

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/>

Clergy:

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JANUARY 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 December Reflection from Fr. Chris:** "My dear friends, as we embark on this new Year of Our Lord, Anno Domini 2023, we do so with hope in our hearts. Someone much wiser than me (which isn't hard) once said, "look back with thanksgiving; look forward with courage". And so we do. This last year has been an extraordinary year of grace in so many ways, with so many reasons to be thankful: as a worldwide Church and in our own little parish of St Joseph's, along with our sister church of St Mary Moorfields, we took our first steps on the Synodal Pathway mapped out for us by Pope Francis, sharing with each other our experiences of life and of faith, and our hopes and dreams for the kind of Church God calls us to be, and sharing this journey with our local ecumenical friends and members of the Carmel in the City community. But there is still more to be thankful for; our beautiful celebrations of Holy Week and Easter, welcoming Fr. Jack at St Giles to our Ecumenical Partnership, the First Holy Communion Masses for twelve of our children, a wonderful joint-parish celebration of my Silver Jubilee of Ordination, memorable pilgrimages to Lourdes and Aylesford, and so many other highlights in our life together as a parish family. But with the joy there was also pain. Back in October we said goodbye to one of our longest-serving parishioners, Lil Fitzpatrick. Her Funeral Mass was testament to the love which so many people had for her, and as our prayers rise up for her, so our love extends to all her family and friends. Personally, I thank God for giving us the gift of Lil.

As I thank God for her, so at the dawn of this year I want to thank all those who bring so much to our parish family: to our Altar Servers, James, Michelle, Sebastian, Lewis and Simon: to our new Organist, Elizabeth, and to John and Sylvia too: to our lead singers, Rosaline, Christine and Jennylyn: to our Readers: to Christine for our pristine Altar linens: to Len for keeping us on our toes with our support for CAFOD: to our Childrens Liturgy leaders and Catechists, Jennylyn, Elizabeth, Maria and Sue: to our Caritas representative, Suzanna: to our hard-working church cleaners: to our children for their expert bulb-planting: to our Parish Safeguarding Representatives, Ray and Una: to our Parish Pastoral Council, and to our Parish Finance Committee, Esther, Steve, Tom and Tomas: to those who take up the collection at Mass: to Maureen and Sylvia and the praying community of Carmel in the City: to Martin for

all that he does for us up front and behind the scenes: and to all of you – for your faithfulness, your prayer, and your service. For all of us, a special blessing as we journey together into all that this New Year will bring:

May the Lord bless us and keep us.

May his face shine upon us and be gracious to us.

May he look upon us with kindness and give us his peace.

And may almighty God bless us, and all those we love and serve, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



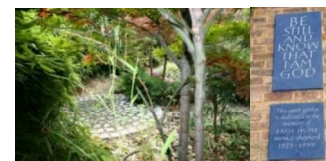
### OUR SYNODAL PATHWAY CONTINUES

**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 now enter 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>

**St. Joseph's Pastoral Council (SJPC)** met, 13 October 2022, when we considered some action-points from our own Synodal Listening Process. The Minutes will be available shortly on the Porch Noticeboard. **WATCH THIS SPACE FOR EXCITING NEWS ABOUT ST. JOSEPH'S FUTURE PLANS !!** 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.



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, & 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.**

**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 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.

**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, 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](http://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](mailto:Olivia.Blanning@citizensuk.org) OR [Froilan.Legaspi@citizensuk.org](mailto: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 FEBRUARY 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](http://www.carmelinthecity.org.uk) - Details from Sylvia Lucas: **0788 943 6165** [sylvia\\_lucas@btinternet.com](mailto:sylvia_lucas@btinternet.com)

**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 ...



**CELEBRATING THE WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY, 12.45, THURSDAY, 19 JANUARY 2023, WESLEY'S CHAPEL, 49 CITY ROAD EC1Y 1AU.**

[www.stgilescripplegate.com](http://www.stgilescripplegate.com) + [www.wesleyschapel.org.uk](http://www.wesleyschapel.org.uk) + [www.capeljewin.org](http://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](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 5 February 2023 - Deadline for information, events: 2/02/2023**