

23 March 2025
Third Sunday of Lent

Sundays Year C – Weekdays Year 1 – Psalter Week 3



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



FEAST OF ST JOSEPH:

Last Wednesday was the feast of St Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, Protector of the Discalced Carmelite Order and Patron of our Parish.

Our patronal celebration will take place this Sunday 23 March with the 11 am Youth Mass reflecting the diversity of our parish. This will be followed by a get together in the School Hall at 12 noon.

We invite all parishioners to join us for an afternoon of fun and fellowship, celebrating the various cultures within our parish community, sharing foods and delicacies from around the world and enjoying the talent in our parish.

No tickets, no registrations required...just show up.

COLLECTION FOR THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM: The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has approved a special National Collection, to take place in parishes across England this weekend. This is dedicated to supporting the Jubilee initiatives and projects at the [Catholic National Shrine and Basilica of Our Lady of Walsingham](#). These initiatives aim to enhance the Jubilee pilgrim experience and further the spiritual mission of the Shrine.



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.

25 March Annunciation of the Lord – Solemnity

RECENTLY DECEASED: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Anne Rozario** who died recently. May she rest in peace. **Funeral details are yet to be confirmed.** We extend our sympathy to all her family and friends.

THANK YOU – FLAME: We sincerely appreciate parishioners support in helping our youth attend FLAME at the OVO Arena in Wembley last Saturday. Thanks to your generous donations from last November's cake sales, the parish raised a total of £807.90, enabling us to send 15 young people along with 5 adult helpers to this event. It was an enriching experience for all involved. May the good Lord bless and reward your kindness.

LENT 2025 IN OUR PARISH

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: During the season of Lent, we take a journey with Jesus. The Stations of the Cross follow His path from the time He was condemned to His burial in the tomb. It is a way to pray and meditate on His sacrifice for us and it helps us examine our life in light of the cross. Join us for this devotion on **Tuesday and Friday after 9am Mass** in St Joseph's Church.

ROSARY CIRCLE: We are called to be more fervent in prayer during Lent. The Rosary is the perfect prayer to pray communally for the needs and intentions of our parish and the wider world, especially at this time. You are invited to join our parish Rosary Circle this Lent. **Pray with us via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30pm** ([contact Christine Cornwell](#) for Zoom joining details) and/or **join us in person in The Oratory on Thursdays at 7:30pm.**

ADORATION: Spending time in Eucharistic Adoration draws us closer to Jesus and helps us deepen our faith. You are invited to spend some time resting and praying in the presence of the Lord for **30 minutes after 9am Mass on Thursday morning** in St Joseph's Church.



GROWING IN HOPE: This Lent we are encouraging everyone to do **Acts of Kindness throughout Lent.** We are asking people (young and old) to let us know what they have done every week by adding a leaf (or leaves) to our "Jubilee Year of Hope Through Kindness Tree" that will be in St Joseph's Church throughout Lent. You'll find [ideas to get you started here](#) and a [blank calendar to fill in here](#). Please do get involved and help us let our tree flourish so that it is fully grown by Easter.

LENT PRAYER

The Ignatian Spirituality Centre offers [Fruits of the Spirit online prayer](#) which we'll use for Morning Prayer via Zoom on Lent **weekdays from Wednesday 5 March to Friday 18 April.** A booklet is also available.

The **Diocesan Women in Ministry Group** will be praying with the 2nd half of **40 Women: Unseen Women of the Bible** with a morning email and early evening prayer via Zoom in Weeks 1-4 of Lent, from **Monday 10 March to Friday 4 April.**

[Contact Joanna Hale by email](#) for more information.

OLIVE WOOD CARVINGS FROM THE HOLY LAND:

The Good Shepherd Company from the Holy Land (Bethlehem) is based in Nottingham and works to support and help Christian families in the Holy Land. 90% of the Christians there rely on income from olive wood carving, otherwise they leave in search of better job opportunities. According to a recent survey by the Bishops of Jerusalem, there is only 41,000 Christians left in the area. There will be a sale of goods (cribs, rosaries, crosses, religious statues, etc) **after all Masses next weekend 29/30 March** in St Joseph's Church.
Cash and card payments accepted.

EMMAUS – OPENING THE SCRIPTURES: Our next talk takes place on **Wednesday 2 April** at St Teresa's in Beaconsfield. The topic is **"Throw a stone if you have no sin" (John 8:7)**. The speaker is **Fr Matthew Roche-Saunders**. Jesus is calling each person to holiness, whatever we've done and however we've drifted from his love for us. This talk will examine how our response to this call is on the inside, in our interior life.
Fr Matt is a priest of the Archdiocese of Cardiff-Menevia. He's based in Cardiff, and works as full time Director of Priestly Vocations and Youth Mission.
You can attend in person or [watch live via our YouTube channel](#), see www.stjosephs.org.uk/Emmaus for more details as well as links to recordings of previous talks.

MUSIC AND PRAYER AT NIGHTFALL – Sunday 6 April at 6pm at Chalfont St Giles Parish Church. 'Extended Compline' devised by conductor Dominic McGonigal and sung by the **St Giles Consort** run by parishioners Peter and Cathy Langdale. It takes the form of a Service of Night Prayer, complemented with appropriate choral music by Byrd, Lassus, Sheppard, Lotti, Victoria and Rachmaninov. The congregation is invited to join the choir in psalms and hymns. Retiring collection in aid of music in the church.

EASTER GIFTS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE IN NEED: As part of our Acts of Kindness throughout Lent, our Children's Liturgy team is collecting gifts for local elderly residents and families with young children. Please spend up to £5 on an Easter gift – Easter Egg, Chocolate Bunny, Potted Plant, Easter Toy, etc. Place the unwrapped gift in an open bag and leave it on the altar after Sunday Mass or drop it into the Priory on Monday or Wednesday 9-12 or Friday 10-12. We would be grateful to receive all gifts no later than Monday 14 April so we can deliver before Easter.

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

CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF ST JOSEPH WITH A GOOD BOOK! The following are available free of charge:
"The Healing Power of a Father's Blessing"

by Linda Schubert

"Exploring the Catholic Church"

by Marcellino D'Ambrosio

"Our Call to Holiness"

by Benedict Heron OSB

"Streams of Living Water"

by Brian Smith and Adrian Commadeur

If you would like to make a donation to parish funds, please give your gift in the bookshop or in the offering at Mass.

PASTORAL LETTER: Bishop David has issued a strong call to prayer and action against the **Terminally Ill (End of Life) Bill**, which is currently under parliamentary scrutiny. [Read his letter here.](#) [Watch his video here.](#)

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION for March is FOR FAMILIES IN CRISIS – Let us pray that broken families might discover the cure for their wounds through forgiveness, rediscovering each other's gifts, even in their differences.

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

TEA AND A CHAT: Our social group will meet together for a chat over a cuppa on **Thursday 27 March** from 2pm to 4pm in the First Committee Room at St Joseph's Priory. We look forward to seeing you there. A warm welcome awaits anyone who pops in.

HELPERS NEEDED to serve refreshments after 11am Mass on Sundays. If you can help out once a month or so, and are willing to go on a serving rota, please get in touch with Joan at the Parish Office.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT: We have now published [St Joseph's Parish Annual Report 2024](#). Paper copies are available on request from the Parish Office, which is where queries should be directed in the first instance.

GIFT AIDERS: Please collect your boxes of envelopes for the next twelve months from the back of the Church.

*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.*

THE [LONDON & SLOUGH RUN](#) continues this Monday 24 March. Please bring your donations to the First Committee Room by 12 noon. **WE ARE IN URGENT NEED OF INDIVIDUAL CARTONS OF ORANGE/APPLE JUICE, PLAIN CHEESE SANDWICHES, 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 support and generosity every week.

LOST PROPERTY: We have jackets, hats and gloves, bags and various miscellaneous items in our Lost Property box. If you think an item in it might belong to you, can you please call into the Reception on a Monday, Wednesday or Friday morning to check. If the items are not claimed within the next month the items will be disposed of to a Charity Shop. Thank you.

VACANCY: St Teresa's in Beaconsfield is currently recruiting for a **Housekeeper** to manage and carry out the housekeeping duties for the presbytery, including all cooking and cleaning needs for the resident priest/s. The role is **20 hours per week** with a start date of 1 June. [Click here for job description and application form.](#) All candidates should send their completed application form to hr.admin@northamptondiocese.org. The vacancy will remain open until filled, but we may close it early if we receive a high volume of applications.

FILM NIGHT: The Bridgettine Sisters will host a **Film Night at Pinewood Studios** showing 'Fly Me to the Moon' on **Thursday 24 April** at 6pm; film starts at 7pm. The entry for the evening is **£15 per person**. There will also be a raffle at £5 per strip which will be drawn at the end of the show; Pinewood has donated some of the prizes. Please get in touch with Ann Saunders on 07787 774356 to book your tickets. Payment is by **CASH ONLY** in advance. No payment can be taken at the door on the night. Last date to book is Monday 21 April.

SHOC GOLF DAY: [Slough Homeless Our Concern](#) (SHOC) is grateful for the support that it receives from St Joseph's parishioners. The **SHOC Charity Golf Day** provides an annual source of funds for the charity. This year it will be held on **Friday 9 May** at Burnham Beeches Golf Club, which offers an attractive championship course. [Click here for the registration form](#) which includes more details about the day.



PARISH FINANCES – UPDATE

Thank you for your generosity in response to the recent appeal to help us eradicate the shortfall in funding for the parish. The deficit had been forecast to reach £30,000 for the year ending at the end of this month, March 2025. There has been a notable increase in the weekly collections during the Masses.

The demand for Gift Aid forms has risen substantially, indicating that in future there will be a significant increase in the 25% received from the tax authority for every £ donated to the parish.

Whilst it has not been possible yet to forecast exactly the effect of your greater donations by way of bank transfers and Gift Aid envelopes, the indications are that your increased giving is putting us on the path to a sustainable financial position.

We note that many, many Gift Aid forms have been picked up from the church porches – some of which have not yet been returned. If you have any questions or need any help with the forms or gift aiding, please email giftaid@stjosephs.org.uk or contact the Parish Office to get assistance.

We will keep you informed regularly regarding the parish funds as we know that you will want to hear about our progress towards financial stability, so that we can continue to support all the selfless work done by our priests and the many groups within the parish.

Your continued support is greatly appreciated.

APF MILL HILL MISSION (MISSIO): Red Box holders and supporters of [Missio](#) are asked to collect their copy of the Spring Edition of the Mission magazine from the back of their church.

INTERESTED IN TRAINING TO BE A TEACHER? St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust are running a series of open mornings where you can find out what is involved in our training programme and progress your application for September 2025. To book your place, please go to www.stcat.co.uk/become-a-teacher/open-mornings/.

No refreshments after 9am or 11am Mass today as we have our parish get-together to celebrate the Feast of St Joseph in the school at 12 noon.

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