



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

14 September 2025

The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

Sundays Year C – Weekdays Year 1 – Psalter Week 4

The next newsletter will be published in October.

CHANGES TO REGULAR MASS TIMES

Due to fewer priests being available, there will be reduced Masses in the parish during September.

NO Sunday 5:30pm Mass
on 7, 14, 21 or 28 September

No 7am Weekday Mass
week beginning 22 September
week beginning 29 September



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.

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| 13 September | St John Chrysostom, Bishop, Doctor of the Church – Memorial |
| 14 September | The Exaltation of the Holy Cross – Feast |
| 15 September | Our Lady of Sorrows – Memorial |
| 16 September | Ss Cornelius, Pope and Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs – Memorial |
| 17 September | St Albert, Patriarch of Jerusalem, Legislator of Carmelite Order – Feast |
| 20 September | Ss Andrew Kim Tae-gŏn, Priest, Paul Chŏng Ha-sang, and Companions, Martyrs – Memorial |
| 23 September | St Pius of Pietrelcina (Padre Pio), Priest – Memorial |
| 24 September | Our Lady of Walsingham – Feast |
| 27 September | St Vincent de Paul, Priest – Memorial |
| 29 September | Ss Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael, Archangels – Feast |
| 30 September | St Jerome, Priest, Doctor of the Church – Memorial |
| 1 October | St Thérèse of the Child Jesus, Virgin, Doctor of the Church – Feast |
| 2 October | The Holy Guardian Angels – Memorial |
| 4 October | St Francis of Assisi – Memorial |

UPCOMING APPEALS AND SECOND COLLECTIONS

| | |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| 21 September | Evangelii Gaudium Sunday |
| 28 September | St Vincent de Paul |
| 5 October | CAFOD (Harvest Fast Day) |



INVITATION TO EUCHARISTIC

ADORATION: As the summer holidays conclude for most, we transition back into our regular weekly routines. We invite you to participate in a brief and peaceful 30-minute prayer session in the presence of Jesus. A wonderful opportunity in our busy working and student lives to experience the quiet strength and joy of Eucharistic Adoration. Join us throughout September on **Monday evenings from 6:30pm to 7pm** in St Joseph's Church or on **Thursday mornings after the 9am Mass until 10am**. Whether you are available for a few minutes or the full duration, your attendance is valued and offers an opportunity for spiritual renewal.

EDUCATION SUNDAY is marked on **14 September**, the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross. Ten years ago, the then-Holy Father, Pope Francis, said during his Mass for this feast that a Christian “must lower himself, as Jesus lowered himself: this is the path of humility”. Catholic education endeavours to acknowledge Jesus' loving presence in the lives of young people as they work, learn, pray, grow in character and virtue, and discover their vocation. This year's theme is drawn from the Gospel reading of John 3:13-17 **‘The Son of Man must be lifted up’**. This Sunday we give thanks for the dedication, example and inspiration of school leaders, teachers, and all who contribute to nurturing and supporting children and young people in our local area. We pray that our school communities be filled with Jesus' compassion, love and joy.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM SUNDAY will be celebrated in parishes on **21 September**. This year, the Church has been celebrating a significant anniversary. It's 1,700 years since the Council of Nicaea. This great gathering of Bishops from around the Church began the work to formulate the creed we proclaim Sunday by Sunday. It is the content of this creed that is our mission, so that we may know and love God in this life, in order to be happy with him forever in the next. The creed begins with a profound proclamation, **“I believe...”**. This is the theme for this year. A **second collection** will be taken to support the work of the Bishops' Conference Department of Evangelisation and Discipleship. Please hold this important work in your prayers.

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

BAPTISM COURSE: Our next course in September is now fully booked. The next one thereafter will be **Sundays 16, 23 and 30 November**. Parents are invited to attend the 9am Family Mass, followed by a preparation session in The Library. Each session lasts about 45 minutes and is led by facilitators from the Baptism Team. If you would like your child baptised, please [click here and complete the online baptism registration form](#).

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026: There will be an Open Meeting for **Holy Communion on Tuesday 16 September at 7:30pm in the First Committee Room**. This will be led by Fr Bob who will outline the plans and expectations for our 2026 programme. Sessions will begin mid-November and run fortnightly on Saturday afternoons during term time until mid-May. [Click here for information about COMMUNION 2026](#).

CONFIRMATION 2026: There will be an Open Meeting for **Confirmation on Monday 15 September at 7:30pm in the First Committee Room**. This will be led by our Confirmation Team who will outline the plans and expectations for our 2026 programme. Sessions will begin mid-October and run fortnightly on Saturday afternoons during term time until early-September. [Click here for information about CONFIRMATION 2026](#).

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR BOTH SACRAMENTS will open on **Wednesday 17 September and close on Monday 6 October** for those who wish to enrol their child(ren) in either of these programmes. More details will be published on the parish website shortly.

RCIA PROGRAMME FOR 2025/2026: We invite applications for those interested in learning more about Catholic Faith. You may have a child in school you want to support; are married to or about to be married to a Catholic; were baptised but never received Confirmation; are wanting to return to the Church; come from another Christian denomination of another faith or have not had a faith or you might be interested in sharing your faith with those who are enquiring about theirs. The programme is open to all. Please come and join in the conversation. We will start the weekly meetings on **Tuesday 16 September at 7pm** in the Priory.

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

Telephone: 01753 886581
Registered Charity Number 234091

A branch of the **LONDON REGION OF SECULAR CARMELITES** meets at St Joseph's each month. If you are interested in growing in your commitment as a Catholic and in learning more about Carmelite spirituality you would be welcome to meet with us and find out more. Our next meeting is **Saturday 20 September** from 10:45am until 2:30pm at the Priory when we will spend time together in prayer and discussion.



Novena to Saint Thérèse
22 September to 1 October

O Little Therese of the Child Jesus
Please pick for me a rose
from the heavenly garden
and send it to me
as a message of love.

O Little Flower of Jesus,
ask God to grant the favours

I now place with confidence in your hands
(*mention your special prayer request here*)

St Therese, help me to always believe
as you did, in God's great love for me,
so that I may imitate your "Little Way" each day.

EMMAUS – OPENING THE SCRIPTURES: Our next talk takes place on **Wednesday 1 October** in St Joseph's Church. The topic is '**Walking Together - Christians and Other Religions (Mark 7:24-30)**'. The speaker is **Bishop Kevin MacDonald**. You can attend in person or watch live via YouTube, the link will be made available nearer the time. For more details and links to recordings of previous talks, please [visit the Emmaus webpage](#).



Our first **YOUTH MASS** after the summer break takes place on **Sunday 21 September**. We invite all our young people (*from age 11 upwards*) to attend. After the last Youth Mass in July, the young people began a new initiative. They elected their leaders. They are **inviting every young person in the parish to join them after the Youth Mass**.

Music practice for the Mass will be on **Thursday 18 September** at 7pm in the Priory. We invite interested persons to join us.

Email: office@stjosephs.org.uk



On Sunday 28 September there will be a **second collection** for the annual appeal by the St Vincent de Paul (SVP) Society.

In our parish, the **SVP** provides ongoing support to the lonely, the elderly and the disadvantaged

amongst us. This takes the form of social visits, practical support (such as food and clothing) and the provision of transport to Mass, other parish events, shopping, medical appointments, etc. If you, or someone you know, is in need, please get in contact with us, on a totally confidential basis, on **07942 270969**.

The donations which you, our parishioners, make at our annual appeal is by far our largest source of income and we are extremely grateful to you for whatever you can give. If you are a tax-payer, please **take a Gift Aid envelope home with you on 21 September** and bring it back the following Sunday with your donation.

“Charity should be a present reality embraced with joy and responsibility, not just a promise.”

Pope Leo

The funds raised at this appeal will enable our members to continue their much-needed work within our parish.

“Charity is the cement which binds Communities to God and persons to one another.”

St Vincent de Paul

If you are not able to be at Mass in person this week, or if you are attending Mass via the live stream, [donations can be made via our JustGiving page](#) or paid directly into our bank account: E140395 St Joseph, 60-60-04, Account Number 46078843.

Thank you so much for your generosity.

POPE’S PRAYER INTENTION for September is **FOR OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ALL OF CREATION** – Let us pray that, inspired by Saint Francis, we might experience our interdependence with all creatures who are loved by God and worthy of love and respect.

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

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THE [LONDON & SLOUGH RUN](#) continues on Mondays throughout September. Please bring your sandwiches (especially Tuna, Plain Cheese and Marmite), boiled eggs, individual cartons of juice, small chocolate biscuit bars, individually wrapped cakes, satsumas, bananas and crisps to the **First Committee Room by 12 noon**. Also needed is green milk (both fresh and UHT), coffee, sugar, peanut butter, jam, tinned fish and toilet rolls.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support, which is very much appreciated by our beneficiaries.

VOLUNTEER(S) NEEDED: Someone to wash out the soup and tea urns and load the van with food donations for Slough on a **Tuesday morning**. This is a physical task which takes about 30-40 minutes. It can be done by an individual or a small group on a rota basis. If you, or someone you know, can offer their time please call Malcolm on 07508 733503.



RESPONSE IN GAZA: Your donations since the start of the conflict have been a vital lifeline. Right now, CAFOD’s partner, Caritas Jerusalem, is delivering essential medical treatment to displaced people and providing medicines to treat chronic illnesses. Despite the restrictions on aid coming into Gaza, CAFOD’s local partners are working tirelessly to help people. And with your ongoing support, they will do all in their power to keep doing so. You can find out more about how you can make a difference in Gaza at cafod.org.uk. Thank you for backing our work and continuing to pray for peace in the Middle East.

HARVEST FAMILY FAST DAY: This Family Fast Day, which takes place on **Friday 3 October**, CAFOD is highlighting its work in Ethiopia, where communities face severe climate challenges. Donations will fund vital water infrastructure projects. CAFOD also continues to respond to urgent needs in the Holy Land, Ukraine and Sudan through trusted local Church partners. Please support the **second collection on Sunday 5 October** and be signs of hope in this Jubilee Year. Your donation will enable practical assistance for our most vulnerable brothers and sisters worldwide.

APF MILL HILL MISSION – MISSIO: Red Box holders and supporters are asked to collect their Summer Edition of “Mission Today” from the back of their church.

Email: office@stjosephs.org.uk

CHALFONT DEMENTIA SUPPORT will host its Wednesday Café on 17 September in Chalfont St Peter Church Hall (Church Lane) and on 1 October in the First Committee Room. Both sessions are from 10am until 12noon. 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.

TEA AND A CHAT: Our fortnightly social group will meet together for a chat over a cuppa on **Thursday 25 September** 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.

Fundraising for

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

The **WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING** is one of **MACMILLAN's** main fundraising events.

Our Children's Liturgy group has decided to show its support and do some fundraising by organising **COFFEE MORNING** and a **CAKE SALE** on **Friday 26 September**. Come along to Tea in the Pot in the First Committee Room from 8:30am to 11am AND/OR pop along to our stall in the church car park from 3pm to 4pm. Donations of sweet or savoury bakes (cakes, tarts, pies, scones, biscuits, bread, etc – no cream) can be left in the First Committee Room on Friday morning. If you can't join us, you can still contribute by [visiting our JustGiving page](#).

FAIRTRADE/TRAIDCRAFT: You can buy fairtrade goods from Margaret Dykes at the monthly Coffee Morning at the Village Hall in Church Lane. The next one takes place on **Wednesday 1 October** from 10am until 12 noon.

FREE GCSE MATHS TUITION: We're delighted that one of our Furniture Market volunteers, Tayyab, is offering **free weekly GCSE Maths Tuition for children who are on pupil premium** or where tuition isn't financially accessible. It will take place at the Priory on Tuesday evenings during term time. The sessions will focus on working through past exam papers – making sure every topic is covered and exam technique is sharpened ahead of the big day. This is a fantastic opportunity for local students to gain confidence and improve their maths exam technique. For more information and to register, please email attahir17@outlook.com.

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Making donations go further

We would like to **thank you**, on behalf of our parish, for your continued contribution to the gift aid scheme which

allowed us to receive an extra **£26,123** at no extra cost to the donors, as a result of the tax reclaimed from HMRC. The costs of running and upkeep of our church need funds, and your generosity during the past year has made it possible to ensure that day to day maintenance and improvement to the church and buildings are being kept up to date. Should you wish to receive any information on the Gift Aid scheme, please contact the Gift Aid Administrator via giftaid@stjosephs.org.uk.

SECONDARY SCHOOL FORMS: If you need your child's secondary school application form signed or require a Certificate of Catholic Practice, Fr Bob will be available on **Monday 13 October at 6pm**, **Tuesday 14 October at 9am, 3:45pm and 6pm** and **Wednesday 15 October at 9am and 3:45pm**. Please come to the front door of the Priory (entrance via Bull Lane). You do not need to print out certificates, Fr Bob has these prepared already and will fill in your child's details when he meets with you.

NB: Fr Bob will not be available outside of these dates to do this as he is away and won't return until November.

COPIES OF BAPTISM CERTIFICATES: Requests should be made by [contacting the Parish Office](#). Parents should include details of the child for whom the certificate is required, their date of birth, date of baptism and names of their parents and godparents when asking for a Baptism Certificate. Please allow a minimum of five working days to turn around requests.

ST JOAN OF ARC CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL warmly invites prospective students and their families to view the school at our **Open Evening on Thursday 2 October** from 5pm to 8pm or our **Open Morning on Friday 3 October** from 9am to 11:30am. [Click here](#) for application forms and further information.



A year after work began, the Grotto at the Bridgettine Convent is now complete. It was blessed by Bishop David following a special Mass last Monday.

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