

22 March 2020

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sundays Year A – Weekdays Year 2 – Psalter Week 4



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 John Williamson OCD, Fr Matt Blake OCD

25 March The Annunciation of the Lord - Solemnity

DON'T RETURN THIS NEWSLETTER TO THE TRAY – PLEASE TAKE IT HOME WITH YOU.

THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION last weekend amounted to **£1,472**. Your continued support is appreciated.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS takes place every Wednesday during Lent after 9am Mass, joining via our live stream.

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

RECENTLY DECEASED: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Ronald Weeks** who died recently. We extend our sympathy to all his family and friends.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Sister Kay Concagh** from the Holy Cross Convent. We extend our sympathy to all her family and friends.

BAPTISM CONGRATULATIONS to the Strickland, Rooney, Perricone, Barrett, Johnson, Molloy, Allum and Glover families whose children were baptized recently. We ask God's blessing and every happiness for the future.

GIFT AID OFFICER: We are looking for someone to take over the role of Gift Aid Officer later this year. It usually involves only one hour per week for someone who is comfortable with number work and using a computer. If you feel you could help the parish with this valuable work please contact the Parish Office.

MOTHERING SUNDAY: Today we pray for all mothers in our Parish and hope they have a lovely day with their families.



COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) UPDATE: Following official advice and in order to keep each other safe, we will not be gathering for public acts of worship until further notice in any of our churches. This includes all public Masses.

St Joseph's Church will be open each day from 6am until 6:30pm. We encourage you to come along and spend some time in quiet prayer, read the Word of God, light candles, etc.

All our scheduled Masses will be celebrated without a congregation and can be followed on our live stream: Monday to Friday: 7am and 9am

Saturday: 10am and 5:30pm

Sunday: 7:45am, 9am, 11am and 5:30pm

Masses at Denham have been suspended for the foreseeable future.

Confessions will take place at the usual times on Saturday (from 10:30am to 11am and from 4:45pm to 5:15pm) and other times on request. These will only take place in the confessional.

Rosary will go ahead as usual on Tuesdays and Fridays at 7:30pm but will take place in the church so that people can join together in prayer via the live stream.

In all instances, social distancing requirements will be observed. We will do all we can to help and support you spiritually during this time.

THE GIFT – A LIFE IN THE SPIRIT COURSE: In response to recent COVID-19 developments, a decision has been taken to postpone this course, planned for May and June, until further notice.

PRAYER FOR A PANDEMIC

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake.
May we who have no risk factor remember those most vulnerable.
May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent.
May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options.
May we who have to cancel our trips remember those who have no safe place to go.
May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all.
May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home.
As fear grips our country let us choose love.
During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbours. Amen.

(written by a GP in Northern Ireland)



We have the ability to live stream our Masses so that, with cessation of public liturgies, you can stay connected to the parish and the liturgy. You can do this by linking to our online **LIVE STREAMING** service.

How can you access this service? If you have a desktop computer, laptop, tablet or smart phone connected to the internet, WiFi or data, you can join in with our streamed services. Here's what to do.

Before a Mass or Church Service go to www.stjosephs.org.uk/Live. Scroll down to the second image and click on the forward arrow in the centre of the picture to begin viewing the live stream.

Please note that we are unable to provide technical support to individuals.

DEFERRED – FIRST COMMUNION AND

CONFIRMATION CLASSES: All preparation sessions for our Parish and School First Holy Communion programs, as well as our Pastoral Area Confirmation classes have been put on hold until further notice.

The **LONDON & SLOUGH RUN FOR THE HOMELESS** needs your help more than ever at this crucial time. Please bring your sandwiches, boiled eggs, crisps, drinks, fruit, biscuits, etc to the Parish Centre by 3:30pm on Monday. You can leave your donations inside the door from 7:30am onwards or you can use the metal box provided as this protects them from the elements. We ask that you do not leave goods outside the Parish Centre. Many thanks for your continued support.

PLEASE NOTE WE DO NOT REQUIRE ANY CLOTHING AT PRESENT.

CLOSED – FURNITURE MARKET: St Joseph's Furniture Market regrets that due to the coronavirus pandemic we are having to close down until such time as matters improve. This therefore means we are unable to collect any furniture. Please do not leave any items outside the market as they will not be taken in. We thank you for your understanding in these exceptional times and we will re-open in due course when it is deemed safe to do so. You may find updates on our Facebook page or you can email us at furnituremarket@hotmail.co.uk.

SUSPENDED – TEA AND A CHAT: Adhering to the current guidance regarding Covid-19 (coronavirus), our regular Thursday afternoon sessions have been suspended until further notice.

POSTPONED – QUIZ NIGHT: The charity quiz night in aid of MIND and the London & Slough Run which was scheduled for Saturday 28 March has been postponed. It will be rescheduled when social gatherings are permitted once again.

THANK YOU to everyone who supported our **ENTERTAINMENT NIGHT** last weekend – from those who organised and helped run the event, to those who provided the entertainment to those who simply came along for an evening out. What a super night it was, filled with music, song, dance, laughter and most of all camaraderie. A joyful celebration of the British Isles which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who were there. Thank you all.

WAITROSE GREEN TOKENS: Shoppers at Waitrose in Gerrards Cross can support SHOC by popping their tokens into their section of the 'Community Matter's box.

CARMELITE CONTEMPLATIONS

We live in difficult and painful times. These words from St. John of the Cross can give us strength and hope [John describes the mysterious work of God in the soul as a "happy night"]: "Even though this happy night darkens the spirit, it does so only to impart light concerning all things; and even though it humbles individuals and reveals their miseries, it does so only to exalt them; and even though it impoverishes and empties them of all possessions and natural affection, it does so only that they may reach out divinely to the enjoyment of all earthly and heavenly things, with a general freedom of spirit in them all".

We cannot see or understand the mysterious work of God in our world today. What we can be certain of is that God walks beside us in these dark and insecure times. His invisible hand is holding and caring for all people. As people of faith our minds must never set limits on what God can do. As the man born blind, whom Jesus meets in today's Gospel, reminds us: "Ever since the world began it is unheard of for anyone to open the eyes of a man who was born blind; if this man were not from God, he couldn't do a thing". Let us pray and trust that God can bring some great good out of the pain and uncertainty that the entire human race is experiencing together at this time in history.

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: Suspended until further notice

Bridgettine Convent, Iver Heath: Suspended until further notice

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 *

VIA LIVE STREAM ONLY

Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesday and Thursday from 10am until 9pm in the Oratory

Website: www.stjosephs.org.uk

Telephone: **01753 886581**

Email: office@stjosephs.org.uk

Registered Charity Number 234091