

13 April 2025

Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

Sundays Year C – Weekdays Year 1 – Psalter Week 2



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

LENTEN RETREAT

Discovering Hope and Renewal During Lent

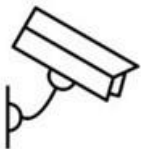
Saturday 12 April

St Joseph's Church

Led by Fr Jim Noonan OCD

10am	Mass
10:30am	Talk by Fr Jim Noonan OCD
11:15am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Quiet Prayer
12 noon	Reconciliation Service with Individual Confessions
12:45pm	Benediction and Dismissal

Lent is a time to deepen our faith, reconnect with God, and prepare for Easter, so why not take this opportunity to be a Pilgrim of Hope and spend some time in prayer and reflection away from the distractions of daily life.



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.

28 April	St George, Martyr, Patron of England – Solemnity (<i>transferred from 23 April</i>)
29 April	St Catherine of Siena, Virgin, Doctor of the Church, Patron of Europe – Feast

RECENTLY DECEASED: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Eileen Elizabeth Charmant-McWilliam** who died recently. May she rest in peace. Her funeral will take place on **Tuesday 22 April in St Joseph's Church at 11:30am**. We extend our sympathy to all her family and friends.

'COME BACK TO THE LORD WITH ALL YOUR HEART' and go to confession in preparation for Easter. Lent Services of Reconciliation across our Pastoral Area are:

- **Monday 14 April** at 7pm at [Immaculate Heart of Mary](#), Great Missenden
- **Wednesday 16 April** at 7:30pm at [St Teresa's](#), Beaconsfield

"Don't be afraid to go to the Sacrament of Confession, where you will meet Jesus who forgives you."
Pope Francis

In his **Easter message**, delivered from the garden of Bishop's House, **Bishop David** offers a heartfelt reflection on the hope and renewal that Easter brings, inviting the faithful to embrace the life of the Risen Christ more deeply through baptism and the power of the Holy Spirit.

[Watch the Video](#) | [Listen to the Audio](#) | [Read the Letter](#)

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Easter is the highlight of the Church's year when we recall and represent the great mysteries of the suffering, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. This Holy Week, let our participation in the Easter Services be an expression of our commitment as disciples of Jesus in the modern world. Together let us listen again to the story of how one man's love and fidelity to the truth changed the world and continues to change millions of lives today. Let us see how his cross and resurrection are well-springs of hope for all humanity and speak to every life in need of hope and healing.

We very much look forward to celebrating these special liturgies with full congregations. Please do join us if you are able to, you will be warmly welcomed.

[CLICK HERE FOR HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES](#) across the ten parishes in our Pastoral Area. The booklet has details of **St Joseph's on page 12**, **The Most Holy Name on page 13** and the **Bridgettine Convent on page 14**. It also contains a list of our Pastoral Area's programme of **special events for this holy Jubilee Year on page 11**. Our Mass schedule returns to normal as from Monday 28 April.

EASTER CONFESSIONS: You are invited to experience the gift of God's mercy and forgiveness in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Saturday 19 April from 10:30am to 11am**. If you are nervous about coming to confession or if it has been a long time since your last confession, please be reassured that what awaits you is the joy and peace of God's loving mercy.

EASTER VIGIL: Singers are invited to join the choir for the **Easter Vigil**, which is considered the most important liturgical celebration in the Church. The rehearsal will be in St Joseph's Church at 7:30pm on 19 April. Anyone interested should contact the choirmaster Patrick Martin (patrick.martin@cantab.net) who will send details of the music and rehearsal tracks.

INTERACTIVE STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Children's Liturgy has a special activity after Mass this week for Palm Sunday. Join us outside (or in the Hall if wet) to learn about the Passion of Jesus and accompany Him on the road to Calvary. Our Interactive Stations of the Cross describe the events of Jesus' last day on earth, from His arrest to His crucifixion to being buried in the tomb. There are 14 stations depicting his final journey of love, all in a format that's easy to follow, offering simple meditations and actions that even young children can participate in.

The **Interactive Stations of the Cross** will remain in place after the 9am Mass until 5:30pm. Parishioners of all ages are invited to come along at any time during the day and take a self-guided journey around the stations using the prayer leaflet provided.

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. It is **not too late to get involved**, so please help us let our tree flourish so that it is fully grown by Easter.

ROSARY CIRCLE is now on a break until Tuesday 29 April when it resumes on Tuesdays online via Zoom and on Thursdays in person in the Oratory. [Contact Christine Cornwell](#) for further information. All are welcome.

PASSOVER SEDER MEAL: Ever wondered what a 'Passover Meal' actually is? Discover the symbolism of the meal and its significance for us as Christians. **Tuesday 15 April** in St Teresa's Church, Beaconsfield (HP9 2PL) at 7pm. Led by Messianic Jew Richard Harvey. Tickets are £15 each. **To book contact the Parish Office by email** or phone 01494 673018.

Friday 2 May in Our Lady of Grace Church, High Wycombe (HP12 4RY) at 7pm. Led by Jewish Christian Martyn Furman. Cost is £15 per head. **To book please contact Dcn Brin** on 07931607249 or [email him](#).

COACH TO CHRISM MASS – Wednesday 16 April: The **coach leaves from St Joseph's at 8:15am**. The Mass will begin at 12 noon in Northampton Cathedral and will be followed by lunch in the St Thomas Centre.

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.

GOOD FRIDAY CHILDREN'S STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Good Friday is the day when Jesus died on the cross for us. Join the Children's Choir on **Friday 18 April at 11am** as they follow Jesus on the road to Calvary.

THE GOD WHO SPEAKS - OUR LITURGY OF THE WORD: The series of Zoom Sessions exploring the upcoming Lectionary Readings and Seasons of the Liturgical Year continues with **Easteride Readings** on **Wednesday 23 April** from 7:30pm to 8:30 pm. The **speaker is Mgr Kevin McGinnell**. This is an opportunity to develop our engagement with the Scriptures that we hear proclaimed at the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. [Click here to register your interest](#); you will be sent a join-up message for the session. As always, there is **no charge** for attending these talks, but there will be an opportunity to make a donation for the work of the Diocesan Liturgical Formation Team, if you would like to.



DIVINE MERCY

2025 is the 25th Anniversary of The Feast of Divine Mercy, established by Pope John Paul II on 5 May 2000. It is celebrated on the second Sunday of Easter (27 April this year). It is an occasion for us to remember the tremendous love and mercy that Jesus

Christ has for us. The message of Divine Mercy was given by Jesus to St Faustina. She was one of ten children in a poor family. She joined the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy and experienced several visions of Jesus. She is known for her diary and for promoting devotion to Jesus as the King of Mercy which is particularly done by praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

We shall be celebrating the Feast of Divine Mercy at St Joseph's on **Sunday 27 April** with **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 2:30pm to 3:30pm**, during which we shall pray the **Divine Mercy Chaplet**.

In preparation for the Feast, you are invited to pray the **Divine Mercy Novena** which runs from **Good Friday to Saturday 26 April**, the day before the Feast. [Please click here to download the Novena](#).

"On the cross, the fountain of My mercy was opened wide by the lance for all souls, no-one have I excluded". Diary 1182

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

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Registered Charity Number 234091

Email: office@stjosephs.org.uk

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINARS: Discover a deeper relationship with God and the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. Join us for a series of six inspiring sessions **starting 13 May**, culminating in a **special retreat on 7 June**. The seminars are free to attend and can be joined at Northampton Cathedral or one of the 'hub' venues – our nearest is **Our Lady of Peace Church in Burnham (SL2 2NL)**. This is a wonderful opportunity to renew your faith, grow in prayer, and experience the joy of the Holy Spirit. Register now and be part of this life-changing journey! [Click here for more information](#).

POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTION for April is FOR THE USE OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGIES – Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

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

FR JEROME has written an article for **THE GOD WHO SPEAKS** entitled "Elijah – A Pilgrim of Hope" Elijah was an extraordinary prophet whose life provides hope to every Christian pilgrim; whether embarking on a pilgrimage to religious sites, navigating the challenges of life's journey, or seeking to deepen one's spiritual connection with God. [Click here to read the article](#).

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

TEA AND CHAT will take a break over the Easter period. Our next get-together will take place on **Thursday 8 May** from 2pm to 4pm in the First Committee Room at St Joseph's Priory. We look forward to seeing you.

The Bridgettine Sisters will host a **FILM NIGHT AT PINWOOD STUDIOS** showing 'Fly Me to the Moon' on **Thursday 24 April** at 6pm; film starts at 7pm. Entry is **£15 per person**. 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**.

HELPERS STILL 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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CAFOD MYANMAR EARTHQUAKE APPEAL: Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights and mosquito nets. Give online at cafod.org.uk/myanmar or call 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10. Please keep our sisters and brothers in Myanmar in your prayers at this time.

THE LONDON & SLOUGH RUN continues this Monday 14 April and next Monday 21 April (Bank Holiday). 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.

THANK YOU FROM FARESHARE TO LONDON AND SLOUGH CHARITABLE TRUST: "In the last 90 days, you have collected 98.15% of the donations offered to you. We at FareShare would like to say a huge thank you for the work you are doing. By collecting these donations, you are helping to save some of the 4.6 million tonnes (around 10 billion meals) of food that goes to waste every year. Please keep up the amazing work!"

THANK YOU: We would like to thank all those parishioners who supported CAFOD and the Catholic Women's League by coming to the recent Soup Lunch. Thanks also to those chefs who donated soup. It was lovely to see all those friendly faces.

The **PARISH OFFICE & PRIORY WILL CLOSE** on Maundy Thursday 17 April and will not re-open until Monday 28 April. There will be no clergy/staff/volunteers available. During this time if you need a priest urgently, please call 01753 886581 and follow the prompt.

NEWSLETTER: The next parish newsletter will be **Sunday 4 May**; any articles to be included that week should be with the [Parish Office](#) by lunchtime on Thursday 1 May.

There will be NO REFRESHMENTS AFTER 9am or 11am MASSES on Easter Sunday 20 April.

EASTER COLLECTIONS

The **GOOD FRIDAY** collection is for the **Holy Places of Palestine**. This is an annual collection to support Christians in the Holy Land and the Church's mission to care for the places linked to Jesus' earthly life.

The **EASTER VIGIL AND EASTER SUNDAY** collections are for the **Carmelite Community, the priests who serve our parish**. If you want to give on the day with a Debit/Credit Card or use Google/Apple Pay, you can use the machine by the door; choose Offertory. If you wish to make your Easter Offering via cheque then please make it payable to "Disalced Carmelites UK CIO (GX)" and mark it 'Easter Offering' on the reverse. If you normally use offertory envelopes then you will find an **EASTER** one in your box. If you wish to make an offering but are not at church in person over Easter then you can either post it to the Parish Office or drop it through the Priory letterbox; make sure its marked 'Easter Offering'.

GIFT AID CO-ORDINATOR: As the parish enters a new financial year, **Amedeo Reale** has taken on the role of Gift Aid Co-Ordinator. He succeeds **Damian Barsoum** who has looked after our gift aid scheme for the past three years. We thank Damian for his time and effort in fulfilling this key role and we welcome Amedeo to his new position. **Gift Aid** is a very important way by which we can increase our income and address our deficit, so having someone undertake this role and administer the scheme is vital in helping the parish move to a sustainable financial position.

COULD YOU BE THE NEXT INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF OUR SAFEGUARDING ADVISORY BOARD? The Diocese of Northampton is seeking a committed and experienced safeguarding professional to take on the voluntary role of Independent Chair of the Safeguarding Advisory Board. This vital position involves leading quarterly meetings, offering expert advice on safeguarding matters, and supporting our diocesan safeguarding team. We are looking for someone with senior-level safeguarding experience, ideally from the statutory sector, who also has a good understanding of the Catholic faith. If you or someone you know might be interested in this rewarding opportunity to help ensure the safety and well-being of all within our Church community, please contact Danielle Dixon, Safeguarding Coordinator, on 01604 723514 or [by email](#) for more information. Applications are now open, with the new Chair due to take up the role in December 2025.

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VACANCY: Immaculate Heart of Mary in Great Missenden is recruiting for a **Parish Secretary** to provide administrative support. The role is **10 hours per week**, spread over three days, including Wednesday and Friday. [Click here for job description and application form](#). All candidates should send their completed application form to hr.admin@northamptondiocese.org. The **closing date for applications is this coming Thursday 17 April**. Interviews will take place on Wednesday 7 May.

ST JOSEPH'S FURNITURE MARKET distributed £6,000 in April as follows:

£2,000 Parish
£1,000 Parish Reserve Fund
£2,500 DEC Myanmar Earthquake Appeal
£500 Age Concern GX Plus

The Parish is very grateful for the regular donation it receives which is a valued source of income and helps to cover essential day-to-day running costs.

You can contact us at this **email address**:

stjosephsfurnituremarket@gmail.com

You can also **Follow us on Facebook** at:

www.facebook.com/groups/150493297972

The Market is open as usual from 9am until 12:30pm on Easter Saturday. Please arrive by 12 noon to view, buy or donate. Payment by cash or card. We can deliver items locally for a small charge.

We wish all our customers a very Happy Easter.



SAVE THE DATE

Pastoral Area Retreat

Led by Fr Matt Blake OCD

Bridgettine Convent in Iver Heath

Saturday 24 May

A PRAYER BEFORE MEALS FOR EASTER SUNDAY

Heavenly Father, on this glorious day of resurrection, we gather with grateful hearts to celebrate the victory of Your Son, Jesus Christ, over sin and death.

We thank You for this food before us, a reminder of Your abundant blessings and provision. As we share this meal together, may we be reminded of the love and sacrifice of Christ, who gave Himself for us.

Bless this food to nourish our bodies, and bless our time together as we rejoice in the hope and joy of Easter. May our lives reflect the light of Your resurrection every day.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **Amen.**