



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

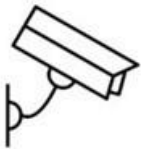
13 December 2020
Third Sunday of Advent

Sundays Year B – Weekdays Year 1 – Psalter Week 3

THIS NEWSLETTER IS ONLY AVAILABLE ONLINE.

14 December	St John of the Cross, Priest of Carmelite Order, Doctor of the Church – Memorial
16 December	Blessed Mary of the Angels, Virgin OCD – Memorial

● 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.

MASS & PRIVATE PRAYER AT ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH

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

- Monday 14 to Friday 18 December for 7am Mass
- Monday 14 December for 9am Mass
- Wednesday 16 December for 9am Mass
- Thursday 17 December for 9am Mass
- Friday 18 December from 5:30pm to 6:30pm for Holy Hour
- Saturday 19 December for 10am and 5:30pm Masses
- Saturday 19 December from 10:30am until 11:30am for Confessions
- Sunday 20 December for 9am, 11am and 5:30pm Masses

Prayer for Lighting the Advent Wreath Candle

Third Week of Advent

God of joy and compassion, you send glad tidings to the lowly and break through the darkness with your great light.

As we light these candles, help us to remember that the Good News is on its way.

May we announce it in what we do and what we say.

We ask this in the name of Jesus the Lord.
Amen.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES: The Carmelite Community looks forward to celebrating Christmas Masses with a congregation in St Joseph's Church, as well as welcoming those joining us virtually. This year you need to **book in advance for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day Masses.**

This is to help us configure seating arrangements and avoid disappointment should someone arrive for Mass and there is not enough space to accommodate them safely. The church will be open for three Masses on Christmas Eve at 5pm, 8pm and 10pm and for three Masses on Christmas Day at 7:45am, 9am and 11am. Chairs will be set out at a **social distance of 1.5 metres** in all directions for these six Masses. Reserved places will be seated together so everyone in the group should live in the same household or be within the same Support Bubble or form part of the same Christmas Bubble.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE.](#)

[CLICK HERE TO BOOK FOR CHRISTMAS MASS.](#) **Make your reservation by 4pm on Thursday 17 December.**

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS):

As we prepare for Christmas, why not come along to renew and strengthen your relationship with the Lord. On **Saturday 19 December from 10:30am – 11:30am** visit St Joseph's Church and experience the generosity of God's love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

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. He will continue to lead us during this season of Advent in a series of catechesis exploring some contemporary questions on faith relating to this season. [Click here to watch the talks](#), recorded in the chapel at his home in Northampton.

BISHOP DAVID'S PASTORAL LETTER FOR ADVENT is [now available on the website](#).

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.

PLEASE PRAY for the sick, elderly, housebound, those close to death and all who are troubled in mind, body or spirit. May the compassion of Christ who suffered for us be their hope and their comfort.

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, 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.

“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 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 managers to receive Jesus. [Click here to watch the film.](#)

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY – 18 to 25 January 2021. To mark this special week in the year, the leaders of the local Christian churches suggest that those individuals in each church who are interested in doing something extra should consider inviting a small group of 3 – 6 people from different churches to come together to prayer walk a given local area. This means meeting and saying an opening prayer together, and then walking in small groups of 2, 3 or 4 (observing the distancing rules) and praying privately for the occupants of the houses we pass, shops, restaurants, offices, businesses, schools, medical centres, etc. In this way we bring God’s blessing to those living and working in our local area, and we do it in unity with Christian friends from other local churches. More details to follow, but now is a good time to decide which friends, who are members of other local churches, we might invite to join our particular small group.

NEWSLETTER: There will be a newsletter next Sunday 20 December – deadline for content is lunchtime Thursday. The next one thereafter will be Sunday, 10 January; any articles to be included that week should be with the Parish Office by lunchtime on Thursday, 7 January.

CAFOD WORLD GIFTS are a range of virtual charity gifts that will delight the people you give them to and help transform the lives of families living in poverty.

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

Website: www.stjosephs.org.uk

Telephone: 01753 886581
Registered Charity Number 234091

Email: office@stjosephs.org.uk

Our **ADVENT GIVING TREE** is 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 14 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.



The LONDON and SLOUGH RUN
Helping the homeless and people in need

Christmas Run



We will be taking food and gifts to street homeless next **MONDAY 21 DECEMBER.** [Click here to see what we are appealing for this year.](#) Your donations are very much appreciated, more so than ever this year.

ST JOSEPH’S GRAND DRAW took place last Saturday. Fr Michael drew the tickets; [click here for the list of lucky winners.](#) The terrific sum of **£10,723** was raised through the sale of tickets and several generous donations. Many thanks to everyone who supported the raffle, either by buying tickets, making a donation, organising prizes or hand delivering letters. Thank you all very much.

Thank you!