.uk](mailto:office@stjosephs.org.uk)