



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, Fr Theophilus (Theo) Nyamali OCD and Fr Deepu Daniel OCD

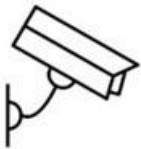
30 November 2025

First Sunday of Advent

Sundays Year A – Weekdays Year 2 – Psalter Week 1

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.

NEW LITURGICAL YEAR: Today is the First Sunday of Advent and marks the beginning of the church's new liturgical year. As from now the **Sunday Readings will be Year A** and the **Weekday Readings will be Year 2**.



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.

3 December St Francis Xavier, Priest – Memorial



EMMAUS – OPENING THE SCRIPTURES: Our next talk takes place on **Wednesday 3 December** in St Joseph's Church. The topic is **'Creation and Evolution: In Conflict or Synergy?'** (Genesis 1 & 2) and the speaker is **Dr Levi Maria Fernandez**.

Are the theories of the Big Bang and of Evolution compatible with the story of Creation in Genesis? Is Science at odds with Christianity? This talk will also explore the history of science through the Dark Ages and the Age of Enlightenment.

I have been a Biology teacher for 30 years, the last 13 of which have been at Wycombe Abbey, and independent boarding school for girls. I studied Biology at King's College London and completed a PhD in Molecular Biology at what was then called Queen Mary and Westfield College of the University of London. I was born in the Philippines and studied in the Philippine Science High School, in an environment where the love of science and of faith in God comfortably went hand in hand.

You can attend in person or [watch live via our YouTube channel](https://www.stjosephs.org.uk/Emmaus), see www.stjosephs.org.uk/Emmaus for more details as well as links to recordings of previous talks.

DAILY PRAYERS FOR ADVENT with picture, Scripture, music and reflection can be accessed at any time [from the Jesuits in Scotland](https://www.jesuitsinScotland.org.uk/). Join us for shared prayer on **weekdays throughout Advent** from 7:40am (for 7:45am start) to 8:15am on Zoom. [Contact Joanna Hale](mailto:joanna.hale@stjosephs.org.uk) if you'd like the link. You don't have to join every day!

EUCHARISTIC ADORATION will take place on **Mondays 1 and 8 December** from 6:30pm to 7pm in St Joseph's Church and will then cease until Monday 12 January. Adoration will continue every **Thursday morning after the 9am/10am Mass until 10am/11am** (except Christmas Day). Whether you are available for a few minutes or the full duration, your attendance is valued and offers an opportunity for spiritual renewal.

ADVENT RETREAT: Join us for our online **Advent Retreat** to explore our theme **"Disrupted by Grace"**, where we will delve into the stories of some of Jesus' more disreputable ancestors in Matthew 1. It continues **this Monday 1 December** at 7:30pm. On **Week 2** Avril Baigent will be joined by **Michelle Moran** to unpack the **story of Rahab** and exploring the presence of grace in our lives. You can join live or catch up with a recording at a time that suits you. This retreat is **FREE**. [Register here](https://www.stjosephs.org.uk/Advent-Retreat).

ROSARY – THE PERFECT PRAYER: Tuesdays at 7:30pm via Zoom (email stjosephsministriescoord@gmail.com for the link) and Thursdays at 7:30pm in the Oratory. Our Rosary Group is introducing a special monthly intention for our parish for which we will pray. **December's Intention is for Expectant Mothers in our Parish**. We lift up all mothers in our parish who carry the gift of life, asking that Mary, the Mother of God, be their guide, strength and comfort. May they share in the joy and peace which Mary knew as she awaited the birth of Jesus.

ADVENT BIBLE STUDIES: Join **Mauro Iannicelli** for four engaging Bible studies on the Advent Sunday Gospels, exploring the readings in depth with thought-provoking insights and questions to enrich the celebration of Holy Mass. Sessions continue **live via YouTube** on **Wednesdays 3, 10 and 17 December** from 7pm–8pm time. **FREE** course. [Click here to register](https://www.stjosephs.org.uk/Advent-Bible-Studies).

CONFESSIONS: Experience the generosity of God's love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Saturdays 6 and 13 December** from 10:30am to 11am. If you are nervous because of what you have on your conscience, or if it has been a long time, please be reassured that what awaits you is the joy and peace of God's loving mercy. **NO confessions after Mass on 20 December.**

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



JUBILEE 2025

St Monica Pastoral Area Programme
The 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope' continues until 6 January 2026.

We are all pilgrims on our journey

towards the Lord. Here are some further opportunities to deepen our life of faith and our relationship with God.

VISIT A JUBILEE CHURCH: [St Peter's in Marlow](#) has been designated as one of three Jubilee Churches in our diocese. Next **Friday 5 December** there will be Holy Hour at 6pm and a Jubilee Mass at 7pm. All welcome.

JUBILEE OF PRISONERS: **Saturday 13 December 10am to 2:30pm** at **Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Great Missenden**. Our final pastoral area event in this Holy Year will celebrate the Jubilee of Prisoners. It is being jointly hosted by the [St Vincent de Paul](#) from Missenden and Chesham in association with the [Prison Advice and Care Trust](#) (PACT). There will be presentations from SVP Working with Prisons, a Prison Chaplain and PACT, concluding with Praying the Stations of the Cross – Testimonies from Prisoners and their Families. **All are welcome, there is no need to book.** Tea and coffee will be provided, please **bring your own packed lunch**.

BRIDGETTINE CAROL SERVICE: The Bridgettine Sisters invite parishioners to join them for their Carol Service in the Convent Chapel on **Thursday 11 December** at 6:30pm. You will be assured of a warm welcome and the service will be followed by seasonal refreshments.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT: Our celebrated Holy Name Choir, directed by Richard Cottle, will treat us to a **Christmas Concert on Thursday 11 December** at 7:30pm in the Most Holy Name Church. This evening of music and Christmas joy will include some favourite carols for everyone to sing! Join us for a wonderfully warming start to the festive season. Retiring collection in aid of St Joseph's New Community Hall.

LUX – 13-15 February 2026: If you've not heard about it before, LUX is our diocesan residential weekend for teens that happens in February every year. It's for those aged 11-18 (school years 7-13) and is a weekend packed with activity. Every year we explore a theme through workshops, dramas, music, worship, Mass, prayer times, games, inputs, and time with friends. This year's theme is **Belong**. It will take place at Kings Park Centre in Northampton and costs £110. [Click here to find out more and to book onto LUX.BELONG.](#)

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

WALK WITH ME: This pocket-sized booklet is a journey of prayer for the Advent Jubilee 2025. With entries for every day of Advent and Christmas, it is written in a simple and accessible style and includes a foreword by Cardinal Vincent Nichols. Some copies are available for **FREE** in the church porch.

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

The **POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION** for **December** is **FOR CHRISTIANS IN AREAS OF CONFLICT** – Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation and hope.



ADVENT GIVING TREE: This Sunday, please take a gift tag from our Advent Giving Tree, spend £5-10 on a gift and return the unwrapped gift (in an open bag) along with the gift tag to the Priory or leave on the altar (in front of the Baptism Font) **no later than Sunday 14 December**. This year, we are supporting local families with young children and teenagers as well as a number of adults living alone. Thanks in advance for bringing a smile to someone's face this Christmas.

A selection of religious **CHRISTMAS CARDS, MASS BOUQUET CARDS, ADVENT CALENDARS, CANDLES AND 2026 DIARIES** are now in stock in the Repository at very reasonable prices. Please put your payment in the box provided or hand into the Parish Office. You can also pay by card using the machine and choosing **Repository**.

FAIRTRADE/TRAIDCRAFT: You can buy fairtrade goods from Margaret Dykes at the monthly Coffee Morning at the Village Hall in Church Road. The next one takes place on **Wednesday 3 December** from 10am until 12 noon.

CHALFONT DEMENTIA SUPPORT hosts its **CHRISTMAS Wednesday Café** on **3 December from 10am until 12noon** in the First Committee Room. 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. Come along or contact Sally Blackden on 07932 643949.

Email: office@stjosephs.org.uk

THE ALISTAIR ROBERTS MEMORIAL FUND: Kim and Jane Roberts would like to say a very big thank you to all the parishioners who so generously supported **AMRF** once again this year. All donations, however big or small, make a huge difference to the many young helpers who need our support and to the sick pilgrims they care for. We are delighted to report **£4,276.75** was raised in total, including a substantial donation. We are deeply grateful to all of you for your generosity. God bless you all.

PARISH CENSUS 2025: The purpose of this exercise is to validate the details held on the Parish Register for your household. You need to sign and return the yellow form even if there are no changes to be made. Households which do not return this form will be deactivated on the Parish Register over the next few months for GDPR compliance. Please return your yellow form ASAP.

THE LONDON & SLOUGH RUN continues on Mondays throughout November. 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. Boxes of mince pies also welcome as we prepare for Christmas. *Thank you for your continued generosity and support, which is very much appreciated by our beneficiaries.*

FURNITURE MARKET: This is as busy as ever and making regular donations to the parish and to local charities. We are looking for more volunteers on Saturday mornings and to help us with collections/deliveries. We would also welcome some more van drivers to work on a rota basis. To find out more please contact us via email or drop in at the Hut behind the church on any Saturday morning. You can see us on Facebook at "St Josephs Furniture Market".



place on **Saturday 6 December.** Please support us if you are able. All proceeds will go towards the new **Parish Community Hall Project.** Please send your counterfoils and payment to the Priory by post or drop through letterbox by next Thursday 4 December. **Good luck!**

PARISH RAFFLE

You have to be in it to win it!

The Autumn Raffle Grand Draw will take



SOLD OUT – JAZZ NIGHT

All the tickets for our Jazz Night next Sunday are sold. Thank you for your support, we are looking forward to an enjoyable evening!

SOLD OUT – ST JOSEPH'S APPLE JUICE: All the apple juice made from the apples harvested from the orchard has been sold. Thanks to Michael, Amali, Lester, Reuben, Lionel, Celia and Joan for picking the apples and taking them to be pressed and bottled. Cheers everyone!

The **FURNITURE MARKET** has some beautiful **Christmas Decorations** for sale, so why not pop in and take a look. Open on Saturday mornings from 9am until 12:30pm.

PARISH 200 CLUB FUNDRAISER



Buy a gift membership for Christmas

Why not gift someone the chance to win 1 of 4 monthly cash prizes?

Start with the Christmas December Draw

More members = bigger prizes

Membership is £70 for entry into the next 7 monthly draws.

Each month 50% goes to parish funds and 50% to the monthly winners.

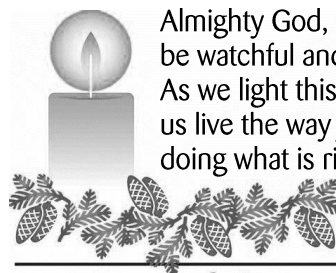
Your support is more important than ever as the money will go towards the administrative costs of the new Parish Community Hall Project.

Please register your interest by email to

Alastair at 200club@stjosephs.org.uk



Prayer for Lighting the Advent Wreath Candle Week 1



Almighty God, wake us up and remind us to be watchful and aware.

As we light this candle, we ask that you help us live the way Jesus taught us to live, always doing what is right and loving.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, who we know is coming soon.

FIRST SUNDAY OF *Advent* Amen.

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