



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

7 December 2025

Second Sunday of Advent

Sundays Year A – Weekdays Year 2 – Psalter Week 2

**PLEASE READ AND KEEP THE CHRISTMAS BOOKLET** (available from the church porch) which gives times of all the services across the ten parishes in our Pastoral Area over Christmas and New Year. This includes **details of all Masses in St Joseph's, The Most Holy Name and The Bridgettine Convent**. Please take one booklet per family.



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).

8 December	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary – Solemnity
11 December	St Maria Maravillas of Jesus, Virgin, OCD – Optional Memorial
13 December	St Lucy, Virgin, Martyr – Memorial

*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.*

**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!

**EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION:** The final evening session for this year will take place on **Monday 8 December from 6:30pm to 7pm** in St Joseph's Church, resuming on 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 8 December at 7:30pm**. On **Week 3** Avril Baigent will be joined by **Fr Matt Blake OCD** to unpack the **story of Ruth** 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](#).

**ROSARY – THE PERFECT PRAYER:** Tuesdays at 7:30pm via Zoom (email [stjosephsministriescoord@gmail.com](mailto: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 10 and 17 December** from 7pm–8pm time. FREE course. [Click here to register](#).

**CONFESSIONS:** Experience the generosity of God's love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Saturday 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.

**NB: There will be NO confessions after 10am Mass on Saturday 20 December as Advent Retreat taking place.**



**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 is another opportunity to deepen our life of faith and our relationship with God.

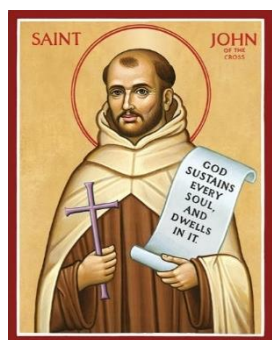
**JUBILEE OF PRISONERS: Saturday 13 December 10am to 2:30pm** at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, Great Missenden. Our final pastoral area event in this Holy Year will celebrate the Jubilee of Prisoners. It is being jointly hosted by the [St Vincent de Paul](#) from Missenden and Chesham in association 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.



On **Sunday 14 December**, 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.



The **FEAST OF ST JOHN OF THE CROSS** falls on **Monday 15 December** (transferred from Sunday 14 December). 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.

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

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.

**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.

**WALK WITH ME:** This pocked-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.

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.



**MANY CONGRATULATIONS** to Reuben D'Souza, Lionel D'Souza and Joshua Evans who were enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen and awarded their medals last Sunday. *Well done and thank you all for your service to our parish!*

**EMMAUS – OPENING THE SCRIPTURES:** Our December talk was 'Creation and Evolution: In Conflict or Synergy?' (Genesis 1 & 2) and the speaker was Dr Levi Maria Fernandez. [Click here to watch a recording](#). For more details and links to recordings of previous talks, [visit the Emmaus webpage](#).

*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 last Sunday. 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 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.

### 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**

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Registered Charity Number 234091

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



### 'FESTIVE' TEA AND A CHAT

Our fortnightly social group will meet together for some festive cheer over a cuppa on **Thursday 11 December** 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 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).

**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!



**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**



**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.

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**.

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.

**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.

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

**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](#)".

**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.

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

### Sunday Mass Times

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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.

### ST JOSEPH'S 200 CLUB 2025/2026

The **November draw** was held last week. The lucky winners of the prize-fund are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Diana Waite (£290)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Ros McDonnell (£145)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Anne Jacobson (£87)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Patrick Clarke (£58)

Congratulations to the lucky winners and thank you to all members for your support of this fundraising scheme.



#### 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)



#### 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.](#)

### GREAT NEWS FOR OUR NEW COMMUNITY HALL!

This 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.



#### BARN DANCE

**Saturday 7 March 2026**

*Details to follow.*

## Christmas Day Lunch

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

**12pm-3pm**

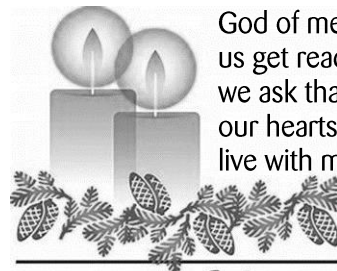
The Hub, Church Lane, SL9 9RF

To book your place via 01753 342010

or

[www.goldhill.org/christmaslunch](http://www.goldhill.org/christmaslunch)

### Prayer for Lighting the Advent Wreath Candle Week 2



SECOND SUNDAY OF *Advent*

God of mercy, justice and peace, help us get ready. As we light these candles, we ask that you clear a straight path to our hearts and help us see how we can live with more love. Help us move beyond everything that gets in between us and Jesus. Help us to stay watchful for his coming. We pray this in Jesus' name. *Amen.*

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