



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

11 January 2026

The Baptism of the Lord

Sundays Year A – Weekdays Year 2 – Psalter Week 3

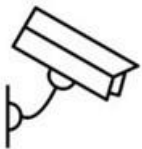
*We are pleased to announce the formation of our **Pastoral Leadership Team**. Its focus will be on pastoral care for our parish. For details about team members, mission, and additional resources, please visit the new page on our parish website.*

[Pastoral Leadership Team | St Joseph's Parish](#)



Fathers Bob, Jerome, Maurice, John, Martin, Theophilus and Deepu would like to express their sincere thanks to parishioners for the Christmas cards, gifts and treats they received. They are also grateful for the Christmas Offerings and your help, support and prayers throughout the past year.

Thanks to everyone involved in preparing for and participating in this year's Christmas liturgies as well as all those who made our churches look so beautiful – your time and effort is appreciated. We are grateful to our welcomers, altar servers, readers, ministers, collectors, projectionists and car park marshals. Thanks also to our choirs, musicians and singers who enhanced our Christmas celebrations with such lovely music.



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.

17 January St Anthony, Abbot – Memorial

EMMAUS – OPENING THE SCRIPTURES: Our January talk took place on Wednesday at St Teresa's Church in Beaconsfield. The topic was **The One New Man and the Second Coming** (Ephesians 2:13-16 and Romans 11:1 & 15) and the speaker was **Deacon Brin Dunsire**. [Click here to watch a recording](#). For a list of forthcoming talks and links to recordings of previous sessions, please [visit the Emmaus webpage](#).

The **POPE'S PRAYER INTENTION** for **January** is **FOR PRAYER WITH THE WORD OF GOD** – Let us pray that praying with the Word of God be nourishment for our lives and a source of hope in our communities, helping us to build a more fraternal and missionary Church.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Philip McDermott** who died recently. May he rest in peace. His funeral will take place on **Tuesday 13 January at 12 noon in St Joseph's Church**. We extend our sympathy to all his family and friends.

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Janet Edwards** who died recently. May she rest in peace. Her funeral will take place on **Wednesday 21 January at 11:30am in St Joseph's Church**. We extend our sympathy to all her family and friends.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: Evening Adoration returns on **Mondays from 6:30pm to 7pm** in St Joseph's Church as from 12 January. It continues on **Thursday mornings after the 9am Mass until 10am**.

ROSARY CIRCLE resumes after the Christmas break on **Tuesday 13 January** via Zoom and on **Thursday 15 January** in person in the Oratory, both at 7:30pm. Email stjosephsministriescoord@gmail.com for Zoom details.

FOR READERS – OUR LITURGY OF THE WORD: A series of Zoom sessions exploring the upcoming Lectionary readings and the seasons of the Liturgical Year. They provide a valuable opportunity to deepen engagement with the Scriptures proclaimed at the Liturgy of the Word at Mass. Led by the Liturgical Formation Team, each session runs from **7.30pm to 8.30pm** and includes prayer, input and time for questions and discussion. The next one is **Wednesday, 14 January** and the focus is **Ordinary Time up to Ash Wednesday**. It is **FREE** (donations welcome). Please register in advance by emailing deaconpeter.collins@northamptondiocese.org.

There will be a **SERVICE TO MARK SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD** in Northampton Cathedral at 3pm on **Sunday 25 January**, with reflections by **Fr Jerome Ituah OCD** and commissioning of readers who proclaim the Word. This [service will be live streamed](#) for those who cannot attend in person.

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



YOUTH MASS

Sunday 18 January at 11am

Confirmation candidates and young people (age 11 upwards) will be actively involved in many aspects of the Mass, including music. After Mass there will be activities in the

Library, followed by food. **Our Youth Leaders invite every young person in the parish to join them.**

The **Bridgettine Sisters** will hold a **Prayer Service for Christian Unity** on **Tuesday 20 January** at 6pm in the Convent Chapel. Ecumenism is the main Charism of the Bridgettine Order. The service will be followed by light refreshments in the convent dining room.

FOR CHOIRS, MUSICIANS, SINGERS – Sing the Season Lent 2026: The latest event in the Northampton Diocese Music Liturgy series, offering new and seasonal music alongside fresh ideas for the Lenten season. Designed for cantors, choir leaders, singers, and musicians. It takes place on **Saturday 24 January** from **11am to 4pm** at **St Aidan's Church** in Little Chalfont (HP7 9NE). Please bring packed lunch, voice and instruments; tea and coffee are provided. **FREE** session (suggested donation £5 to support future events). [Click here for more details and to book your place.](#)

Our next **BAPTISM COURSE** will be **Sundays 1, 8 and 15 February**. Parents are invited to attend the 9am Family Mass, followed by a preparation session in The Library. Each session lasts about 45 minutes and is led by facilitators from the Baptism Team. If you would like your child baptised, please [click here and complete the online baptism registration form.](#)

MISSING HANDBAG: **Black Radley handbag**, square in shape, with a camel attached to the shoulder strap. Last seen in St Joseph's Church after 7:30pm Mass on Monday 15 December. Contains precious personal items. Contact Joan in the Parish Office with information.

FOR YOUNG PEOPLE – LUX.Belong 2026: If you've not heard about it before, LUX is the diocesan residential weekend for teens, held every February, packed with activity including workshops, dramas, music, worship, Mass, prayer times, games, inputs, and time with friends. This year's theme is '**Belong**'. For young people aged 11–18 (school years 7–13), it takes place from **13–15 February** at Kings Park Centre in Northampton. The cost is £110. Wmail NYMO@northamptondiocese.com for more information.

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, speak to Fr Jerome or contact JC Journeys by phone on 01886 812862 or via email at enquiries@jcjourneys.com.

A small number of **JANUARY/FEBRUARY** (up to Shrove Tuesday) **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.*

GIVING TREE: Many thanks to our very generous parishioners who took gift tags from our Advent Giving Tree and bought gifts before Christmas. All the gifts were very gratefully received. Thanks also to the children who made and coloured in such beautiful Christmas cards and to the Children's Liturgy Team who organised the Giving Tree and provided many of the gifts.

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.

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

HOMELESS SUNDAY: Homelessness has always been one of our parish's main outreach programmes, because we believe that everyone has a right to a roof over their head. For this reason, at this time of the year, our parish reaches out to our homeless charities. **Next Sunday 18 January** there will be an **appeal and second collection** at all Masses for the [London & Slough Charitable Trust](#). It operates a weekly 'run' on a Monday evening to Temple and Waterloo in London, delivering soup, hot drinks, food, clothing and toiletries to those living on the streets. It also runs a food hub in Slough (soon to be Langley), collecting surplus food from local supermarkets and redistributing items to people and families in need as well as various organisations who serve the local community.

THE LONDON & SLOUGH RUN continues on Mondays throughout January. Please bring your sandwiches, boiled eggs, soft fruit, crisps, drinks, individually wrapped cakes and small chocolate biscuit bars to the **First Committee Room by 12 noon.**

Thank you for your continued generosity and support, which is very much appreciated by our beneficiaries.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH to everyone who contributed to the **CHRISTMAS LONDON & SLOUGH RUN.** Your generosity and thoughtfulness were so appreciated by the homeless on the streets. They were especially grateful to receive the hand-crafted Christmas Cards made by the children. Thanks to our stalwart ladies who prepared the food bags and wrapped the presents. Thanks also to the men and women who went up to London on the night; who not only distributed the bags to those in need but spread a little Christmas cheer.

ST JOSEPH'S 200 CLUB 2025/2026

The **December draw** was held at the end of the month. The lucky winners of the prize-fund are:

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| 1 st | Catherine Gardiner (£290) |
| 2 nd | Jennifer Sharp (£145) |
| 3 rd | Ros McDonnell (£87) |
| 4 th | Diana Waite (£58) |

Congratulations to the winners. Thank you to everyone who renewed or joined for the first time. We are grateful for your support of this parish fundraising scheme.

Club memberships are still available for 2025/26. Please contact Alastair at 200club@stjosephs.org.uk to join, or pick up a form from the church porch.

NEW HALL FUNDRAISERS

A **QUIZ NIGHT** has been organised for **Saturday 21 February** (not 24 January as previously advertised) for the benefit of the New Hall. This will be at Chalfont St Peter Community Centre. Put on your thinking caps and grab some friends to have a challenge and good fun! [Click here for details and to book.](#)

You are invited to the **BARN DANCE** to be held on **Saturday 7 March** at Chalfont St Peter Community Centre. We hope you can join us for a rowdy evening of dancing! [Click here for details and to book.](#)

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

Inspired by Pope Francis

- 1. Reject Gossip** – Gossip wounds charity and destroys communion. Speaking ill of others, even casually, betrays the dignity of the person and harms the Body of Christ. A disciple of Jesus chooses words that heal, not words that tear down.
- 2. Respect Food and Avoid Waste** – To waste food is to forget the poor. Gratitude for every meal teaches us solidarity and reminds us of our responsibility to share God's gifts with those in need.
- 3. Give Time to Others** – Holiness is lived in small acts of love. Making time to listen, to thank, and to affirm others reflects the kindness of Christ and builds a culture of encounter.
- 4. Live Simply and Humbly** – Material possessions promise happiness but never satisfy the heart. Simplicity frees us from attachment and opens our lives to trust in God, who alone fulfils our deepest desires.
- 5. Encounter the Poor Personally** – Christian charity goes beyond giving – it involves presence. True love seeks to restore dignity and transform lives through genuine encounter and compassion.
- 6. Stop Judging** – Only God sees the heart. Judgment rooted in pride and hatred distorts our vision and poisons our relationships. Mercy, not condemnation, is the mark of a true follower of Christ.
- 7. Engage in Dialogue** – Differences need not divide us. Dialogue, even with those who disagree, fosters understanding and peace in families, communities, and society.
- 8. Be Faithful to Commitments** – Christian maturity calls us to resist the culture of convenience and fleeting pleasure. Faithfulness – to promises, responsibilities, and vocation – is a courageous witness to hope.
- 9. Seek God's Will in Prayer** – Uncertainty about the future is common, especially among the young. Like Samuel, we are invited to listen attentively and trust that God will reveal our path in His time.
- 10. Choose Joy** – Joy is not a passing emotion but a fruit of walking with God. When we live close to Him, joy overflows – and shared joy multiplies.

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