



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

9 February 2025

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sundays Year C – Weekdays Year 1 – Psalter Week 1

THANK YOU to parishioners who have responded to our **urgent parish finances appeal**. We are grateful to each and every one of you who has signed up for Gift Aid, increased your regular offering and/or made a one-off donation to help us address our £30,000 deficit. There is still a large shortfall to cover, so we would greatly benefit if more people would consider gift aiding their donations either by the envelope scheme or standing order. One-off donations can also be gift-aided. Gift Aid Forms can be [downloaded here](#) or there are paper copies on the table in the church porch.



EMPOWERING VULNERABLE CHILDREN (EVC) UGANDA:

There will be an **appeal and retiring collection this 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/>.

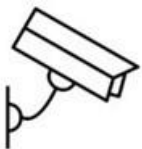
NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK takes place from 7 to 14 February. It is an opportunity for us to support and promote marriage and family. Bishop Bosco MacDonald is the lead bishop for marriage and family life nationally and has offered this [special message for the week](#).

As we journey as Pilgrims of Hope in this Jubilee Year, [click here for a series of short testimonies](#) for Marriage Week focusing on what gives couples 'Hope in Marriage'.

DAY OF PRAYER FOR VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING: This **Saturday 8 February** we are asked pray for the victims of trafficking and modern slavery. This significant day coincides with the feast of St Josephine Bakhita, a Sudanese woman canonised by Pope St John Paul II in 2000. Her life story serves as both a harrowing reminder of the reality of slavery and an inspiring testament to hope and faith. Pope Francis challenges us all to "find" these enslaved souls. This mission doesn't require extraordinary skills – only a willingness to learn how to spot the signs of trafficking and safely report concerns.

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK is **Tuesday 11 February**, an observation started by St John Paul II to encourage us all to pray for those who suffer from illness and for their caregivers. It coincides with the commemoration of Our Lady of Lourdes. People around the world take the time to pray for the sick and for those who work very hard to alleviate the sufferings of the sick on this day. [Pope Francis speaks of dignity and hope in his message](#).

Please pray for the sick of our parish and for those who have asked for our prayers.



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.

10 February	St Scholastica, Virgin – Memorial
11 February	Our Lady of Lourdes – Optional Memorial
14 February	Ss Cyril, Monk and Methodius, Bishop, Patrons of Europe – Feast

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.

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.

EMMAUS – OPENING THE SCRIPTURES: Our February talk was ‘Proclaiming the Lord’s Favour (Luke 4:19)’, a biblical background in light of the Jubilee Year and the speaker was Bishop David Oakley.

[Click here to watch a recording.](#) For more details and links to recordings of previous talks, [visit this webpage.](#)

DIALOGUES OF THE CARMELITES by Francis Poulenc:

Performed by Aylesbury Opera (sung in English, with orchestra) at the DEMBE Theatre, Station Road, Tring, HP23 5QY on **Friday 28 and Saturday 29 March** at 7:30pm and **Sunday 30 March** at 2:30pm. This opera is a compelling portrait of faith, fate and human endurance. It is set during the French Revolution’s Reign of Terror and retells the true story of the Martyrs of Compiègnes. The regime’s increasing hostility towards religion creates an existential crisis for the Carmelite Priory and its resident nuns. The opera focuses particularly on a young member of the order, the aristocratic Blanche de la Force, who must overcome a pathological timidity in order to answer her life’s calling. Tickets £25 / £22 / £5 available from DEMBE Theatre or 07725 868092.

[Click here for more details or to book tickets online.](#)

NYMO JUBILEE OF YOUTH PILGRIMAGE TO ROME from 30 July to 3 August for ages 18-35: We cannot wait to celebrate the Jubilee of Youth in Rome this summer! It is going to be incredible. There will be a number of events in Rome to celebrate the Jubilee year geared towards young people and young adults. It is going to be one of the biggest events in the Catholic calendar for young people and we have decided we cannot possibly miss out! We will be joining the Sion Community’s pilgrimage to Rome at the end of July to engage in the programme of events. The pilgrimage will cost approximately £650 depending on final flights and accommodation. The sooner we book the better for flight costs, so don’t wait if you’re thinking about joining us.

[Visit our website](#) or [email NYMO](#) to find out more.

DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE TO BURGUNDY from Sunday 19 to Friday 24 October 2025. 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.](#)

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

Telephone: 01753 886581
Registered Charity Number 234091

Email: office@stjosephs.org.uk

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

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.

OSCAR ROMERO ROSARY: Archbishop John Wilson has written a new book on the Rosary and St Oscar Romero. In recognition of the love of the rosary by St Oscar, Archbishop John has created the **Romero Mysteries** which focus on the subjects of charity, compassion and mercy, and Justice and Peace.

[Pray the Rosary via YouTube video with him here.](#)

[Click here to buy the book from the Pauline Sisters.](#)

“ANTIQUA ET NOVA: Note on the Relationship Between Artificial Intelligence and Human Intelligence” addresses the ethical and anthropological challenges posed by the rapid development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) alongside the benefits that AI should bring.

[Click here to read the document.](#)

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.](#)

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.

our friendly social group
meets together fortnightly
for a chat over a cuppa
First Committee Room
St Joseph's Priory
2nd and 4th Thursday
of the Month
2pm to 4pm

**TEA
and a
CHAT**

Everyone Most Welcome

www.stjosephs.org.uk
01753 886581

Our social group will meet together on **Thursday 13 February** from 2pm to 4pm in the First Committee Room. A warm welcome awaits anyone who pops in.

CAFOD BIG LENT WALK: Just over one month to go until the Big Lent Walk begins! Sign up and raise vital funds for communities around the world. Every £1 raised through the Big Lent Walk will help fight poverty globally in countries like Afghanistan, Colombia and South Sudan. Walk 200km (or any other distance!) wherever you like, and with whomever you like (as a parish, a family or individually). Let's change community lives for good and tell poverty to take a hike! [Click here to find out more.](#)

The **Gerrards Cross Section of the CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE (CWL)** was started 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. Visit the [CWL website](#) to find out more about what we do. We would be willing to help in any way, please get in touch.

Doreen Pooley (Chairman) 07867 494235
Maureen Burrows (Secretary) 07584 078185
Eileen Carkett (Treasurer) 01753 888969

THE [LONDON & SLOUGH RUN](#) continues this Monday 10 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.

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

Telephone: 01753 886581
Registered Charity Number 234091

Email: office@stjosephs.org.uk

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.

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.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

Instead of running after superficial satisfactions and playing a role for the benefit of others, we would do better to think about the really important questions in life. Who am I, really? What am I looking for? What direction do I want to give to my life, my decisions and my actions? Why and for what purpose am I in this world? How do I want to look back on my life once it ends? What meaning do I want to give to all my experiences? Who do I want to be for others? Who am I for God? All these questions lead us back to the heart.

Pope Francis, Dilexit Nos, On the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ