

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



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 2023
NEWSLETTER

ST. JOSEPH'S WEEKEND MASSES : SATURDAY, 18.00; SUNDAY, 11.30.

Weekday Services: Wednesday Masses at St. Joseph's -12.05; Holydays: 12.05 & 19.00
Fridays, 12.00-15.00 - for personal prayer.

A February Reflection from Canon Stuart: A POSITIVE VIEW FOR LENT - Fr Chris's notice at Mass on the last Sunday of January came as a shock! He told us we had to get our last year's palm cross down from the wall and bring it back to Church! And why? Because Ash Wednesday is around the corner so to speak! Well that was news to me!

We live in a different world now. My diary is no longer a paper book- it is electronic. I don't browse the digital diary like I would have browse the paper diary in previous years. Much more living in the present moment. Maybe I glance at what's happening tomorrow or the next few days of the week but that's it! I had not even thought to check the important days (dates) of Lent, Holy Week and Easter. This line of thinking took me back to my early days, to my youthful days!

Ash Wednesday, which by the way, occurs on 22nd February, marks the beginning of Lent. As a youngster, Lent was important and was exciting. My brother, sister, and I would work out what we would do for Lent. Yes, we also returned our palm cross so as to get our foreheads ash-ed on Ash Wednesday. However, there were extra things to do. Of course, we attended children's Stations of the Cross and we made certain we got our Lent Box. That was the big thing! The Lent Box! It would be returned at Easter filled with our offerings (and thank goodness with the equally generous offerings from adult family members.) We were encouraged to give up in order to give over to the charity that the Lent Box represented. In those days, the big question around Lent was simply: "What are you giving up?" It wasn't difficult for the options were fairly obvious: sweets, traveling to school on the bus; forgoing a meal on Friday. It was a challenge that we liked. I have to confess that I still have a giving up mentality when Lent draws near. A couple of years ago I decided to give up watching TV apart from the 10pm news! It was not as difficult as I thought it was going to be but what else it did I am not sure!

The giving -up mentality has faded as the importance of engaging with Lent has moved from "giving up" to "doing more" spirituality. The spiritual weapons (Fasting. Almsgiving and Prayer) are still important: but we are asked to see them in a positive light. So the emphasis in recent times has been to ask ourselves the question "What more can I do to love the Lord and His Church as well as the world in which we live during the Lenten Season?."

Well for me certain words come into my mind, which I know are much influenced by the teaching of Pope Francis. Love, Mercy, Joy should be the motivation for our actions! And where should we be active? I value the thought of looking to the peripheries of our society and our world to see what we can do to change that world for the better.

Of course, some of the actions we support will be motivated by the national and international organisations who are reaching out to those in need. Yet don't forget that in our own community we will find people "on the edge" Each of us can actually do things that help those around us.

And a final thought! Remember that one of the greatest ways of helping others is to include them in your life of prayer. Lent is a great time to get your prayer life renewed and recharged under the grace of God. Maybe finding a space in each day to offer up, in intercession, those whom God has put in our way could be so special this Lent... I know in my ministry as a priest how many people have been comforted and renewed by the promise of praying for them. The Holy Season is on its way! Go for it! Have a Great Lent!

LOOK OUT FOR POSTERS AND FLIERS ABOUT OUR LENT PROGRAMME!



OUR SYNODAL PATHWAY CONTINUES

Westminster Diocese Pre-Synodal Assembly : 1) Introduction - <https://rcdow.org.uk/news/pre-synodal-diocesan-gathering/>; 2) Cardinal Vincent's Response - <https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/addresses/synodal-gathering-summation/>; 3) Homily at the Closing Liturgy of the Word: <https://rcdow.org.uk/cardinal/homilies/synodal-gathering/>; 4) The Westminster Synodal Report:

<https://rcdow.org.uk/synod/westminster-diocese-bishops-synod-report/> This report is based on the responses to the diocesan synodal pathway. The reports from this global exercise will then form the basis of preparatory documents for the Synod of Bishops in October 2023. **The National Synodal Synthesis Report for England & Wales** has now been published, and sent to Rome with a Bishops' Response : <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2022/06/synod-national-synthesis-england-wales.pdf> It is important to note that many of the points raised by groups, parishes & dioceses have found their way into the National Synthesis – never say that you have not been heard! **The Bishops of England & Wales Reflection have offered their own reflection on the process so far:** <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/bishops-reflection-synodal-national-synthesis/>

We are now in the European Continental Phase and the Working Document for this next stage is available here in different languages: <https://www.synod.va/en/highlights/working-document-for-the-continental-stage.html> We will probably begin a new Listening Process of reflection and discussion following the European Continental Synodal Assembly, 5-12 February 2023, in Prague. **Here is a summary:** <https://rcdow.org.uk/att/files/synod/working%20document%20summary.pdf> The Catholic Bishops Conference of England & Wales has this latest information about the European Continental Stage and the Prague Assembly: <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/synodal-church-continental/>

St. Joseph's Pastoral Council (SJPC) met, 31 January 2023, when we considered more action-points from our own Synodal Listening Process. The latest Minutes are on the Porch Noticeboard. We are beginning to consider exciting plans for a new church space and parish hall. Further information - Fr. Chris or Martin Pendergast, SJPC Secretary, c/o St. Joseph's or e-mail/phone - martinjpendergast@gmail.com / 020 8986 0807.



The Cardinal Hume Quiet Garden is closed until Easter 2023.

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.**

ST. JOSEPH'S - A community generous in its giving - Planned-giving envelopes are available along with Gift Aid and Standing Order forms for those who would like to give to the parish in this way, PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE NOW CHANGED TO ONLINE GIVING. **WHY NOT MAKE THIS A NEW COMMITMENT TO THE PARISH ?**

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.

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](tel:02083488212) - <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 - Hackney & Islington Citizens. 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 & Olivia Blanning** are Islington Citizens Organisers - Olivia: 0739 958 4866 Olivia.Blanning@citizensuk.org OR Froilan.Legaspi@citizensuk.org - 0793 956 5863 - **ARE YOU WORRIED ABOUT ENERGY AND COSTS OF LIVING AS WINTER BITES IN ? IF YOU ARE A COUNCIL TENANT WITH CENTRALLY-CONTROLLED HEATING, IS THIS SWITCHED OFF FROM 11.00-16.00 ? HAVING PROBLEMS WITH PRE-PAYMENT METERS? WE CAN HELP WITH ACCESSING EMERGENCY GRANTS. CONTACT MARTIN FOR MORE INFORMATION - 020 8986 0807**



The Government's so-called National Living Wage 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 2021/22 London Living Wage is £11.95; outside London - £10.90.** <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, and many other local businesses, are all Living Wage Employers.

Carmel-in-the-City - Check out the website for details - **NEXT GATHERING: SATURDAY, 4 MARCH 2023** - 11.30, Quiet Prayer; **12.00 NOON Mass - Afternoon Session:** ends at 15.30 following a brief session of **Lectio Divina**., Newsletters and the Programme for 2022: www.carmelinthecity.org.uk - Details from Sylvia Lucas: **0788 943 6165** sylvia_lucas@btinternet.com

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 **First Communions will be celebrated on Sundays, 11 & 18 June 2023.**

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



CELEBRATING THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY, 12.45, THURSDAY, 19 JANUARY 2023, WESLEY'S CHAPEL, 49 CITY ROAD EC1Y 1AU.
The Preacher was the Revd. Richard Brunt, Jewin Welsh Church, who gave an excellent sermon.
The Service can be watched here : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ic1jZrac9Hk>

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

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 17 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
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 5 March 2023 - Deadline for information, events: 2/03/2023