

St. Joseph's Church, Lamb's Buildings, Lamb's Passage, off Bunhill Row, London EC1Y 8LE



Joseph of the House of David + Mary, Mother of the City
Icons by Stephane Rene

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE : <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bunhillrow/>

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FEBRUARY 2021
NEWSLETTER



ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH IS OPEN ON WEDNESDAYS, 11.30 - 12.45 FOR 12.05 MASS AND FOR PERSONAL PRAYER ON FRIDAYS, 11.30-12.30 with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ST. JOSEPH'S WEEKEND MASSES :

SATURDAY EVENING ON-LINE ZOOM MASS, 18.00
& SUNDAY MORNING - 11.30 with congregation

DUE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS NO MORE THAN 35 PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND 11.30 MASS

Weekday Services: Wednesday Masses at St. Joseph's (12.05 pm).

PLEASE NOTE: St. Mary Moorfields Sunday Mass is now at 9.30 a.m.

Some Lent 2021 Thoughts from Fr. Saimon:

As we are entering soon into the season of Lent I would like to share few words with you. The season of Lent - " a time for REPENTANCE, FASTING, PRAYER, doing GOOD WORKS and preparation for the coming of the Easter Season. It's a time of self-examination and reflection and return to God". Ash Wednesday reminds us, we will die one day.... from dust to dust. We need to be thankful for the Lenten season, time set aside to focus on our sinfulness before God and our mortality. We do this with the hope that God will help us let go of those things that aren't pleasing to Him. Things that are ultimately harmful to us. On our Lenten journey let us look into some of the beautiful words from the blessed people in the Church about fasting, spiritual growth and the power of prayer:

- "Are you capable of risking your life for someone? Do it for Christ." - Pope John Paul II.
- "Lent comes providentially to reawaken us, to shake us from our lethargy." - Pope Francis
- "As Lent is the time for greater love, listen to Jesus' thirst 'Repent and believe!' Jesus tells us. What are we to repent of? Our indifference, our hardness of heart. What are we to believe? Jesus thirsts even now, in your heart and in the poor. He knows your weakness. He wants only your love, wants only the chance to love you." - St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta.
- "The most important thing a born-again Christian can do is to pray." - Chuck Smith.
- "Prayer is where the action is." - John Wesley
- "The proof of love is in the works. Where love exists, it works great things. But when it ceases to act, it ceases to exist." - Pope St. Gregory the Great.

- "Lent stimulates us to let the Word of God penetrate our life and in this way to know the fundamental truth: who we are, where we come from, where we must go, what path we must take in life..." Pope Benedict XVI
- "Renounce yourself in order to follow Christ; discipline your body; do not pamper yourself, but love fasting." Saint Benedict
- "Whoever wishes to be my follower must deny their very self, take up their cross each day, and follow in my steps." - Luke 9:23
- "As you mourn for your sins and weaknesses this Ash Wednesday through fasting, mourning and weeping, may you be truly transformed from your heart." - John Tribes.

And so, my dear Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, Lent is a new beginning, a path leading to the certain goal of Easter, Christ's victory over death. This season urgently calls us to conversion. We are asked to return to God "with all our hearts" (Joel 2: 12), to refuse to settle for mediocrity and to grow in friendship with the Lord. Jesus is the faithful friend who never abandons us. Even when we sin, He patiently awaits our return; by that patient expectation, He shows us His readiness to forgive. It is time for us to repent and return to God by praying, fasting, almsgiving and through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. May our good Lord Jesus continue to be with us and bless us abundantly. Amen

Fr. Saimon Gudime

LOCKDOWN LENT 2021 - The Wednesday Word, a weekly meditation from 17 February-31 March, 8.15 -8.30; Happiness in a Time of Pandemic - a retreat with monastic wisdom, 27 February, 10.30-15.00; The Way of the Cross, ON-LINE, 12 March, 18.30-19.30, E-mail for Zoom details: moorfields@rcdow.org.uk

St. Joseph's Icon Greeting Cards featuring, Joseph of the House of David, & Mary, Mother of the City, made by the Carmelite Sisters at Ware Carmel, £1.50 each. These are suitable as Mass Cards for those who have died, as well as for other intentions. Please ask Sylvia or Martin if you would like to buy some.

Access for all! The Lift operates every time the Church is open for Mass: Saturday evenings, Sunday mornings, Wednesday lunchtimes, & 1ST Saturdays, for CARMEL-IN-THE-CITY. It's very simple to use - you just need to keep your finger on the button if going down to the church (G-level), up to the Hall (2-level), or to the Car-Park area (1-level). Children must be accompanied if using the lift.

If you need to drive to St. Joseph's - only vehicles registered with Islington Council are able to drive through Fortune Street, from Golden Lane to Whitecross Street.

ST. JOSEPH'S - A community generous in its giving - NEW Planned-giving envelopes will be available shortly, to begin after Easter along with Gift Aid and Standing Order forms for those who would like to give to the parish in this way, or offering some backdated contributions, please? Having had no usual collections between the end of March 2020 and January 2021, we lost over £7,000 in income, but there are still bills to pay! PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE NOW CHANGED TO ONLINE GIVING. WHY NOT MAKE THIS A NEW COMMITMENT TO THE PARISH? See the latest Parish Accounts on the Porch Notice-board. Times are tough but we've seen increasing generosity in this parish's giving!

CAFOD LENT Family Fast Day - Friday, 26 February 2021 Further information see the webpage. <https://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer/Volunteer-resources/Family-Fast-Day> - <http://cafod.org.uk/fastday>

ST. JOSEPH'S PARISHIONERS HAVE BEEN EXTRAORDINARY!

The CAFOD Harvest Fast Day donations for the Coronavirus Appeal amounted to over £300!

THE YEAR OF THE WORD EXTENDED TO JANUARY 2022 - Do you have a bible in your home? Our target is for every home in the parish to possess God's word in Scripture at their heart so that we might all dwell in that Word and that the Word might dwell in us. A Bible is waiting here at St. Joseph's for YOU. Westminster Diocese Agency for Evangelisation, of which Fr. Chris is Director, has a number of excellent online events and downloadable resources - <https://rcdow.org.uk/faith/faith-formation/> WE WELCOME MORE PEOPLE TO JOIN THE READERS' ROTA - READING AT SATURDAY EVENING & SUNDAY MASSES AND ON OTHER OCCASIONS. IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE SPEAK TO FR. CHRIS.

Liturgy at St. Joseph's: WE NEED YOU! If you have received your 1st Communion, then girls and boys are welcomed as altar-servers, not just on Sundays, but on other important Church Feast-days. We'd be delighted to have more young people reading at Mass from time to time, and we'd love to have more people to ensure the quality of our liturgies, including help with singing, reading, being Eucharistic ministers. Visitors often complement us on the welcome they receive, and the dignified Masses we

celebrate. Age is no barrier, young or old, and we'd love to have people who represent the rich diversity of this community. **So think about it**, and speak to **Fr. Chris, Martin**, or **Sylvia** after Sunday Mass. Please contact Martin Pendergast for more details - 020 8986 0807.

The Cardinal Hume Quiet Garden is now closed until Easter 2021. It will then be open, 10.00- 17.00, Mondays- Fridays, 1st Saturdays, & Sunday mornings. Following damage to the flowering cherry-tree, some long-awaited tree-pruning has taken place. We shall shortly be planting a magnolia to mark, at their request, the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Patricia & Peter Kenyon.



ALL ARE WELCOME HERE ! In Calais, and across the Mediterranean, there is still great need. For updates, please see www.seekingsanctuary.weebly.com or email Ben Bano at migrantssupport@aol.com about delivering goods. Also check out: Westminster Justice & Peace & www.calaid.co.uk Contact the J&P Office at Vaughan House, Westminster - **Colette Joyce**, Coordinator - 020 7798 9009 or bring to St. Joseph's. The Catholic Worker Community, whom we support, makes regular deliveries to Calais and they welcome volunteers. Take goods to their Haringey centre: Giuseppe Conlon House: www.londoncatholicworker.org/qchouse.html

ISLINGTON CITIZENS - www.londoncitizens.org.uk - **JUSTICE**, like charity, begins at home. We are a member-institution of Citizens UK - Islington. This helps us to see how local people can have a voice on things that matter to them, how we can respond to local needs and work for justice. Froilan Legaspi is the Islington Citizens Organiser . If you'd like to be involved in Islington Citizens' training-events or local action speak to Sylvia Lucas/Martin Pendergast, or contact Froilan: Froilan.Legaspi@citizensuk.org



The Government's **so-called** National Living Wage from 2020, for over 25's is **NOT** a Living Wage but an increased Minimum Wage, institutionalising inequality for younger workers under 25. **St. Joseph's is accredited as a local Living Wage Employer as is Westminster Diocese, and 9 out of 10 London's Catholic schools are as well! The REAL 2020/21 London Living Wage is £10.85**; outside London - **£9.50**. <https://www.livingwage.org.uk/what-real-living-wage> **If you are low-paid, are you being paid the London Living Wage, not just a minimum wage, or so-called National Living Wage, only for over-25's? This is far below the Real Living Wage.** Islington Council, the City of London Corporation and the Barbican are all Living Wage Employers.

Carmel-in-the-City - Due to Covid-19 Regulations a revised programme operates. Check out the website for more news, Newsletters and our Programme for 2021: www.carmelinthecity.org.uk Next meeting: **6 March, 11.30**, Quiet Prayer; **12.00**, **Lenten Mass**. Further details from Sylvia Lucas: **0788 943 6165** sylvia@carmelinthecity.org.uk

DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR CHURCH ? Find out from Independent Catholic News: <https://www.indcatholicnews.com/> **FREE COPIES OF THE TABLET ARE AVAILABLE IN THE PORCH**

St. Joseph's Pastoral Council (SJPC) Due to Covid-19 Regulations, Pastoral Council meetings are currently suspended. The Minutes of the latest Pastoral Council Meeting (28 November 2019) are on the **Pastoral Council** section of the Church Notice-board. Further information - **Fr. Chris** or Martin Pendergast, **SJPC Secretary**, c/o St. Joseph's or e-mail/phone - martinjpendergast@gmail.com / 020 8986 0807.

Growth in faith for Children & Adults: Infant Baptism, 1st Communion, Adult Baptism, Reception into Full Communion, and Confirmation - Registration sheets are available now for Confirmation 2021. This will be for any children in Year 9 or above. Please speak to Fr. Chris or Jennylyn Williams for more information. **A Journey in Faith Group** - following the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), for anyone who would like to explore becoming a Catholic - Please email the Parish Office and/or speak to either Fr. Chris or Fr. Saimon. **Baptism Preparation**: Every parent who would like to have their child baptised at either St. Joseph's must attend a short meeting, along with godparents, to discuss the meaning and purpose of Baptism. Baptisms usually take place during Sunday morning Mass. If you wish to prepare for **Marriage**, please speak to Fr. Chris. **Are you a parent of younger children - would you like to help with Sunday morning Children's Liturgy? If so, speak to Jennylyn, Maria, or Elizabeth.**

Ecumenical activities are at the heart of the life of St. Joseph's Church
..... doing together what we do not need to do separately

www.stgilescripplegate.com + www.wesleyschapel.org.uk + www.capeljewin.org



Jewin Welsh Church, St. Giles Cripplegate, Wesley's Chapel, & St. Joseph's have agreed : An Ecumenical Partnership between Jewin Welsh Church, St. Giles Cripplegate, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, and Wesley's Chapel

Introduction: This Partnership, reviewed by the respective ministers and agreed by each Church's Council, makes explicit the ecumenical commitment shared for the past 15 years. A formal Partnership ensures that our ecumenical journey is established beyond the individual interest of any particular minister and has reason to continue after any minister moves from the area.

Drawn together in one baptism, confessing our faith in one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, we are inspired by the Holy Spirit to hear his Good News and pledged to share it, and so we commit ourselves to:

- Promote reflection on the Christian Church, its mission and its proclamation of God's reign in our midst;
- Take time to listen, try to understand and respond to each other and to the joys and hopes, the griefs and anxieties of the people of our time and place;
- Value each person, rejoicing in their gifts, and celebrating our rich human diversity;
- Support those seeking to recognise Christ in their own lives;
- Enjoy each other's company as we worship, study, and journey together as God's pilgrim people.

Where possible this will be done through:

- The sharing of occasional worship, especially during Advent, Lent, and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity;
- collaboration in planning and holding regular adult faith education programmes;
- going on pilgrimage together;
- supporting action for justice and peace initiatives in one another's churches.

We give thanks for the many years of growing unity and friendship which we have shared together and which has brought us to this time of grace, and we regret our continuing divisions. We undertake to promote understanding, respect and dialogue with people of good will as we work for the common good of all. We affirm our intent to work, pray, and study together for that unity which is Christ's will for the Church and so formalise this commitment in this present Partnership agreement.

Ecumenical Compline in Lent on Zoom - Mondays, 20.00 - 22 February, 1 March, 8 March, 15 March & 22 March - **Click here for the zoom link** - Meeting ID: 861 335 9824
Click here for the Compline Order of Service
OR martinjpendergast@gmail.com for connection details ...

CITY EVENTS - The Friends of City Churches - www.london-city-churches.org.uk
The Friends of the City Churches' volunteer Church Watchers usually help to keep City churches open to visitors and worshippers on a regular basis.

<https://www.ourcitytogether.london/inspire/beatng-the-bounds>

Next St. Joseph's Newsletter due 7 March 2021 - Deadline for information, events: 4/03/2021