



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

14 December 2025

Third Sunday of Advent

Sundays Year A – Weekdays Year 2 – Psalter Week 3



This Sunday, 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.

**BAMBINELLI SUNDAY:** This weekend at the 9am Mass  
we will be marking Bambinelli Sunday. We invite young  
and old, children and adults, to participate – please bring  
the Infant Jesus from your family nativity set with you to  
Mass for a special blessing. [Click here to find out more  
about this tradition](#) initiated by Saint Pope John Paul II.

**MASS TIMES ON MONDAY 15 December** will be 7am  
and **9:30am (NOT 9am as usual)**. All the children from  
St Joseph's School will be attending the morning Mass in  
the church as they mark the end of the autumn term.



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](http://www.stjosephs.org.uk/Live).

15 December	St John of the Cross, Priest of Carmelite Order, Doctor of the Church – Solemnity [transferred]
16 December	Blessed Mary of the Angels, Virgin OCD – Optional Memorial

**CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES:** The Carmelite Community  
looks forward to celebrating Christmas Masses with  
parishioners and visitors in St Joseph's Church, The Most  
Holy Name Church and The Bridgettine Convent, as well  
as welcoming those joining us virtually [via the live stream](#).  
Our **CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE** can be found on  
[pages 12, 13 and 14 of our Pastoral Area Booklet](#). This  
lists all the services taking place **as from Sunday 21  
December up to and including Friday 9 January**.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Your prayers are requested for  
the repose of the soul of **Sister Patsy from the Holy  
Cross Convent** who died recently. May she rest in  
peace. We extend our sympathy to all her family, friends  
and the Holy Cross Sisters.

**CHRISTMAS CONFESSIONS:** Experience the generosity  
of God's love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation this  
**Saturday 13 December from 10:30am to 11am.**

**NB: There will be no confessions after Saturday  
morning Mass next week** as the Advent Retreat will be  
taking place. Anyone seeking confession is welcome to  
the **Reconciliation Service with Individual Confessions**  
which will start at **12 noon** in St Joseph's Church. If you  
are nervous, please be reassured that what awaits you is  
the joy and peace of God's loving mercy.

Our **PARISH ADVENT RETREAT** will take place **next  
Saturday 20 December** in St Joseph's Church. Led by Fr  
John Udris, it will start with Mass at 10am. This will be  
followed by an Advent Talk and time for quiet prayer with  
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Our **Advent  
Service of Reconciliation will take place at 12 noon**  
and the retreat finishes with Benediction at 12:45pm.  
Why not take some quiet time away from the busyness of  
Christmas preparations to renew and strengthen your  
relationship with the Lord by joining us for our retreat.

ST. JOSEPH'S CARMELITE COMMUNITY  
INVITES YOU TO CELEBRATE WITH  
US THE  
**SOLEMNITY OF  
ST. JOHN OF THE CROSS**



**MONDAY,  
15TH  
DECEMBER  
2025**  
**MASS  
AT  
7.30PM**  
**FOLLOWED BY  
A CELEBRATION  
IN THE FIRST  
COMMITTEE ROOM**

*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.*

'PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD' and go to confession in preparation for Christmas. Advent Services of Reconciliation across our Pastoral Area are:

- Monday 15 December at 7:30pm at [St Columba's](#), Chesham
- Tuesday 16 December at 7pm at [St Aidan's](#), Little Chalfont
- Wednesday 17 December at 7:30pm [St Augustine's](#), High Wycombe
- Thursday 18 December at 7:30pm at [St Teresa's](#), Beaconsfield

Individual confessions are available on:

- Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 December after 10am Mass and from 6pm to 7pm at [St Peter's](#), Marlow

*"Confession is the sacrament of the tenderness of God, his way of embracing us."* Pope Francis

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** will take place on **Thursday morning after the 9am Mass until 10am**. Our Monday evening Adoration has ceased until Monday 12 January.

The **LAST MEETING OF THE ROSARY CIRCLE** before Christmas will take place on **Thursday 18 December**. Rosary will resume again via Zoom on Tuesday 13 January and in the Oratory on Thursday 15 January.

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

**COMMUNITY CAROL SERVICE:** Join us as we come together as a community to prepare for Christmas. Enjoy a lovely afternoon of carols and readings, featuring some of the parish's favourite carols for everyone to sing, on **Sunday 21 December** at 3pm in St Joseph's Church. Festive refreshments will be served afterwards in the First Committee Room. Everyone is most welcome.

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

**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 concludes **this Monday 15 December** at 7:30pm. On **Week 4** Avril Baigent will be joined by **Fr John Udris** to unpack the **story of Bathsheba** 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](#).

**ADVENT BIBLE STUDIES:** Join **Mauro Iannicelli** for the final Bible study session the **Advent Sunday Gospels**, exploring the readings in depth with thought-provoking insights and questions to enrich the celebration of Holy Mass. It takes place on **Wednesday 17 December** from 7pm–8pm time. **FREE** course. [Click here to register](#).

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.

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

**ADVENT GIVING TREE:** Many thanks to those who took a gift tag from our Advent Giving Tree. Please spend £5-10 on a gift and return the unwrapped gift (in an open bag) along with the gift tag to the Priory or place on the altar **no later than this Sunday 15 December**. We are very grateful for your generosity.

**PRIMARY SCHOOL FORMS:** If you need your child's primary school application form signed, Fr Bob will be available this **Wednesday 17 December** at **9am** and **3:45pm** and on **Wednesday 7 January** at **3:45pm** and **6pm**. Please come to the front door of the Priory (entrance via Bull Lane).

**CHALFONT DEMENTIA SUPPORT** hosts its **Christmas Wednesday Café** on **17 December** in **Chalfont St Peter Church Hall** 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 on 07932 643949.

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### 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](http://www.stjosephs.org.uk)

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Registered Charity Number 234091

Email: [office@stjosephs.org.uk](mailto:office@stjosephs.org.uk)



**London & Slough  
Charitable Trust**

The London Run continues on Mondays throughout December.  
Please bring your food donations to the First Committee Room by 12pm:

- |   |                    |
|---|--------------------|
| • Tuna, Plain cheese & Marmite sandwiches | • Crisps           |
| • Boiled eggs                             | • Green & UHT Milk |
| • Individual juice cartons                | • Coffee, Sugar    |
| • Small chocolate biscuit bars            | • Peanut Butter    |
| • Individual wrapped cakes                | • Jam              |
| • Satsumas                                | • Tinned Fish      |
| • Bananas                                 | • Toilet Rolls     |

BOXES OF MINCE PIES ARE ALSO WELCOME AS WE PREPARE FOR THE CHRISTMAS RUNS.  
THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR YOUR CONTINUED GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT WHICH IS VERY MUCH  
APPRECIATED BY OUR BENEFICIARIES



**London & Slough  
Charitable Trust**

**40  
Years  
ANNIVERSARY**



**Christmas Run**



**MONDAY, 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER 2025**

*Taking gifts and food to the homeless on the streets this Christmas*

We will be taking food and gifts to street homeless on **MONDAY 22 DECEMBER**. [Click here for details of what food and gifts we need this year](#). Thank you so much for your donation. Your generosity and kindness mean a lot to the community we serve, especially at Christmas.

**VACANCY:** We are currently recruiting for a **PARISH YOUTH CO-ORDINATOR** to support the South Bucks area of our Diocese, specifically serving the parishes of St Aidan's, St Columba's, Immaculate Heart of Mary and Our Lady's, collectively known as The Four Parishes. This is a three-year fixed-term contract, with the possibility of renewal. The role is for 20 hours per week and will include evening and weekend work as part of the regular schedule. [Click here](#) for more information about the position and/or download an application form. The closing date for applications is **Friday 16 January**. Interview dates to be confirmed.

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**.

***This weekend there will be a second collection at all Masses for Christmas Flowers.***

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### GREAT NEWS FOR OUR NEW COMMUNITY HALL!

Last week we heard that the Trustees of the **Albert Gubay Trust** are awarding a **grant of £250,000** for our new community hall. That is a huge boost to our fundraising. A condition of the grant is that we match their funding. The Parish, the London and Slough Run, our Furniture Market, the St Vincent de Paul, the Chalfont Dementia Café, Through the Wardrobe and many other parish and local community groups and our children and grandchildren need the facilities that will be provided by the new hall. So, each parishioner is asked to think about how much you can donate.

Go to [www.stjosephs.org.uk/NEW\\_HALL](http://www.stjosephs.org.uk/NEW_HALL) to see "How to Donate". We cannot build the new hall until we have secured all the funds required.

*Thank You!*

### ST JOSEPH'S GRAND

**DRAW** took place last Saturday. Fr Bob drew the

tickets; [click here for the list of the 21 lucky winners](#).

Just over **£7,000** was raised for the New Hall Project through the sale of tickets and several generous donations. Very many thanks to everyone who supported the raffle, either by buying tickets, making a donation, organising prizes or hand delivering letters (which saved circa £1,200). Thank you all very much.

**JAZZ NIGHT:** A big thank you to the Cottle Brothers for the wonderful jazz on Sunday evening. The sellout crowd was well-entertained and over **£2,000** was raised for the New Hall. Thank you to all those who supported the evening and the raffle and for those who worked in the wings to make it happen.



### BRIDGE EVENT

Join us for a social bridge fundraiser on **Wednesday 14 January**. There will be

two sessions of play; one in the afternoon and one in the evening. [Please see booking form for details](#).



### SAVE THE DATE

#### BARN DANCE

Fundraiser for the New Hall  
**Saturday 7 March 2026**

*Details to follow.*



## 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](mailto:200club@stjosephs.org.uk)



## ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS

will take place on **Monday 22 December at 9:30am** (after morning Mass). If you can spare an hour or so to help our Cleaning Team prepare the church, they would be delighted to see you –many hands make light work! Please let Joan at the Parish Office know if you can help.

**PARISH NEWSLETTER:** The last newsletter before Christmas will be next Sunday 21 December – deadline for content is lunchtime on Thursday 18 December. The next one thereafter will be Sunday 11 January; any articles to be included that week should be sent to the [Parish Office](#) by lunchtime on Thursday 8 January.

**KEEP CHURCH DOORS CLOSED:** Please help us keep our churches warm by closing the door behind you when you enter or leave the church. Thank you.

The **COMMUNITY OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM** seeks help to purchase a property to accommodate their growing community and further their apostolates of prayer, parish missions, hospitality, chaplaincy and youth work. Any amount, large or small, is greatly appreciated and the community assure you of their prayers. Cheques payable to COLW can be sent to House of the Divine Will, Neatherd Moor, Dereham, NR20 4AZ. [Click here](#) for more information (includes option to donate online), or [send us an email](#) or call us on 01362 692574.

**YOU'RE INVITED TO AGES 11-18 YR**

# CHRISTMAS PARTY!

Get ready for a night of Christmas vibes, games, music, food, and festive fun! Bring your friends and your best holiday spirit!

**Where:** St, Joseph's Parish  
Gerrards Cross

**When:** 18th December 2025

**Time:** 6:30pm

**Dress Code:** Just come as you are!

**Food & Drinks:** Provided

**Bonus:** Games, prizes, music & surprises!

**No RSVP needed – just turn up just turn up**

Let's make this a Christmas to remember! ❤️

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. It will close early next Saturday 20 December and will also be closed on Saturday 27 December.

# Christmas Day Lunch

A traditional Christmas lunch to welcome guests who would perhaps otherwise spend Christmas Day alone.

12pm-3pm  
The Hub, Church Lane, SL9 9RF

To book your place via 01753 342010  
or  
[www.goldhill.org/christmaslunch](http://www.goldhill.org/christmaslunch)

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