

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/>

### HOW WILL THE CHURCH COPE WITH A NEW NORMAL?

Later this month, we hope that the Catholic Church in England & Wales will be able to resume something of its usual life and spirit if the present Government Covid-19 Regulations are relaxed - **fingers crossed!** Like the rest of society, here and across the world, we all realise that there can be no return to the old securities of the past, but what will a "new normal" look like for us as Church? The Catholic Church is "ever old and ever new" and always in need of reform and renewal as it faces the challenges of "the signs of the times" in 2021, 2022, 2023 ...

Pope Francis has said that this task of facing up to the needs of people, the needs of the Church today, is not something that can just be left to him or Bishops to sort out. We all need to **LISTEN TOGETHER & WALK TOGETHER**. In the past, responding to challenges in our lives as Christians and the need to rethink our ways of doing things, of presenting the Gospel's message, have been left to global meetings of the Pope and Bishops, called **Synods**. Pope Francis has said that this is not good enough - the whole people of God needs to be involved. That is why he has called the Church worldwide to take part in a **Synodal Process** of listening and walking together into a new future, and not just a one-off event in Rome where Bishops and their advisors discuss behind closed doors, and then tell us what we should do.

This **global Synod process** is set to begin in September 2021 and continue until 2023. Already, Liverpool Archdiocese has held its own Synod, involving laity, religious, priests, and bishops listening and walking together. The Scottish bishops have welcomed Pope Francis' call, as have the Irish Bishops who have already started to consult Catholics in Ireland. We are still waiting to hear from the Bishops of England & Wales, as well as Cardinal Vincent and his assistant bishops in Westminster Diocese, how we might begin to create a **new normal** for the Church nationally and locally, and here in St. Joseph's Parish.

If we take Pope Francis call to heart then this doesn't stop of us thinking about what this means for us here in EC1 and Bunhill Row. We have already begun to think about how we can engage with new realities in our neighbourhood - the re-opening of the YMCA, the completion of the Finsbury Tower and other local construction developments, our ecumenical partnership with Jewin Welsh Church, St. Giles Cripplegate, and Wesley's Chapel & Leysian Mission. **SO, WATCH THIS SPACE .....**

**First thoughts from our First Parish Conversation - JUSTICE, like charity, begins at home!** **Suzanna Hamilton** is St. Joseph's representative for **Caritas Westminster**. Caritas (Love) is both an international network of Catholic organisations working for justice, human development and flourishing, working with and for the poor across the world, as well as here at home. **Caritas Westminster** speaks and acts for the poor in our midst, and those whose voice is not heard in the places of power - <https://www.caritaswestminster.org.uk/>. She hosted our 1<sup>st</sup> **ONLINE Parish Conversation** on social action and reaching out to young people, 22 April 2021, and here are some key points from the 11 parishioners who took part:

**How do we open our doors wider** so people feel safe to bring their doubts and questions, that they might begin to know that there is a refuge from chaos and especially for youth from the internet 24/7, and that they might become aware of the stability and peace that is on offer to them? We give thanks to the past efforts of our congregation for the grace that we now experience.

**Inclusion and listening** - How do we develop St. Joseph's as a place of welcome, inclusion, and listening to people's needs - spiritual, practical, social? Would an Alpha Course work here, inviting young people from the YMCA, Business School, Guildhall and other university and college campuses.

**Could we use our individual skills more to help the local community** - especially youngsters - asking them to identify their needs. Could we offer for example literacy, English language, servicing bikes, sport, basic computer skills, knitting! What could we offer?

Generally considering how can we come alongside people, as the Pope says in Let Us Dream - just to be with others and hear them, listen to those who may not be used to being heard, those on the margins.

Could we use drama? **Post-Covid-19 Restrictions - International Fiesta** - could we begin to plan for our annual celebration in late June where we open our doors and bring food and music from our rich cultural diversity, inviting our local communities in? **MORE INFORMATION FROM SUZANNA:** [zanna1221@gmail.com](mailto:zanna1221@gmail.com)

**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,**

Clergy:  
Fr. Chris Vipers, Fr. Saimon Gudime  
Parish Administrator - Ingrid Bowie  
St Mary Moorfields, 4 - 5 Eldon St.  
London EC2M 7LS  
e-mail: [moorfields@rcdow.org.uk](mailto:moorfields@rcdow.org.uk)  
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JULY 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**

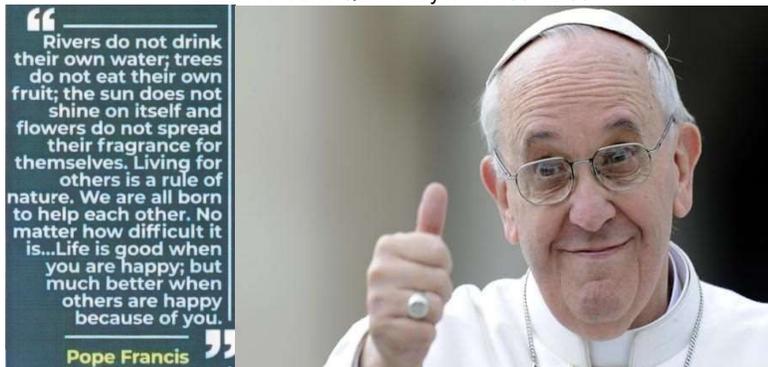
**UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE ST. JOSEPH'S WEEKEND MASSES :**

**SATURDAY EVENING MASS, 18.00 with congregation**

**& SUNDAY MORNING - 11.30 with congregation**

**DUE TO SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIREMENTS NO MORE THAN 40 PEOPLE WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND 11.30 MASS**

**Weekday Services:** Wednesday Masses at St. Joseph's (12.05 pm). Fridays: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Quiet Prayer - 11.30-12.30



**July is dedicated to the Precious Blood, as is our own Westminster Cathedral:**

*"For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect." (1 Peter 1: 18-19)*

We are given vitality in our Christian lives through the body and blood of Christ in the Eucharist which nourishes us in faith and mission. **Fr Saimon** has prepared some background reflections to help us understand the mystery of this Precious Blood. **This is available as a separate sheet.**

**Sunday mornings, Wednesday lunchtimes, & 1<sup>st</sup> 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 are now available** 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 in Lockdown, in 2020 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!

**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. Westminster Diocese Agency for Evangelisation, of which Fr. Chris is **Director**, has a number of excellent online events and resources to download – <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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 open until the end of October 2021, 10.00- 17.00, Mondays- Fridays, 1st Saturdays, & Sunday mornings.**  
**CAN YOU HELP TO KEEP THE GARDEN OPEN? IF ABLE TO HELP, SPEAK TO MARTIN OR LEN.**



**ALL ARE WELCOME HERE!** In Calais, and across the Mediterranean, there is still great need. For updates, please see [www.seekingsanctuary.weebly.com](http://www.seekingsanctuary.weebly.com) or email Ben Bano at [migrantssupport@aol.com](mailto:migrantssupport@aol.com) about delivering goods. Also check out: Westminster Justice & Peace & [www.calaid.co.uk](http://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: 49 Mattison Rd, Haringey, London N4 1BG **Phone: 020 8348 8212** - <https://www.londoncatholicworker.org/>

The work of **Caritas Westminster** overlaps to some extent with what we do in **ISLINGTON CITIZENS** - [www.londoncitizens.org.uk](http://www.londoncitizens.org.uk) - 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](mailto: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 - WE ARE NOW GETTING BACK TO A MORE USUAL PROGRAMME!** Check out the website for more news, Newsletters and our Programme for 2021: [www.carmelinthecity.org.uk](http://www.carmelinthecity.org.uk) No formal meeting in August. Details from Sylvia Lucas: **0788 943 6165** - [sylvia@carmelinthecity.org.uk](mailto: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)** (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](mailto:martinjpendergast@gmail.com) / 020 8986 0807.

**Growth in faith for Children & Adults: Infant Baptism, 1<sup>st</sup> Communion, Adult Baptism, Reception into Full Communion, and Confirmation** - Please speak to Fr. Chris or Jennylyn Williams for more information. 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 or Maria .....**

**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](http://www.stgilescripplegate.com) + [www.wesleyschapel.org.uk](http://www.wesleyschapel.org.uk) + [www.capeljewin.org](http://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.

**CITY EVENTS - The Friends of City Churches** - [www.london-city-churches.org.uk](http://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.**



**Next St. Joseph's Newsletter due 1 August 2021 - Deadline for information, events: 29/072021**