

22 February 2026
First Sunday of Lent

Sundays Year A – Weekdays Year 2 – Psalter Week 1



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

Our Journey Through



ACTS OF KINDNESS

Acts of Kindness our parish-wide initiative to reflect the heart of Jesus through simple, everyday acts of kindness. As we follow the path from Ash Wednesday to Calvary, we will have a different theme each week and will share ideas on how to practice kindness, generosity and service, along with a related quote from scripture and a simple prayer. Join us as we “walk the Lenten path with courage and tenderness”, as Pope Leo urges us to do.



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.

23 February St Polycarp, Bishop, Martyr – Memorial

CHANGE TO MASS TIMES: There will be **one morning Mass on Tuesday 24 February January at 7am** in the Oratory. There will be **no 9am Mass** in St Joseph's Church and **no Stations of the Cross**.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Peter Mercer** who died recently. May he rest in peace. His funeral will take place on **Monday 2 March at 11:30am 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 **Jean Wood** who died recently. May she rest in peace. Her funeral will take place on **Thursday 5 March at 11am in St Joseph's Church**. We extend our sympathy to all her family and friends.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

ADORATION: Spending time in Eucharistic Adoration draws us closer to Jesus and helps us deepen our faith. This Lent you are invited to spend some time resting and praying in the presence of the Lord on **Mondays from 6:30pm to 7pm** in St Joseph's Church and on **Thursdays after the 9am Mass until 10am**.

ROSARY CIRCLE: We are called to be more fervent in prayer during Lent. The Rosary is the perfect prayer to pray communally for the needs and intentions of our parish and the wider world, especially at this time. You are invited to join our parish Rosary Circle this Lent. **Pray with us via Zoom on Tuesdays at 7:30pm** ([contact Christine Cornwell](#) for Zoom joining details) and/or **join us in person in The Oratory on Thursdays at 7:30pm**.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: During the season of Lent, we take a journey with Jesus. The Stations of the Cross follow His path from the time He was condemned to His burial in the tomb. It is a way to pray and meditate on His sacrifice for us and it helps us examine our life in light of the cross. Journey together with us throughout Lent on **Tuesdays (except 24 February) and Fridays after the 9am Mass** in St Joseph's Church.

EMMAUS – OPENING THE SCRIPTURES: Our next talk takes place on **Wednesday 4 March** at St Teresa's Church in Beaconsfield (HP9 2PL). The topic is **Spiritual Warfare - The Battle You Can't See But Must Fight** (Ephesians 6:10-18) and the speaker is **Dr Maria Heath**. You can attend in person or [watch live via our YouTube channel](#), see www.stjosephs.org.uk/Emmaus for more details as well as links to recordings of previous talks.

THROUGH LENT WITH ST MATTHEW: Journey through Lent this year with a special focus on the Gospel of St Matthew in line with the readings from the Lectionary. This retreat, [compiled by The Ignatian Spirituality Centre in Glasgow](#), is about the invitation of Christ and choosing to follow him freely in his mission. A picture, reflection, prayer suggestion, scripture and music is available for each of 47 days – [accessible any time on/after the day](#). Join us for shared prayer on **weekdays throughout Lent** from 7:40am (for 7:45am start) to 8:15am on Zoom. [Contact Joanna Hale](#) if you'd like the link.

DILEXI TE: An opportunity for parishioners to come together to study and discuss 'Dilexi Te', Pope Leo's document on Love of the Poor. This will take place on five consecutive Thursday evenings – **26 February, 5 March, 12 March, 19 March and 25 March** – at 7pm in the First Committee Room. **Scott Albrecht BA, MA Theol** has lived with destitute men, women and children for over 30 years. He will be helping to facilitate a study and discussion process, in which our relationship to the last, the lost and the least can grow and deepen.

MUSIC PRACTICE for the next Youth Mass will be on **Thursday 26 February** at 7pm in the Priory with Fr Theo. We invite anyone interested to come and join us.



The **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** is [global ecumenical movement](#), led by Christian women, that shares the hopes, concerns and prayers of women from around the globe. Each year, women

from a different country craft a service, sharing their unique spiritual journey and culture. The day begins in Samoa and moves across 146 countries in a continuous wave of prayer, finishing 38 hours later in American Samoa. For 2026, the **women of Nigeria** have created a service that speaks to our need for peace and solace, drawing on their faith and experiences in a world filled with struggles and anxieties. The theme is "**I will give you rest, come**". Our parish is hosting the service with local churches on **Friday 6 March at 10:30am** in St Joseph's Church. All are welcome, please join us if you can.

FOR READERS –In **LENT** there will be an afternoon of **REFLECTION AND TRAINING** for all those who read at The Most Holy Name and St Joseph's Churches. This will be **led by Fr John** and will take place on **Sunday 8 March** from 2:30pm to 4:30pm in the First Committee Room. Please mark this date in your diaries – thank you.

LENTEN RETREAT: Saturday 14 March in St Joseph's Church. Led by Fr Jerome, the theme is 'The Agony of Obedience: Contemplating Christ's Suffering in Gethsemane'. It starts with Holy Mass at 10am, followed by a Lenten Reflection and time for silent prayer with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Our parish **Lent Service of Reconciliation, with individual confessions, takes place at 12 noon**. Lent is a time to deepen our faith, reconnect with God, and prepare for Easter, so why not take this opportunity to spend some time in prayer and reflection away from the distractions of daily life.

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.

MISSION: This coming week, **23-27 February**, Holy Family in Langley (SL3 7UD) is hosting a Parish Mission preached by the Redemptorist Fathers. Each night the Mission Service **starts at 7pm** and lasts for an hour. They'll look at different aspects of our Catholic Faith – Prayer, Our Lady, Death and Eternal Life, The Eucharist, Gifts and Service. Confessions available afterwards.

THE SYNOD AND WOMEN: Dr Phyllis Zagano, world expert on the role of women in the Catholic Church, will be joining the **National Board of Catholic Women (NBCW)** on **Thursday 26 February**, online at 6.30pm, for a conversation entitled "**The Synod and Women: Which Way to the Future?**" Dr Zagano joins the NBCW at the beginning of an exciting year of innovative engagement with Catholic women. [Click here for details.](#)

ADORE SPIRITUAL MINI-RETREAT – "JESUS – NO GREATER LOVE": What is our relationship with Jesus, the source of eternal love? Morning retreat including Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and an inspiring talk from **guest speaker Charles Whitehead KSG**, celebrated international renewal leader, speaker, and author. **Saturday 28 February** from 10am until 1pm on Zoom. [More information and sign-up link can be found here.](#)

MISSION CONFERENCE 2026: Mission Northampton warmly invites everyone across the diocese with a heart for sharing the Gospel to the Annual Mission Conference on **Saturday 14 March** from 10.30am to 4pm in Leighton Buzzard. This is a wonderful opportunity to come together, be inspired, and learn more about mission work within our diocese. The conference is **free**, though small donations are very welcome. Refreshments will be provided, but please bring a packed lunch. All are welcome, and we look forward to seeing you there! [For more information visit the Mission Conference webpage.](#)

LENT WALK WITH ME: The special 25th Anniversary edition of this Lenten Prayer Booklet takes us on a daily journey of prayer and reflection through Lent from Ash Wednesday through until Easter Sunday. Written in a simple and accessible style, some copies are available for **FREE** at the back of the church.

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

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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

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

In [POPE LEO'S MESSAGE FOR LENT](#), he presents Lent as a renewed time of conversion centred on listening and fasting. He calls us to deeper attentiveness to the Word of God and to the cry of the poor, reminding us that true listening forms compassionate and discerning hearts. Fasting, he teaches, orders our desires and must be lived with humility and rooted in the Word, not as mere external discipline. He invites us to fast from words that wound, urging us to "disarm our language" and foster speech that builds communion. Lent, he concludes, is a shared ecclesial journey in which renewed listening and fasting can transform our relationships and communities as we move towards Easter.

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

ST JOSEPH'S FURNITURE MARKET distributed **£5,000** in February as follows:

£2,000	Parish
£500	Parish Reserve Fund
£500	Bucks Vision
£500	Helen and Douglas House
£500	Julius Little Foundation
£500	Rennie Grove Hospice
£250	Kindness Club CSP
£250	CSP Community College

The Parish is very grateful for the regular donation it receives which is a valued source of income and helps to cover essential day-to-day running costs. Thank you to all the volunteers who work so hard to make the Furniture Market the success it is.

You can contact us at this **email address**:

stjosephsfurnituremarket@gmail.com

You can also **Follow us on Facebook** at:

www.facebook.com/groups/150493297972

OFFERING ENVELOPES for the next twelve months are now available for collection from the back of the church. Many thanks for your continued support of the parish using this scheme. Parishioners who wish to join the scheme may do so by completing a **Gift Aid Declaration Form** which is available from [the website](#), Parish Office or in the porch at the back of the church.

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TEA AND A CHAT: Our fortnightly social group will meet together for a chat over a cuppa on **Thursday 26 February** from 2pm to 4pm in the First Committee Room at St Joseph's Priory. We look forward to seeing you there. A warm welcome awaits anyone who pops in.

BARN DANCE
CHALFONT ST PETER COMMUNITY CENTRE
A fundraiser in aid of St Joseph's New Community Hall
LIVE MUSIC
CALLER • LIGHT SUPPER • BAR
SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 7 TO 11
TICKETS £25
www.stjosephs.org.uk/BarnDance
TABLES of 8
tables will be moved out for dancing
Online payment available

Tables of 8 and Individual Tickets Still Available
[Click here for details and to book.](#)



Come and join us in the First Committee Room on **Tuesday 17 March** for a soup lunch to mark St Patrick's Day. We will be serving home-made soup from **12 noon to 2pm**. No need to book, just turn up. **£10 per person** (pay by cash or card). Proceeds in aid of New Hall.

ST JOSEPH'S PATRONAL CELEBRATION: We invite all parishioners to join us in celebrating St Joseph's feast on **Sunday 22 March**. The celebration will begin with 11am Mass, followed by a get-together in the School Hall from 12 noon. This event will be a wonderful opportunity to enjoy an afternoon of fun and community, celebrating the diverse international cultures within our parish.

There will be food to share, great raffle prizes to be won, and a showcase of talents at the St Joseph's Got Talent show. If you wish to participate in the talent show, please [click here to register](#). Note that we have a maximum of 10-15 entries due to time constraints, so register quickly.

If you plan to bring food, kindly inform the organising team via WhatsApp or text. However, please do not feel obligated to bring food if you can't. Contact Karolina on 07731 943197 or Shailesh on 07510 684039. We look forward to seeing you there!

THE LONDON & SLOUGH RUN continues on Mondays throughout February. Please bring your contributions to the First Committee Room by **12 noon**. **We are in urgent need of BOILED EGGS and TOILET ROLLS** and welcome any of the following – sandwiches (tuna, plain cheese, marmite), individual juice cartons, small chocolate biscuit bars, individually wrapped cakes, satsumas, bananas, crisps, green/UHT milk, coffee, sugar, peanut butter, jam, and tinned fish.
Thank you for your continued generosity and support, which is very much appreciated by our beneficiaries.

WE CANNOT TAKE ANYTHING OTHER THAN FOOD at present due to limited space. Our new premises in Langley is eight times smaller than Dukes House.

ST PATRICK'S DAY cards, rosettes and ribbons are now on sale from the Repository at very reasonable prices. You can pay for these by putting your money in the box provided OR you can use the card machine by the door.

SVP AND CAFOD WORK EXPERIENCE: The [St Vincent de Paul Society](#) (SVP) and [CAFOD](#) are collaborating to offer a week of free residential work experience for 20 young adults in England and Wales. The program will run from **21 to 26 June** in London. Candidates must be aged 18–25 years; priority will be given to those in their first or second year at university. [Click here for more details and the application form](#). For any queries, please contact Kezia Harrow [by email](#) or text/call 07917923605. Applications close on Monday 6 April.

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VACANCIES

The Diocese is recruiting **three PROPERTY AREA COORDINATORS**, responsible for the maintenance, compliance and performance of a defined portfolio of properties within an allocated geographic area of the Diocese. The role ensures that buildings are safe, legally compliant, well maintained and fit for mission and ministry, while providing support to parishes, clergy and diocesan stakeholders. This is a **full time, 12-month fixed term contract**, with the possibility of extension or becoming permanent. As each role covers a different part of the Diocese (Buckinghamshire, Milton Keynes, Luton) three area specific Job Descriptions are available, and candidates should review the one relevant to their preferred location. [Click here for more information about the positions and/or download an application form](#). Closing date for applications is **Friday 7 March**. Interview dates to be confirmed in due course; however, we reserve the right to close the advert early should we receive a sufficient number of applications.

St John Henry Newman and St Augustine's Parishes in High Wycombe are recruiting for a **CLEANER**. The role is **2.5 hours per week at each parish**, cleaning the parish office and presbytery. There is the option for one person to work at both parishes. [Click here for more information about the position and/or download an application form](#). Closing date for applications is **Friday 13 March**.

St John Henry Newman and St Augustine's Parishes in High Wycombe are recruiting for a **PARISH SECRETARY**. The role is to provide administrative support to St John Henry Newman Parish **10 hours per week** (Tuesdays and Fridays) and St Augustine's Parish **10 hours per week** (two additional days, to be agreed). There is the option for one person to undertake both roles. [Click here for more information about the position and/or download an application form](#). Closing date for applications is **Friday 13 March**.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A TEACHER AND EDUCATED TO DEGREE LEVEL? [St Thomas Catholic Academies Trust](#) (which includes St Joseph's Catholic Primary School) offer placements within our schools for you to fulfil your dream and train to teach. [Click here to find out more](#) and/or book a space at one of our Train to Teach Open Events – **Wednesday 25 February** at 4:15pm in High Wycombe or **Wednesday 11 March** at 4:15pm in Aylesbury.

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