



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

12 October 2025

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sundays Year C – Weekdays Year 1 – Psalter Week 4

PRISONS WEEK celebrates its 50th year by remembering once again that, no matter what your circumstances, or the place in which you stand, God's word is not chained. This week-long ecumenical event, which runs from **PRISONERS' SUNDAY on 12 October until Saturday 18 October**, aims to raise awareness and encourage prayer for prisoners, their families, victims of crime, and all those involved in or affected by the criminal justice system. This year's theme is "**God's word is not chained**", based on 2 Timothy 2:9, encouraging prayer for freedom from various forms of bondage, both within and outside of prison. [Click here for a prayer sheet.](#) "If prayer truly works, if our weak human rambling to God actually changes things, then we must call believing people to pray, and together we must pray for change where change is needed most."



This Sunday 12 October, there will be a **CHILDREN'S MASS at 9am**. Only the very youngest children will go out to hear the Gospel message at a level

appropriate to their age. All the other children will stay in the church. The Mass will be all inclusive with as many as are able/wish to join in, having the opportunity to do so, whatever their age.



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.

15 October	St Teresa of Jesus Virgin, Doctor of the Church – Solemnity
17 October	St Ignatius of Antioch, Bishop, Martyr – Memorial
18 October	St Luke, Evangelist – Feast

CHANGES TO REGULAR MASS TIMES: Due to fewer priests being available, there will be **NO 7am Weekday Mass the week beginning Monday 13 October**.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION continues throughout October 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.

OCTOBER is the month of THE HOLY ROSARY, one of the greatest means of 'going to Our Lady' in intercession, seeking her protection and asking for strength.

Pope Leo XIV has called on Catholics around the world to pray the Rosary daily during October, uniting in prayer for peace in war-torn regions. "I invite everyone, each day of the coming month, to pray the Rosary for peace – personally, in the family, and in community".

Our parish **ROSARY CIRCLE** meets twice a week. Join us via **Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30pm** ([contact the Parish Office](#) for details) or **in person in The Oratory on Thursdays at 7:30pm**. Why not join us to pray this devotion to invoke God's gift of peace during October. Everyone is most welcome.



The **FEAST OF ST TERESA OF ÁVILA** is **Wednesday 15 October**. This is a very special Carmelite feast day. To mark this Solemnity, there will be **Mass at 7:30pm in St Joseph's Church** followed by refreshments, served in the First Committee Room. All parishioners are invited to join us for this celebration.

THE BOOKMARK PRAYER OF TERESA OF ÁVILA

Let nothing disturb you.
Let nothing frighten you.
All things are passing away.
God never changes.
Patience obtains all things.
Whoever has God lacks nothing;
God alone suffices.

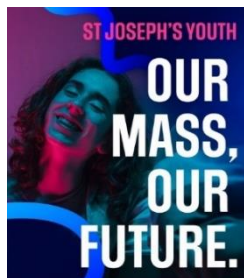
ST TERESA'S GUIDANCE PRAYER

Lord, grant that I may always allow myself to be guided by You, always follow Your plans, and perfectly accomplish Your Holy Will.

Grant that in all things, great and small, today and all the days of my life, I may do whatever You require of me.

Help me respond to the slightest prompting of Your Grace, so that I may be Your trustworthy instrument for Your honor.

May Your Will be done in time and in eternity by me, in me, and through me. *Amen.*



the parish to join them after the Youth Mass.

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION: [Registration for First Holy Communion and Confirmation 2026 is now closed.](#)

Confirmation preparation sessions start this Saturday 11 October. First Communion 'I Belong' Books should be collected at Mass this weekend; in person preparation sessions begin on Saturday 8 November.

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 next **Saturday 18 October** from 10:45am until 2:30pm at the Priory when we will spend time together in prayer and discussion.

NEXT STEPS FOR THE SYNOD – PATHWAYS FOR IMPLEMENTATION: There will be an **online workshop** on **Saturday 18 October** from 11am until 1:30pm. Join **Avril Baigent** and **Fr Matthew Nunes** as they explore the practical steps to implement the Synod with **keynote speaker Bishop Brendan Leahy** (Diocese of Limerick) and papal biographer **Austen Ivereigh**. There will also be opportunities to share with others from across the UK and beyond. [Click here for more details and to book.](#)

AN AFTERNOON WITH MARY: Organised by our Pastoral Area to mark the **Jubilee of Marian Spirituality**, you are invited to join us on **Sunday 26 October** from 12:30pm to circa 4pm at St Dunstan's Church in Bourne End (SL8 5AR). Deacon Brin Dunsire from St Augustine's will offer two talks on the four Mysteries of the Rosary, followed by a recitation of as many Mysteries as time allows. There is **no charge**, and **no need to book**, but please **bring a packed lunch**. Any enquiries to Dcn Brin on 07931 607249.

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.

ADVANCE NOTICE: On **Saturday 1 November** at 3pm there will be an additional Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing with refreshments served afterwards. This Mass fulfils the Sunday obligation.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION for October is **FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN DIFFERENT RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS** – Let us pray that believers in different religious traditions might work together to defend and promote peace, justice, and human fraternity.

A small number of **OCTOBER DAY BY DAY** booklets which feature daily readings and inspirational quotes are available from the bookshop priced at just £2 each.

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

CHALFONT DEMENTIA SUPPORT will host its **Wednesday Café** on **15 October** in **Chalfont St Peter Church Hall** (Church Lane) 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.

THE [LONDON & SLOUGH RUN](#) continues on **Mondays throughout October**. 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.

Next Sunday is World Mission Sunday and there will be a second collection at all Masses for Missio.

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

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.

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 an opportunity for students to gain confidence and improve their exam technique. For more details and to register, email attahir17@outlook.com.

THANK YOU: The St Vincent de Paul (SVP) would like to thank all parishioners who gave so generously in the recent appeal. A sum of just over **£2,000** was raised which will enable the SVP to continue supporting those in need in our parish over the coming twelve months. God bless you all.

EDITOR WANTED: Searching for a trainee journalist or an interested party to take on **Chalfont St Peter Village Voice**, a monthly newsletter covering local events and activities. Contact Des Quigley on 07974203006.

GARDEN CLUB: Fr John is trying to get a few people together to keep the garden, particularly the vegetable garden, in use not just for vegetables but also for flowers. It wouldn't be a huge commitment. If you would like to get involved or find out more, please **speak to Fr John or send him an email at johnmcgowan50@gmail.com.**

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ST JOSEPH'S FURNITURE MARKET distributed **£3,000** in October as follows:

£1,500	Parish
£500	Thames Valley Air Ambulance
£400	CSP Youth Centre
£300	Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
£100	Kindness Club
£100	Linden Gate
£100	Robertswood School

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. Thank you to all the volunteers who work so hard to make the Furniture Market the success it is.

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

stjosephsfurnituremarket@gmail.com

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

www.facebook.com/groups/150493297972



St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is our local Catholic state primary school for children aged 4+ to 11 years. Located at the end of Priory Road, the school aims to nurture children in a sound spiritual, moral and academic environment, to foster their love of God, other people and themselves, and to ensure that every child's potential is fulfilled. Fr John is the Chaplain and our priests celebrate school Masses, offer confession and nurture links between school, children, parents and parish. The school received a highly positive report following their Ofsted inspection last term. The inspector praised the school, stating: *"The school has gone from strength to strength."* – Ofsted 2025 There will be a **SCHOOL TOUR** for prospective parents on **Tuesday 14 October**. [Click here to book.](#)

A letter with information about progress on the New Hall was prepared for all parishioners in the parish database and was delivered by volunteers in the past week. **If you have moved in the last 5 years** and have not advised us of your new address, please **get in touch this week** on admin.stjosephgerrardscross@northamptondiocese.org. Thank you to all who helped with this undertaking.

***"Peace, not conflict,
is our most cherished dream."***
Pope Leo XIV