



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 Maurice Flynn OCD (Retired), Fr John McGowan OCD,
Fr Martin McDonald OCD, Fr Theophilus (Theo) Nyamali OCD, Fr Deepu Daniel OCD and Fr Emmanuel Omaba OCD

PARISH NEWS

July and August 2026

Sundays Year A – Weekdays Year 2

Following his appointment by His Holiness Pope Leo as Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Northampton, [Archbishop Richard Moth has written to parishioners across our Diocese.](#)

Dear brothers and sisters,

As you may know, Pope Leo has appointed me Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Northampton. I am aware that this is a difficult time of uncertainty for our whole diocese. Amid these challenges, I want to thank you sincerely for everything you are doing to support your priests and deacons and keep our communities vibrant and stable. You are all in my prayers.

Over the past few weeks, I have met with the diocesan leadership teams and trustees to understand the current situation and plan the way forward.

It is my intention to spend a good part of one day a week in the Diocese and, in between times, to liaise with Canon Michael Harrison, in his capacity as Vicar General and with Canon Christopher Perry, in his role as Moderator of the Curia.

Regarding upcoming celebrations of the sacrament of Confirmation, we will keep the current arrangements in place. The local Deans will continue to administer the Sacrament as planned.

Please join me in praying for everyone affected by the ongoing situation involving Bishop David. Let us also pray for one another as we work together in the Vineyard of the Lord in our parishes, schools and religious communities.

With every Blessing,

+ Richard Moth

Apostolic Administrator

OUR PARISH VISION

The [Pastoral Leadership Team](#) would like to thank all parishioners who completed the Parish Vision Engagement Survey. We received 150 responses. Overall, this was a wonderful response, both in the number of replies received and, in their quality and depth. We are also grateful to those who joined Tuesday's Prayerful Reflection meetings.

The Pastoral Leadership Team will review every comment, suggestion and idea from the survey alongside the feedback from the Prayerful Reflection meetings. We will share emerging highlights and provide a more formal parish update in the autumn. Thank you.



YOUTH MASS (age 11 upwards)
Sunday 19 July at 11am

Teenagers 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.

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



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.

20 July	St Elijah, Prophet – Feast
22 July	St Mary Magdalene – Feast
23 July	St Bridget, Religious, Patroness of Europe – Feast
25 July	St James, Apostle – Feast
29 July	St Martha, Mary and Lazarus – Memorial
31 July	St Ignatius of Loyola, Priest – Memorial

EXPLORING MAGNIFICA HUMANITAS: An opportunity to explore and discuss Pope Leo's encyclical, "The Greatness of Humanity", continues on **Thursdays 23 and 30 July** at 7:30pm in the First Committee Room. Fr John leads and facilitates these sessions, helping us to unpack the content and gain a deeper understanding of this significant document, as well as reflecting on the human impact of new technologies in our daily lives.

MASS WITH THE SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING: On **Saturday 25 July**, there will be a special additional Sunday Vigil Mass with the Sacrament of Anointing at **3pm in St Joseph's Church**. All of us could do with a little healing at this special service, which fulfils the Sunday obligation. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the First Committee Room.

Our **EMMAUS OPENING THE SCRIPTURES** series of talks takes a break in August for the summer holidays. Our next talk takes place on **Wednesday 2 September** in St Joseph's Church at 7:30pm. [Click here for the autumn schedule](#) as well as links to recordings of previous talks.

RECENTLY DECEASED

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **James McNamee** who died recently. May he rest in peace. His funeral will take place on **Tuesday 21 July at 11am 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 **John Mills** who died recently. May he rest in peace. His funeral will take place on **Wednesday 22 July at 11:30am in St Joseph's Church**. We extend our sympathy to all his family and friends.



The **WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY** will be celebrated for the sixth time on **Sunday 26 July** – the Sunday closest to the Feast of Saints Joachim and Anne, Grandparents of Jesus. The

theme chosen by Pope Leo, “**I will never forget you**”, reminds us that God’s unwavering love is the ultimate answer to the isolation and neglect so often experienced by the elderly. It brings comfort and hope, assuring us that the Lord knows each of us personally, forgets no one, and loves us unconditionally, even through the frailties of old age. At the same time, it is a reminder to families, friends and communities not to forget them, recognising in them a precious presence and a blessing.

CHURCH ANNIVERSARY: Wednesday 29 July marks the Anniversary of the Solemn Opening and Dedication of St Joseph’s Church in 1915. As the population in the area grew, benefactors donated generously to expand the church which was blessed in 1963. The Priory extension was opened in 1970. Countless hours of prayer, meeting, teaching, preaching, praise and service have been at the heart of our parish story thus far.

Gracious God, as we celebrate the anniversary of our parish, we thank you for the many blessings you have bestowed upon us over the years. We remember with gratitude the founders and all those who have served and worshipped here before us. May we continue to grow in faith, love and service, and may our parish be a beacon of your love in this community. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

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

All are warmly invited to the **DIOCESAN MASS FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILIES** at Northampton Cathedral on **Saturday 5 September at 12 noon**. The Mass will be a special celebration of the gift of marriage and family life, with **couples marking milestone anniversaries especially welcome**. [Please register online](#) to let us know about your anniversary and to book refreshments.

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

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Registered Charity Number 234091

Email: office@stjosephs.org.uk



As in previous years, Masses and activities will be reduced during the holiday season.

MASS TIMES

As from the weekend of **Saturday 25/Sunday 26 July**:

Mass times in **St Joseph’s, Chalfont St Peter**
Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm
Sunday Masses at 7:45am and 11am only

Mass times in **Holy Name, Denham**
Sunday Mass at 9:30am.

Mass times in the **Bridgettine Convent, Iver Heath**
Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30pm
Sunday Mass at 9am

Normal Mass times resume as from the weekend of Saturday 5/Sunday 6 September.

Weekday Masses stay the same as usual except Bank Holiday Monday 31 August; one Mass at 10am only.

ROSARY CIRCLE

The last Rosary before the summer break will take place on Thursday 30 July. Rosary Circle will resume again on Tuesday 8 September.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

This will continue every Monday evening from 6:30pm to 7pm and Thursday morning after 9am Mass until 10am throughout the summer.

NEWSLETTER

Once we move to the Summer Mass Schedule, we will not be publishing weekly newsletters as it is a quiet time in the parish. Any important news will be included in the Announcements at Sunday Mass, put on church notice boards and posted on the parish website. The next one thereafter will be Sunday 6 September. Any items to be included in our weekly email during the summer should be sent to the Parish Office by lunchtime on Thursdays.

PARISH OFFICE

During the summer schedule, the Parish Office will be manned on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings as far as possible, subject to staff/volunteer holidays.

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. A monthly pack is delivered to those who do not get out regularly to Mass or are homebound. The August Pack will be delivered at the end of July. If you know someone who would benefit from this please let Joan at the Parish Office know.

CAFOD-DEC VENEZUELA EARTHQUAKE APPEAL: You can help our neighbours affected by the earthquakes in Venezuela with emergency shelter, water and food. Your donation will provide essential supplies and help families rebuild their lives. Visit cafod.org.uk/Venezuela to donate online or call 0300 999 0030 to donate over the phone. Please keep our neighbours in Venezuela in your prayers.

POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS

JULY is **FOR RESPECT FOR HUMAN LIFE** – Let us pray for the respect and protection of human life in all its stages, recognizing it as a gift from God.

AUGUST is **FOR EVANGELISATION IN THE CITY** – Let us pray that in large cities often marked by anonymity and loneliness we find new ways to proclaim the Gospel, discovering creative paths to build community.

TEA AND A CHAT: Our fortnightly social group will meet together for a chat over a cuppa on **Thursdays 23 July, 13 August and 27 August** from 2pm to 4pm in the First Committee Room. We look forward to seeing you there. A warm welcome awaits anyone who pops in, please join us if you can.

FAIRTRADE/TRAIDCRAFT: You can buy fairtrade goods from Margaret Dykes at the monthly Coffee Morning at the Village Hall in Church Road. Drop in **Wednesdays 5 August and/or 2 September** from 10am until 12 noon.

CHALFONT DEMENTIA SUPPORT will host its **Wednesday Café** on **5 August and 2 September** in the First Committee Room and on **19 August** in Chalfont St Peter Church Hall (Church Lane). All three sessions are 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. Contact Sally Blackden on 07932 643949.

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ST JOSEPH'S 200 CLUB – RENEWAL TIME

THANK YOU to all those who have participated in St Joseph's 200 Club throughout the past year. It is **NOW TIME TO RENEW OR JOIN FOR 2026/27**. New members are very welcome and existing members are encouraged to renew.

Membership remains at **£120 a year** for entry to twelve monthly draws for cash prizes. Funds are split 50:50 between parish funds and the lucky winners each month. Full details are available on the parish website or by contacting Alastair at 200club@stjosephs.org.uk.

THE LONDON & SLOUGH RUN continues every **Monday** throughout the summer (including the bank holiday). Please bring your contributions to the First Committee Room by 12 noon.

We are in urgent need of **BOILED EGGS, INDIVIDUAL JUICE CARTONS and SMALL CHOCOLATE BISCUIT BARS** (such as penguin, rocky, club, two finger kit-kat) and welcome any of the following – sandwiches (tuna, plain cheese, marmite), individually wrapped cakes, satsumas, bananas, crisps, green/UHT milk, coffee, sugar, peanut butter, jam, tinned fish and toilet roll.

NB: We cannot take anything else other than food donations at present due to limited space.

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



Thank you to everyone who supported the Dawn 5K. We have raised £4,000 so far.

It's not too late to donate –
[click here to contribute.](#)

ST JOSEPH'S FURNITURE MARKET will be open as usual from 9am to 12:30pm on Saturday mornings throughout the summer. We would welcome some more volunteers for Saturday mornings and to help us with collections/deliveries. We really need 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 also follow us on Facebook at "[St Josephs Furniture Market](#)".

The **NEW HALL COMMITTEE** would welcome help from parishioners, especially those with any experience of construction work, project management or finance. Also, one source of funds not fully explored as yet is local business. Do you work for or know of a local business that might sponsor this community project? [Email us.](#)

Email: office@stjosephs.org.uk



Browse around our stalls and tombolas where you'll find cakes, books, plants, bottles, bric-a-brac, lucky dip, name the bear, etc. Refreshments and snacks will be available throughout, including cream tea with homemade scones. Why not take advantage of the takeaway curry and noodles and save yourself having to cook on Saturday evening. Don't forget your tickets for the Raffle which has some fabulous prizes.

The Sisters welcome donations of bottles, books, games/toys, plants, religious items, bric-a-brac or raffle prizes to the Convent by Wednesday 22 July.

The fête will also include a **book event** to celebrate a recently published novel, **The Nun of Ravensbrück** by Cathi Fleming. The book is based on the incredible life of a parishioner's aunt, **Sister Kate McCarthy**, an Irish nun and French Resistance leader.



SAVE THE DATE: Our annual **ST JOSEPH'S GOLF SOCIETY DAY** will take place on **Sunday 27 September** at Oakland Park Golf Club in Chalfont St Giles. 18 Hole Stableford Competition with individual and team prizes. Start with bacon rolls, tee-off for a round of golf and finish with a presentation dinner. More details and booking form to follow.

We were saddened to hear about the **recent passing** of our friend **Alistair Thatcher** from the Golf Club. He was a stalwart supporter of this church fundraiser going back many years, always affording us a warm welcome and ensuring the day went smoothly. May he rest in peace. We extend our sympathy to all his family and friends.

LUMINISCENCE: An immersive audio-visual experience in **Westminster Cathedral**. This ground-breaking take on the concept of son et lumière is a 360° video projection concert that **narrates the story of London and the iconic Neo-Byzantine mother church of the Diocese of Westminster**. [Click here for details and to book tickets](#).

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THANK YOU to everyone who came to support the **CHORAL CONCERT** on Sunday 5 July, whether as a performer or in the audience. Special congratulations to the children from the 9am Choir who sang "Over My Head" so beautifully in front of so many people! It was a particular highlight to have everybody present joining in with the choir and orchestra in Boyce's "Alleluia", raising the roof with joyful singing. The sum of **£1077.82** was raised for the New Community Hall.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL

If you, or someone you know, is in need, please get in contact with us, on a totally confidential basis on **07942 270969**

[Click here](#) to read the latest edition of **ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER**.

TAP/CARD PAYMENTS: The Parish Office can now take payments by Google/Apple Pay or Debit/Credit Card at the reception desk for a variety of item, including Mass Cards and Mass Offerings.

VILLAGE VOICE NEWSLETTER: We are looking for a **new EDITOR** who can **take over from August 2026**. They will be responsible for gathering local information, writing copy for the newsletter and publishing to our email subscriber list. Unfortunately, if we cannot find someone to help out, this newsletter, which has given valuable local information to the community for so many years, will have to close down. If you have some spare time, are passionate about helping your local community and enjoy writing this could be perfect for you. Full training will be given. For more information call Des on 07974 203006.

A FAMILY PRAYER FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Heavenly Father, please bless our holiday. Help our family to have patience and understanding. Guide us to be mindful of this gift of time together. Help us to make compromises when necessary and handle any chaos that comes our way with Your love and grace. Open our eyes to truly see the beauty of the memories we are creating that will last a lifetime. *Amen.*

WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES A RELAXING SUMMER BREAK. MAY YOU ALL FIND REST, SAFETY AND MOMENTS OF GRACE, RETURNING AFTER THE HOLIDAYS RENEWED IN BODY AND SPIRIT.