



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

6 December 2020

Second Sunday of Advent

Sundays Year B – Weekdays Year 1 – Psalter Week 2

THIS NEWSLETTER IS ONLY AVAILABLE ONLINE.

7 December	St Ambrose, Bishop, Doctor of the Church – Memorial
8 December	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Solemnity

● WASH HANDS ● COVER FACE ● MAKE SPACE ●  
The Most Holy Name Church, the Bridgettine Convent and the Parish Office remain closed until further notice.



We continue to broadcast **MASSES** live from St Joseph's in real time via our live stream at [www.stjosephs.org.uk/Live](http://www.stjosephs.org.uk/Live).

#### MASS & PRIVATE PRAYER AT ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH

We plan for the church to be open at the following times:

- Monday 7 to Friday 11 December for 7am Mass
- Tuesday 8 December for 9am Mass, followed by Adoration until 11:30am
- Wednesday 9 December for 9am Mass
- Thursday 10 December for 9am Mass
- Friday 11 December from 5:30pm to 6:30pm for Holy Hour
- Saturday 12 December for 10am and 5:30pm Masses
- Sunday 13 December for 9am, 11am and 5:30pm Masses

Please **PRAY FOR ALL THOSE WHO ARE SICK** and those who care for them. May they know the presence of Christ in their illnesses and in their work.

*Prayer for Lighting the Advent Wreath Candle*

#### Second Week of Advent

God of mercy, justice and peace, help us get ready.  
As we light these candles, we ask that you clear a straight path to our hearts and help us see how we can live with more love.  
Help us move beyond everything that gets in between us and Jesus.  
Help us to stay watchful for his coming.  
We pray this in Jesus' name. Amen.

**ADOREMUS – COME LET US ADORE:** Tuesday 8 December from 9:30am to 11:30am. On the Feast day of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we are invited to spend some time in silent adoration of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, either in the church or via the live stream.

'This important Marian feast occurs during Advent, a season of watchful and prayerful preparation for Christmas. She who knew better than anyone how to wait attentively for the Lord, guides us and shows us how to make more vital and active our journey to the Holy Night of Bethlehem.' *Saint Pope John Paul II*

'The Word was made flesh, He lived among us.'  
*John 1:14*

Our **DIOCESAN PATRONAL FEAST** is the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary which occurs this coming Tuesday. To commemorate this, **Bishop David** will be the principal concelebrant at a Vigil Mass on **Monday 7 December at 7pm** at Northampton Cathedral. All are invited to participate in this wonderful Solemnity [via the cathedral live stream](#).

**BISHOP DAVID'S PASTORAL LETTER FOR ADVENT** which was read at all Masses last weekend is [now available on the website](#).

**BISHOP DAVID TEACHES:** Bishop David has made a series of short videos where he teaches and reflects on God's great love for us all. [Click here to watch the talks](#), recorded in the chapel at his home in Northampton.

**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION** for December is for **A Life of Prayer**. We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

**LET YOURSELF BE LOVED** – Fr **Iain Matthew OCD** will lead three evenings of reflection and prayer with John of the Cross on 11 – 13 December from 5pm – 6pm in preparation for his feast day on Monday 14 December. Sessions will be held via Zoom. [Click here to register](#).

**2020 PARISH ANNUAL REPORT:** An abridged annual report has been produced. Please [click here to read it](#).

**REOPEN:** St Joseph's Furniture Market is open once again every Saturday from 9am to 12:30pm.

**ADVENT RETREATS:** You can still join the Carmelites in Oxford and prepare your heart for Christmas with soul-enriching and Spirit-filled days of reflection.

**FAITH SEARCH** takes place on **Saturday mornings**.

Unique to the journey of faith is the individual's encounter with the mystery of God. Participating in our Saturday series during Advent we invite you to explore by reflecting on some of the wisdom and insight given to this well-worn spiritual tradition. [Click here to register.](#)

**KEEPING THE MYSTERY** takes place on **Monday**

**evenings**. This mini-series is a combination of meditation, music, reflection and silence. Prepare differently for your Christmas. [Click here to register.](#)

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY** – 18 to 25 January 2021. Unity among his sons and daughters is very dear to our Heavenly Father's heart. This should be easy for us to understand – what human father wants to see his children squabbling and fighting? In Ephesians 1:10 Paul explains that it is the Father's plan to "bring everything together under Christ". So, knowing this, and that the divisions between different churches undermine our witness to Christ and his Gospel (John 17:21), our local church leaders will meet for prayer together on 9 December as we normally do every month, and will discuss what we may be able to do together during the Week of Prayer for Unity in January. So, more news later!

**RED BOX APPEAL – APF Mill Hill Mission (Missio):**

Charities are going through a lean financial spell due to Covid and Missio is no exception. The lack of income is seriously affecting their work in the Mission Fields. To help matters our parish representative will be at the **Parish Centre on Monday 7 December from 2pm to 4pm** to receive from Missio supporters any Red Boxes they may wish to hand in or to receive cheque donations made payable to "Missio". Your assistance in supporting this request for donations will be greatly appreciated. *Please note that anybody calling at the Parish Centre on Monday 7 December must be wearing a mask.*

**CHRISTMAS PHOTO PROJECT:** Fr Michael is hoping to do a special project for Christmas. He asks parishioners to send in a Christmas themed photo of themselves. This will form part of our Family Christmas Masses which will be broadcast on 24 and 25 December. Please email your photo to [pastoral@stjosephs.org.uk](mailto:pastoral@stjosephs.org.uk), clearly stating your consent that the image can be used on our website and live stream. If the image includes anyone under 18 their names must be listed within the consent.

Our **ADVENT GIVING TREE** is going to be a little different this year! We would very much like your help, as in previous years, to give to those in need over Christmas. Our gifts this year will be going to the homeless in Slough and London. The gifts we would like are any of the following wrapped in Christmas paper and labelled with what is inside:

- Thermal hat and gloves for men
- Thermal underwear (tops and bottoms) for men
- Thermal socks for men
- Long sleeved jumpers for men (not too thick please – layers are best to keep warm)
- One cup Thermos Flask and packet of Cup of Soups

All new please or in excellent condition. Please bring your gifts to the Parish Centre drop off box by Sunday 20 December. Thank you so much for your generosity.

**THE LONDON & SLOUGH RUN** continues **Monday 7 December**. Please bring your sandwiches, boiled eggs, soft fruit, crisps, drinks, individually wrapped cakes and small chocolate biscuit bars to the **Parish Centre by 12 noon on Monday**. We ask that you mark each sandwich bag clearly, stating what the contents are. Preferred fillings are cheese, cheese and pickle, peanut butter, marmite or jam. **WE ARE IN URGENT NEED OF POT NOODLES, COFFEE, TEA BAGS, GREEN TOP MILK, INDIVIDUAL CARTONS OF APPLE/ORANGE JUICE, SUGAR, TINNED MEAT, TINNED TUNA AND TINNED VEGETABLES.** Very many thanks to everyone for their generosity so far.

Details for the **CHRISTMAS LONDON RUN** next week.

**OPENING THE CHURCH FOR MASSES DEPENDS ON HAVING SUFFICIENT STEWARDS.** Two stewards are needed for weekday Mass and three are needed for Sunday Mass. Their role is not only to unlock the door and welcome people – it is to ensure that we maintain a covid-secure environment for the safety of all our visitors and our priests. **We cannot open the church to the public FOR ANYTHING without two stewards.**

Those appointed need to be healthy individuals, under 70, who are not classed as vulnerable or shielding under Covid-19. If you were thinking of volunteering but have not yet come forward, we'd like to hear from you. Please email [office@stjosephs.org.uk](mailto:office@stjosephs.org.uk) if you can help.

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### 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*

**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 \*

**Rosary:** Tuesday and Friday at 7.30pm

**\*ALL BROADCAST VIA LIVE STREAM\***

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