

3 December 2017  
First Sunday of Advent

Sundays Year B– 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 Michael Spain OCD (Prior & Parish Priest), Fr Robert Davies OCD, Fr Maurice Flynn OCD

7 December	St Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor - Feast
8 December	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Solemnity

**NEXT WEEKEND** there will be a second collection for Christmas flowers for the Church.

**THE OFFERTORY COLLECTION** last weekend amounted to £2,745. Your continued support is appreciated.

**RITE OF ACCEPTANCE/WELCOME:** Today at the 11am Mass, the Church welcomes Birthe Albrecht into the Order of Catechumens. Birthe is seeking full communion into the Catholic Church and we welcome her here at St. Joseph's and pray for her as she responds to God's call to follow the way of Christ on her journey of faith.

**MASS WITH THE SACRAMENT OF ANOINTING** will take place next **Saturday 9 December** at 3:30pm in St Joseph's Church. Fr Michael will celebrate Mass for the Second Sunday of Advent and there will be anointing with the oil of the sick and the opportunity for prayer. All of us need healing be it in mind, body or spirit so everyone is most welcome. The SVP invites you for tea and cake after the service in the First Committee Room.

**RECENTLY DECEASED:** Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of **Brian Boyle** who died recently. The funeral will take place on Monday 4 April at 11am in St Joseph's Church. We extend our deepest sympathy to all his family and friends.

Your prayers are also requested for the repose of the soul of **Jane Johnson** who died recently. The funeral will take place on Wednesday 6 April at 11:30am in St Joseph's Church. We extend our deepest sympathy to all her family and friends.

**DO YOU SUPPORT CATHOLIC SCHOOLS and the right of Catholics to send their children to them?** Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing all Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/education-cap> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

**SALE OF TRADCRAFT GOODS TODAY – SUNDAY 3 DECEMBER** after the 9am Mass in the Parish Centre and after the 11am Mass in the First Committee Room.

**SENIORS INVITATION TO SCHOOL NATIVITY:**

St Joseph's School invite seniors from the parish to join them for their infant children's Nativity this **Monday 4 December**. It takes place in the school at 1:45pm and will be followed by a cup of tea and mince pie.

**BRIDGETTINE CAROL SERVICE:** The Bridgettine Sisters invite parishioners to join them for their Carol Service in the Convent Chapel on Wednesday 13 December at 6:30pm. You will be assured of a warm welcome and the service will be followed by refreshments.

**ADVENT REFLECTION DAY** with Mass, Prayer of Stillness and Time with Prayers will take place on Saturday 16 December from 10:15 to 3:15pm at Monastery of Christ Our Saviour, MK43 8DH. Booking is essential via NORES on 01582 723312 Ext. 6 or [admin@nores.org.uk](mailto:admin@nores.org.uk).

**DIOCESAN YEAR OF PRAYER AND VOCATION:** This weekend Bishop Peter launches a special Diocesan Year of Prayer and Vocation. He says "*...with the power of prayer and with an awareness of our vocation, we can seek to make disciples, to make new friends for Christ, and to do that with the confidence to have conversations and to make connections.*" We are asked this month to regularly set aside a little time for personal prayer and listening to God's call in our everyday lives.

**'A BIBLICAL WALK THROUGH THE MASS':** A five week course for Lent 2018 exploring the meaning behind the words and gestures we use, helping us to get more out of every Mass. Wednesday evenings or Thursday mornings. Details to follow – sign up required by 15 January.

**LONDON AND SLOUGH RUN FOR THE HOMELESS:**

Please bring your sandwiches, boiled eggs, crisps, drinks, fruit, biscuits, etc. to the Parish Centre by 3:30pm on Monday. Many thanks for your continued support.

**We now require blankets, pants, socks and jumpers please.**

**The LONDON AND SLOUGH CHRISTMAS RUN FOR THE HOMELESS** is on **Monday 18 December**. Please take home the pink sheet attached to the newsletter which gives a list of all the items required. Please deliver your donations to the Parish Centre by 12 noon on Monday 18 December.



If you've never been to Youth Group – interested/curious – come along **this Sunday 3 December** at 6.30pm to the Parish Centre for fun, food, games, laughs and meet new friends. A “trial” evening to see if it inspires you to come again. Open to all young people in Year 6 and above. See you there!

**PRAYERS FOR THE SICK:** Please pray for the sick of our Parish and for those who have asked for our prayers.

**NEW DISABLED ENTRANCE:** Building work has begun on the disabled entrance to St Joseph's Church and will continue over the next three weeks. With immediate effect the **side door to the car park will be an emergency fire exit only**. Please use the main door or the side door by the bookshop to enter and leave the church. During these works the disabled toilet will open for use at weekends only.

**RSVP NOW FOR SENIOR CITIZENS CHRISTMAS PARTY:**

Parishioners are very welcome to join us for our annual seniors' festive celebration with food, fun and fellowship **on Saturday 16 December** between 2pm and 4:30pm in the Parish Centre. Guests please RSVP to Nan Jacobson via the Parish Office as soon as possible. Offers of help with transport would be much appreciated.



**SHOC, SLOUGH HOMELESS – OUR CONCERN** will be one of the green token charities for December in Waitrose, Gerrards Cross. So if you are shopping at Waitrose, please put lots of tokens in the SHOC box.

**URGENT APPEAL FOR COUNTERS:** There is a critical need for more volunteers to join our Counting Team which has diminished significantly as people have moved away and/or retired after lengthy service. The job is very straightforward and the commitment is just six times per year. Please contact the Parish Office if you can help.

**Sunday Mass Times**

St Joseph's, Chalfont St Peter: Saturday Vigil Mass at 5:30pm, Sunday at 7:45am, 9am, 11am and 5:30pm  
Holy Name, Denham: Sunday Mass at 9:30am  
Bridgettine Convent, Iver Heath: Saturday Vigil Mass at 4:30pm, Sunday at 9am

**All the following take place at St Joseph's, Chalfont St Peter**

**Weekday Mass:** Monday to Friday at 7am and 9am, Saturday and Bank Holidays at 10am  
**Sacrament of Reconciliation:** Saturday from 10:30 – 11am and 4:45 – 5:15pm  
**Rosary:** Tuesday and Friday at 7:30pm  
**Eucharistic Adoration:** Wednesday and Thursday from 10am until 9pm in the Oratory

Website: [www.stjosephs.org.uk](http://www.stjosephs.org.uk)

Telephone: **01753 886581**  
Registered Charity Number 234091

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

**\*\*\*PARISH CHRISTMAS LUNCH MAY BE CANCELLED\*\*\***

*We have sold less than half the number of tickets required to make this a viable event. Unless we sell a minimum of 70 tickets then this event will sadly have to be cancelled.*

All parishioners are invited to join us for Christmas lunch next Sunday 10 December at 12:30pm in the Parish Centre. The cost is £15 per person which includes a two course traditional Christmas dinner followed by tea/coffee with mince pie. There will be a cash bar as well as a festive raffle, for which donations would be gratefully received. Buy your tickets individually or as a table of 10 from the Parish Office by this Monday 4 December.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the ten prize winners of the CWL Raffle in aid of the London Run. Thank you for everyone's support.

**CHRISTMAS CARDS, ADVENT CALENDARS AND DIARIES** are now on sale in the Repository.

**ST JOSEPH'S CHRISTMAS PUDDINGS:** Very many thanks to everyone who supported the school and parish by purchasing a Christmas pudding. Orders are now ready for collection from the Parish Office. Enjoy!

**CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE:** Join Richard Cottle and the Holy Name Choir in Denham on Sunday 17 December at 7:30pm for a lovely evening of seasonal music and readings, featuring some of the parish's favourite carols for everyone to sing.



**APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED**

For anyone interested in joining our 200 Club, the closing date for applications has been extended to Tuesday 5 December if you want to be included in the December and bonus Christmas draws.

Enrolment details and Membership forms are available from the Church Porch, website and the Parish Office. When you join, you have a chance to win one of four cash prizes every month.