

9 March 2025

First Sunday of Lent

Sundays Year C – Weekdays Year 1 – Psalter Week 1



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

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 throughout Lent on **Tuesdays and Fridays after 9am Mass** in St Joseph's Church starting on **Tuesday 11 March**.

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. This Lent you are invited to spend some time resting and praying in the presence of the Lord for **30 minutes after 9am Mass on Thursday mornings** in St Joseph's Church starting on **Thursday 13 March**.



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.

RECENTLY DECEASED: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Viviana Robles-Munoz** who died recently. May she rest in peace. Her funeral will take place on **Tuesday 11 March at 11:30am 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 **David Waring** who died recently. May he rest in peace. His funeral will take place on **Friday 21 March at 11:30am in St Joseph's Church**. We extend our sympathy to all his family and friends.

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

EMMAUS – OPENING THE SCRIPTURES: Our next talk takes place on **Wednesday 12 March** at St Teresa's in Beaconsfield. The topic is **“Judge not that you may not be judged” (Matthew 25:36) - A Christian Response**. The speaker is **Sr Lilian Ehidiamhen**.

The topic explores moralistic judgement as a form of communication that fosters enemy images and blocks compassion. A Christian response to situations that lead to judgement is the Gospel nonviolence, which promotes love of enemy. Love is nurtured by communication. This topic offers us the opportunity to explore nonviolent communication which provides skills for communication that promotes love and compassion instead of judging people's actions. When people act, they are attempting to communicate their needs to us. However, the language human beings have learned to communicate their needs might be judgmental. Nonviolent communication supports people with language that could transform our communication from judgement to expressing needs in a nonviolent way.

Mary Lilian Akhere Ehidiamhen PhD, from Nigeria, is a member of the Congregation of Sisters For Christian Community (SFCC). She is a certified trainer on Nonviolent Communication with the Center for Nonviolent Communication (CNVC), Austin, Texas. She majors in Theological Ethics with specific interest in Social and Peace Ethics from the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven, Belgium. Her research focuses on how Nonviolent Communication (NVC) can contribute to Catholic social teaching on peace. She is currently teaching Religious Education at St Ignatius College, Enfield, London.

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.

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.

GROWING IN HOPE: This Lent we are encouraging everyone to do **Acts of Kindness** throughout Lent. We will be 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 the church throughout Lent. You’ll find a [blank calendar here](#) and [ideas to get you started here](#). Please do get involved and help us let our tree flourish so that it is fully grown by Easter.

LENT CALENDAR: The Catholic Bishops Conference invite you to join them on a spiritual journey this Lent, thoughtfully designed to deepen your love of Scripture. Every day, you can reflect on an image, a Bible text and action point as we journey with Christ towards his death and resurrection. [Click here for the calendar](#).

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. In a pastoral letter, the bishop expressed deep concerns about the implications of legalizing assisted suicide, warning that the proposed safeguards are unravelling. [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.

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.

TEA AND A CHAT: Our social group will meet together for a chat over a cuppa on **Thursday 13 February** 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.

2024 ANNUAL REPORT: We have now published [St Joseph’s Parish Annual Report 2024](#). In it you will find a review of the last twelve months, a report on our parish finances from the Finance Committee and a Financial Statement for the year ended 31 March 2024. Also included are reports on from our parish representatives for Health & Safety and Safeguarding. Paper copies are available on request from the Parish Office, which is where queries should be directed in the first instance.

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

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*BROADCAST VIA LIVE STREAM

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CAFOD

Catholic Agency for
Overseas Development

LENT FAMILY FAST DAY is **Friday 14 March**. This Lent, please support our Family Fast Day parish activities and be a pilgrim of hope with CAFOD this Jubilee Year. You’ll be supporting communities suffering the impacts of war, poverty and climate change to find solutions and hope. **Next weekend there will be an appeal and second collection at all Masses on behalf of CAFOD.** Please pick up an envelope from the church porch and return it with your donation next week. You can make an online donation at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call us on 0303 303 3030. You can also text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10. Please continue to pray for our emergency response and development work all over the world.

CAFOD SOUP LUNCH: Come and join us in the First Committee Room on **Friday 14 March** for a simple soup lunch to mark Lent Family Fast Day. The CWL (Catholic Women’s League) will be serving home-made soup from **12 noon to 2pm**. All proceeds will go to CAFOD.

THANK YOU FROM SHOC: The Slough Homeless Our Concern (SHOC) Trustees and the Slough Day Centre Team would like to thank St Joseph’s parishioners for your generous donations at the recent appeal and second collection. The **£1,309.67** received, together with gift aid, will help us to continue this vital service. If you were unable to contribute at that time, but would like to make a donation, please go to the SHOC website at www.sloughhomeless.org.uk and click on the donate button where you can also do gift aid.

THE LONDON & SLOUGH RUN continues this **Monday 10 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.

ST PATRICK’S DAY cards, rosettes and ribbons are now on sale from the Repository at very reasonable prices. You can pay by putting your money in the box provided OR you can use the card machine by the door.

SVP AND CAFOD WORK EXPERIENCE: The [St Vincent de Paul Society](#) (SVP) and [CAFOD](#) are collaborating to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales. The program will run from **22 to 27 June** in London. Candidates must have completed their first or second year at university and have a passion for social justice. [Click here for more details and the application form](#). For any queries, please [contact Kezia Harrow](#). Applications close on 20 April.

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.

JOB OPPORTUNITY – DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION: The Diocese of Northampton is seeking to appoint a Director of Education. This full-time role is vital in supporting the Bishop's mission and vision for Catholic education, ensuring the continued growth and excellence of our diocesan schools. [Click here for details and to apply](#).

CURRY NIGHT: By special request, the Bridgettine Sisters are hosting a Curry Night on **Saturday 22 February at 6:30pm**. The price is £20 per person and there will also be a raffle with lots of prizes at £5 for a strip of tickets. All the **proceeds will go towards our new Grotto**. Please contact Ann Saunders on 07787 774356 to book your place. **CASH ONLY**.

FILM NIGHT: Pinewood Studios have kindly offered the Bridgettine Sisters their cinema for fundraising towards their Grotto. They will host a **Film Night at Pinewood Studios** showing 'Fly Me to the Moon' on **Thursday 24 April** at 6pm; film starts at 7pm. On arrival there will be some finger food and soft drinks. 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. Looking forward to seeing you there on the night.

SHOC GOLF DAY: [Slough Homeless Our Concern](#) (SHOC) is grateful for the support that it receives from St Joseph's parishioners. The charity continues to provide a vital service with 80 rough sleepers on its books and 40-50 people coming to its day centre every day. 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.

ST JOSEPH'S 200 CLUB 2024/2025

The draw for February took place on Friday 28 and the winners of the prize-fund are:

1 st	Mary Forsyth (£305)
2 nd	Patrick Clarke (£152.50)
3 rd	Cecile Galvin (£91.50)
4 th	Colin McNicholas (£61)

Congratulations to the lucky winners!

The club continues to grow and memberships are still available for the rest of the year. Please contact Alastair at 200club@stjosephs.org.uk to join, or pick up a form from the church porch. Proceeds from the club are urgently needed to continue to support the administrative costs of the **new Parish Community Hall project**.

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.

GIFT AIDERS: Please collect your boxes of envelopes for the next twelve months from the back of the Church. Many thanks for your continued support of the Parish using this scheme. Parishioners who wish to join the scheme may do so by completing a **Gift Aid Declaration Form** which is available [from the website](#), Parish Office or on the table in the porch at the back of the church.

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.

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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.

“May the hope that does not disappoint, the central message of the Jubilee, be the focus of our Lenten journey toward the victory of Easter.”

Pope Francis

PRAYER FOR SPRING

God of love, you enter into our spring seasons, into our deepest places of inner dwelling, into the heart of our transformation. You give us glimpses of the truth. May we allow our experience of spring to speak to us of necessary change and growth. Grant us an openness to the continuous process of letting go and moving on that is a part of the human condition. We are grateful that you are our faithful companion on this journey. Amen.

Attributed to Rev Dan McDonald SJ

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WELCOMING ALL PARISHIONERS TO CELEBRATE FEAST OF ST JOSEPH PATRON SAINT OF OUR PARISH



Join us for an afternoon of fun and community, celebrating the various International cultures within our parish community, sharing food and celebrating Talents in our Parish

ST. JOSEPH'S GOT TALENT



INTERNATIONAL CUISINE FROM
DIFFERENT CONTINENTS



SAVE THE DATE!
MARCH 23, 2025

YOUTH MASS: 11AM
@ ST JOSEPH'S PRIORY
GET TOGETHER: 12 NOON
@ ST JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL HALL

FOR TALENT SHOW REGISTER VIA LINK
ON WWW.STJOSEPHS.ORG.UK

IF YOU CAN BRING FOOD TO SHARE
REACH OUT ON WHATSAPP
LIAM +44 7900564558
SHAILESH +44 7510684039

19 March is the Feast of St Joseph, patron of our parish. As this falls on a weekday, we will mark the occasion on **Sunday 23 March** at the Youth Mass at 11am 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 international cultures within our parish community, sharing food and celebrating talents in our parish.

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

If you are interested in showcasing your talent @ the St Joseph's Got Talent show please [click here to sign up](#).

Please note we will limit to maximum of 10-15 entries due to time constraints...so hurry and book your place now.

If you can bring food to share, please get in touch with the organising team by WhatsApp or Text ([contact numbers above](#)).