

2 February 2025

# The Presentation of the Lord

Sundays Year C – Weekdays Year 1 – 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

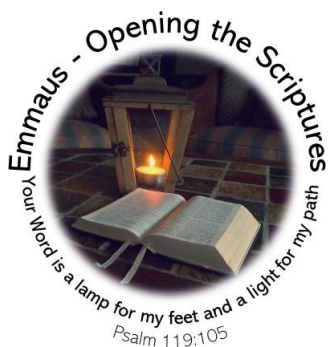
Fr Robert (Bob) Davies OCD (Prior & Parish Priest), Fr Jerome Ituah OCD, Fr Maurice Flynn OCD (Retired), Fr John McGowan OCD, Fr Martin McDonald OCD and Fr Theophilus (Theo) Nyamali OCD

**WORLD DAY FOR CONSECRATED LIFE:** Pope Saint John Paul II instituted this day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. It is attached to the **Feast of the Presentation of the Lord** on **2 February**. This feast is also known as Candlemas Day; when candles are blessed symbolising Christ who is the light of the world. Please pray for all those who have committed themselves to religious life, that they may continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and respond generously to God's gift of their vocation.

Heavenly Father, in your wisdom you have called certain women and men to a life of special consecration so that in prayerful observance of a lifestyle of poverty, chaste celibacy and obedience, they might be witnesses to us that as St Paul says, "our true citizenship is in heaven." Give them, Lord, the grace of joy and perseverance in their holy vocation.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord. *Amen.*

Remember especially those who live and serve in our parish; the Carmelite Community, the Holy Cross Sisters and the Bridgettine Sisters.



## EMMAUS – OPENING THE SCRIPTURES

Our next talk takes place this coming **Wednesday 5 February** at St Teresa's in Beaconsfield. The topic is 'Proclaiming the Lord's Favour (Luke 4:19)', a biblical background in light of the Jubilee Year.

The speaker is **Bishop David Oakley**.

You can attend in person or [watch live via our YouTube channel](#), see [www.stjosephs.org.uk/Emmaus](http://www.stjosephs.org.uk/Emmaus) for more details as well as links to recordings of previous talks.

**POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION** for February is **FOR VOCATIONS TO THE PRIESTHOOD AND RELIGIOUS LIFE** – Let us pray that the ecclesial community might welcome the desires and doubts of those young people who feel a call to serve Christ's mission in the priesthood and religious life.

"On the feast of the Presentation of the Lord in the temple, we present ourselves to God with purified spirits, so that our eyes might see the light of salvation and we might thus bring it to the entire world, as the Saints did."

*Pope Francis*



We broadcast all Masses/Services live from St Joseph's Church (not the Oratory) in real time via our live stream at [www.stjosephs.org.uk/Live](http://www.stjosephs.org.uk/Live).

4 February	Blessed Marie-Eugene of the Child Jesus, Priest of our Order – Optional Memorial
5 February	St Agatha, Virgin, Martyr – Memorial
6 February	St Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs – Memorial

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Ruth Lawrenson** who died recently. May she rest in peace. Her funeral will take place on **Tuesday 4 February at 11am in St Joseph's Church**. We extend our sympathy to all her family and friends.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Robert French** who died recently. May he rest in peace. His funeral will take place on **Tuesday 11 February at 11:30am in St Joseph's Church**. We extend our sympathy to all his family and friends.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **John Wijngaards-Clackson** who died recently. May he rest in peace. His funeral will take place on **Friday 14 February at 11am in The Most Holy Name Church in Denham**. We extend our sympathy to all his family and friends.

Next **Sunday 9 February**, there will be a **CHILDREN'S MASS at the 9am**. The children will stay in the church and the Mass will be all inclusive with as many as are able/wish to join in, having the opportunity to do so.

### **'A JOURNEY OF HOPE' LENTEN ACCOMPANIMENT**

**PRAYER:** For the Jubilee Year this Lent, there is an opportunity of a retreat in daily life, on **Mondays from 3 March**. Begin or deepen your prayer life, get to know the Scriptures better, and above all, grow in faith and in love for the Lord who loves you. You will receive weekly one-to-one support from an experienced prayer guide on Zoom. To find out more, [sign up to our introductory webinar](#) on **Monday 3 February** from 7:30pm-8:30pm.

**WORD ON FIRE UK BIBLE CONFERENCE:** Join Bishop Robert Barron and thousands of other Catholics from across the UK and beyond for **Evangelisation & Culture: The Bible**. Come to London this February to gain a deeper appreciation of the Sacred Scriptures and their relevance to the Church's mission today. It takes place Friday 21 – Saturday 22 February at the Excel Centre, East London. Speakers Include: Bishop Robert Barron, N T Wright, Professor Tracey Rowland and more. [Click here for more information and to register.](#)

**DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO BURGUNDY:** Bishop David and Canon John Udris will lead our pilgrimage to France in October. Staying in Paray Le Monial, seeking spiritual renewal at the sacred Basilica of the Sacred Heart, where Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque once received her divine visions. We will also visit Nevers where Saint Bernadette spent the last years of her life and her body rests today. [Click here for more details.](#)

**"ANTIQUA ET NOVA: Note on the Relationship Between Artificial Intelligence and Human Intelligence"** was released by the Vatican on 28 January. Authored by the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith and the Dicastery for Culture and Education, and published with the Pope's approval, it addresses the ethical and anthropological challenges posed by the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) alongside the benefits that AI should bring. [Read the document here.](#)

**A YEAR OF HOPE: INTRODUCTION TO THE JUBILEE YEAR:** How can we respond to Pope Francis' call to be "tangible signs of hope" in this Jubilee Year? [Find out by watching this inspirational event.](#) Featuring Fr Jan Nowotnik, Director of Mission at the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, CAFOD Director Christine Allen and more. Discover how we can act in faith and in love as pilgrims of hope this Holy Year.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Joshua Evans who was awarded a wooden cross last Sunday for one year of regular serving at Mass. *Well done and thank you!*

A small number of **FEBRUARY DAY BY DAY** booklets which feature daily readings and inspirational quotes are available from the bookshop priced at just £1 each.

#### **COMPANION BOOKLET FOR THE JUBILEE YEAR**

Alive Publishing has put together a Companion Booklet for the Jubilee Year to assist and enrich your celebration of this historic time. Cardinal Nichols said: "It will help you ponder and pray, focusing on the great themes of the Holy Year: hope, forgiveness, the figures of the Apostles Peter and Paul and their basilicas in Rome, they key places of prayer and repentance in every Holy Year."

**Copies available from the Bookshop priced at £1.50**

**CHALFONT DEMENTIA SUPPORT** hosts its **Wednesday Café** on **5 February** from **10am until 12noon** in the First Committee Room. The Café gives a very warm welcome to those living with dementia, their families and carers. We have a range of enjoyable activities, a chance to chat and, of course, tea, coffee and cakes! Ours is always a positive approach in dealing with the difficulties so often associated with dementia. Just come along or contact Sally Blackden on 07932 643949.

**FAIRTRADE/TRAIDCRAFT:** You can buy fairtrade goods from Margaret Dykes at the monthly Coffee Morning at the Village Hall in Church Road. The next one takes place on **Wednesday 5 February** from 10am until 12 noon.

#### **EMPOWERING VULNERABLE CHILDREN (EVC)**

**UGANDA:** There will be an **appeal and second collection next weekend**. This charity provides a future, through education, for some of the poorest children in the world. Judi Fawcett, Founder and Trustee, will give a brief talk at all the Masses about their work. To find out more about the charity please visit their website at <https://www.evcuganda.org/>.

The **PARISH OFFICE IS NOW OPEN** on **Mondays AND Wednesdays** from **9am until 12 noon** and **Fridays** from **10am until 12 noon**. If you want to get a Mass Card, arrange a Mass, add someone to the Bidding Prayers, book an appointment, make an enquiry, collect letters and so forth, a volunteer will be on hand at the reception desk or by phone during these times to help you.

---

### **Sunday Mass Times**

St Joseph's, Chalfont St Peter: Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm\*, Sunday at 7:45am\*, 9am\*, 11am\* and 5:30pm\*

The Most Holy Name, Denham: Sunday at 9:30am

Bridgettine Convent, Iver Heath: Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30pm, Sunday at 9am

**The following take place at St Joseph's, Chalfont St Peter**

**Weekday Mass:** Monday to Friday at 7am (in the Oratory) and 9am\*, Saturday and Bank Holidays at 10am\*

**Rosary:** Tuesday at 7:30pm via Zoom and Thursday at 7:30pm in the Oratory

\*BROADCAST VIA LIVE STREAM

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)

**JUBILEE CHURCHES:** Bishop David has designated three churches in our diocese as jubilee churches. These are:

- Northampton Cathedral
- The Holy Child and St Joseph, Bedford
- St Peter, Marlow

We are all encouraged to make a pilgrimage as a group or individual to one of these churches in this Holy Year.

**EXPLORING SAFEGUARDING:** Join our Called & Equipped group as we take a look at safeguarding and what it means for ourselves and our parishes. This is an opportunity for those in parish ministries to get a better understanding of safeguarding from our diocesan safeguarding team, Danielle Dixon and Laura Lester. The venue is Holy Ghost Church, Luton on **Saturday 8 March** from 10am – 1pm. Previous groups have found the presentation very inspiring and the best safeguarding training they have ever received. [Sign up here.](#)

**THE [LONDON & SLOUGH RUN](#)** continues this Monday 3 February. Please bring your donations to the First Committee Room by 12 noon. **WE ARE IN URGENT NEED OF SATSUMAS, BANANAS, BOILED EGGS and CRISPS. WE ALSO NEED FRESH GREEN MILK, UHT GREEN MILK, COFFEE, SUGAR, PEANUT BUTTER, JAM, TINNED FISH and TOILET ROLL.** Thank you for your continued generosity.



The **CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL)** is a nationwide organisation with Sections in many parishes. On a national basis, we always ensure a mixture of spirituality, charitable work, social activities

and learning. Members endeavour to exert influence in those issues rooted in social justice and peace, always seeking to make the voice of Catholic women heard.

The **Gerrards Cross Section** of the Catholic Women's League was started in this parish in 1958. Unfortunately, our membership has fallen to such an extent that we have to consider closing the Section.

We would like to appeal to the women of our parish to consider either joining us or forming a new Section. We would be willing to help in any way, please get in touch.

CWL's website is [catholicwomensleaguecio.org.uk](http://catholicwomensleaguecio.org.uk).

Doreen Pooley (Chairman) 07867 494235

Maureen Burrows (Secretary) 07584 078185

Eileen Carkett (Treasurer) 01753 888969

### ST JOSEPH'S 200 CLUB 2024/2025

The January draw took place last week. The winners of the prize-fund are:

1 <sup>st</sup>	Christine Cornwell (£305)
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Eilish Kelly (£152.50)
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jane Dawson (£91.50)
4 <sup>th</sup>	Chris North (£61)

Congratulations to the lucky winners and thank you to all members for your support of this fundraising scheme.

Memberships are still available. Please contact **Alastair** at [200club@stjosephs.org.uk](mailto:200club@stjosephs.org.uk) for queries or pick up and complete a form from the church porch and drop it to the Priory or send it to the Parish Office. Your support is more important than ever this year as the money will go towards the administrative costs of the **new Parish Community Hall project.**

**ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH DISABLED ACCESS:** Shortly before Christmas the door of the disabled access was ripped off its hinges by a fierce storm so we had to lock the door to ensure the safety of our parishioners and property. On closer inspection, we found that the door frame has buckled, so the whole door and framework will need to be replaced. This is not an insignificant cost. We apologise for the inconvenience this is causing. In the meantime, the door of the lower sacristy on the priory side serves as our disabled access and will be opened before each Mass. Please feel free to park on the priory side if you require disabled access, making sure that your vehicle does not block the access for emergency vehicles or any other vehicles parked on that side.

**ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH HEATING:** Our church is colder than usual at present because one of the two boilers is not functioning. We are doing everything we can to rectify the situation and would like to thank those working hard behind the scenes to achieve this. In the meantime, please remember to close the door each time you enter or leave the church in order to retain as much heat as possible.

*We are very happy to visit you in your own home and bring you Communion. Please phone us at the Priory if you would like someone to call on you.*

### Sunday Mass Times

St Joseph's, Chalfont St Peter: Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm\*, Sunday at 7:45am\*, 9am\*, 11am\* and 5:30pm\*

The Most Holy Name, Denham: Sunday at 9:30am

Bridgettine Convent, Iver Heath: Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30pm, Sunday at 9am

**The following take place at St Joseph's, Chalfont St Peter**

**Weekday Mass:** Monday to Friday at 7am (in the Oratory) and 9am\*, Saturday and Bank Holidays at 10am\*

**Rosary:** Tuesday at 7:30pm via Zoom and Thursday at 7:30pm in the Oratory

\*BROADCAST VIA LIVE STREAM

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)