

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/>

Clergy:

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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 35 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

Fr. Chris: My dear friends, later this month, Monday, 28 June, I will be celebrating my twenty-fourth anniversary as a priest here in our diocese. I remember my ordination day well, a warm and sunny Saturday morning in Westminster Cathedral, when seven of us were ordained by Cardinal Hume (and Mum bought a new hat for the occasion!). Two of our number are now safe home with the Lord, while the rest of us are enjoying the daily blessings of ministry – and wondering where the years have gone. On top of twenty four years as a Catholic priest, I thank God too for seven beautiful years of ministry as an Anglican priest in Wood Green and Palmers Green. That's thirty-one years, and counting. I have so many people to thank for where I am and who I am today – my parents, family, friends, teachers, priests, parishioners in so many different places, and all those who first helped me to discover God's dream for my life, and who daily help me to make his dream come true. I can honestly say that it is my greatest privilege and blessing, my duty and my joy, day by day and week by week, to hold the Body of Christ in my hands and to feed Christ's people. But I meet the Body of Christ too whenever I meet you. I touch the Body of Christ when I anoint the head of a baby at baptism, or of someone in their dying moments. I touch the Body of Christ when I grasp someone's hand in welcome, or hug someone in joy or sorrow. I touch the Body of Christ when I buy a homeless woman a sandwich and unwrap it for her, as much as I do when I raise the Sacred Host, the Body of Christ, at the altar. I know I do because Jesus says, "whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do to me" (Matthew 25: 40). I thank God that I'm a priest, and I pray daily that the Lord will help me to be the priest he wants me to be, and that you need me to be. I'll let you into a secret. Every morning when I wake up I say, "thank you, Lord, for another day to love and serve you and your people". I want to pray that every day for as long as my

days last. Please pray for us, your priests, and pray for more of us. Perhaps ask the Lord that he will raise up a vocation to the priesthood here in our own parish, and that those who he calls - and their families too - will respond with generosity and joy.

ST. JOSEPH'S GROWTH ! So many pandemic stories are about loss of the past, of what is familiar, of weakness and lack of growth. We're delighted that in recent weeks we've received **Toby** into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church, **James** has been Confirmed, and **Lily-Rae** has received her 1st Communion. Apart from these personal moments, we've welcomed many new faces into St. Joseph's Parish – **WELCOME ALL AS WE WALK TOGETHER IN FAITH AND RENEWAL !**

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 1st **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

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 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 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 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 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: 49 Mattison Rd, Haringay, 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 - 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 - 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 Next meeting: Saturday, 3 July 2021. 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 - 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 + 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.

The Revd. Katharine Rumens, Rector of St. Giles Cripplegate, retired on 23 May. Some of us were pleased to attend her Farewell Service, 19 May. Importantly, Fr. Chris and Martin were invited to meet with St. Giles' Church-Wardens, to discuss qualities that might be looked for, as they consider Katharine's successor. Meanwhile, we hold St. Giles' congregation in our prayers in the inter-regnum.



Katharine digs in at the dedication of St. Joseph's Quiet Garden, 2003

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.



Next St. Joseph's Newsletter due 4 July 2021 - Deadline for information, events: 1/072021