



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

21 December 2025

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sundays Year A – Weekdays Year 2 – Psalter Week 4

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**.

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.



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.

25 December	The Nativity of the Lord – Solemnity
26 December	St Stephen, The First Martyr – Feast
27 December	St John, Apostle, Evangelist – Feast
28 December	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph – Feast
29 December	St Thomas à Becket, Bishop, Martyr – Feast
1 January	Mary, The Holy Mother of God – Solemnity
2 January	Ss Basil the Great and Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops, Doctors of the Church – Memorial
3 January	Most Holy Name of Jesus
6 January	The Epiphany of the Lord – Solemnity

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. Her funeral will take place on **Tuesday 23 December in the Chapel at the Holy Cross Convent at 2:30pm**. We extend our sympathy to all her family, friends and the Holy Cross Sisters.

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.

Our **PARISH ADVENT RETREAT** will take place **this 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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY: This Sunday 21 December there will be a special session for our youngest parishioners, **PRE-SCHOOL & RECEPTION**, in the First Committee Room. All the other groups are having a break for the Christmas holidays and will re-start again on 11 January.

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.

'PREPARE THE WAY OF THE LORD' and go to confession in preparation for Christmas. Individual confessions in our Pastoral Area are available on Monday 22 and Tuesday 23 December after 10am Mass and from 6pm to 7pm, also Wednesday 24 December after 10am Mass until 12 noon, all at [St Peter's](#) in Marlow. *"Confession is the sacrament of the tenderness of God, his way of embracing us."* Pope Francis

ROSARY CIRCLE is now on a break for Christmas. It will resume again at 7:30pm via Zoom on Tuesday 13 January and in the Oratory on Thursday 15 January.

There will be **EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION** on **Thursdays 1 and 8 January** after the 10am Mass until 11am. Our evening Adoration resumes on Monday 12 January.

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH CLEANING FOR CHRISTMAS will take place **this 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!

EMMAUS – OPENING THE SCRIPTURES: Our first talk of 2026 takes place on **Wednesday 7 January** at **St Teresa's Church in Beaconsfield (HP9 2PL)**. The topic is **The One New Man and the Second Coming** (Ephesians 2:13-16 and Romans 11:1 & 15) and the speaker is **Deacon Brin Dunsire**. In Ephesians St Paul described the reconciled Gentile and Jewish churches as the "One New Man" united in Christ. In Romans he explores the consequences of the Jews' acceptance of Jesus as Messiah. In the Catechism this is stated to affect the Second Coming.

Deacon Brin was ordained for St Augustine's at High Wycombe in 2013 and has been much involved in Charismatic Renewal. Lately he has been active in an international initiative called "Towards Jerusalem Council II" which seeks to reconcile the Gentile and Messianic-Jewish Christ-believers.

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

PATMOS PILGRIMAGE: JC Journeys are organising a pilgrimage to Patmos, **led by Fr Jerome**. Known as the site where St John the Theologian received the Book of Revelation, Patmos is a place where faith and history intertwine. Dates are **Monday 1 June to Sunday 7 June 2026**. The cost is £1,595 (based on two people sharing). [See the poster](#) for more details. You'll find the [booking form here](#). For more information, please contact JC Journeys by phone on 01886 812862 or via email at enquiries@jcjourneys.com.

The **PARISH OFFICE** will close **Monday 22 December** at 12 noon and it will not re-open until **Monday 12 January** at 9am. If you need a priest during this time, please call 01753 886581 and follow the message prompt. The **PRIORY** will also be **CLOSED** during this time, reopening for pre-booked activities only on 5 January.

The **NEXT PARISH NEWSLETTER** will be published on **Sunday 11 January**. If you have articles to be included that week please [email them to our Pastoral Co-ordinator](#) by lunchtime on Thursday 8 January.

CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR OUR PRIESTS: Christmas Eve and Christmas Day offertory collections are for the Carmelite Community, the priests who serve our parish. If you want to give by card, you can use the machine. If you wish to make an offering but are not at Mass in person over Christmas, please make out a cheque payable to "Disalced Carmelites UK CIO (GX)", mark it **CHRISTMAS OFFERING** on the reverse, then either post to the Parish Office or drop through Priory letterbox. If you normally use offertory envelopes then you will find a **CHRISTMAS** one in your box. Use this for your cheque or cash offering and drop through Priory letterbox.

There will be NO REFRESHMENTS AFTER 9am or 11am MASSES on Sunday 28 December.

CHALFONT DEMENTIA SUPPORT will host its **Wednesday Café on 7 January 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.

TEA AND A CHAT: Our fortnightly social group will meet together in the New Year over a cuppa on **Thursday 8 January** from 2pm to 4pm in the First Committee Room. We look forward to seeing you there. A warm welcome awaits anyone who pops in for refreshments and a natter, pop in a join us if you can.

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



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.

LONDON & SLOUGH RUN FOR THE HOMELESS: There will be **NO RUN on Monday 29 December**. Everything will be **back to normal as from MONDAY 5 JANUARY**.

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

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 godparents when asking for a Baptism Certificate.

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.

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



ST JOSEPH'S GRAND DRAW: [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. Thanks for your support.

THANK YOU: The Most Holy Name Church was packed for the **Christmas Concert** last week, directed by Richard Cottle. The atmosphere was very festive and the music was wonderful. £1,400 was raised for the New Hall.

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

£2,000	Parish
£1,000	Parish (Reserve)
£500	Slough Homeless Our Concern (SHOC)
£500	Sense
£500	London and Slough Charitable Trust
£500	Samaritans Chilterns
£500	King's Church, Amersham
£500	Restore Hope Latimer

The Parish greatly appreciates its donation which is used to cover essential day-to-day running costs. Many thanks to all the helpers who turn up every week in all weathers and work hard to make the Market the success that it is.

We really need 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](#)".

The market will **close early** on Saturday 20 December. It will be **closed on Saturday 27 December** and will re-open on Saturday 3 January 2026.

We wish all our customers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



BRIDGE EVENT

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

two sessions of play; one in the afternoon (which is filling up quickly) and one in the evening. [Please see booking form for more information](#) and to reserve your place.

SAVE THE DATE – NEW HALL FUNDRAISERS

QUIZ NIGHT on Saturday 24 January 2026
at The Hub in Chalfont St Peter

BARN DANCE on Saturday 7 March 2026
at Chalfont St Peter Community Centre
Details for both events to follow in the New Year.

CLOSE CHURCH DOORS: Please help keep the building warm and costs down by closing the door behind you when you enter or leave the church. Thank you.

Email: office@stjosephs.org.uk