

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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**MARCH 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 Fr. Chris:** Dear friends, as we journey through Lent towards another joyous Easter, let us :

Fast from judging others; feast on the Christ within them.

Fast from emphasis on difference; feast on the unity of life.

Fast from apparent darkness; feast on the reality of light.

Fast from thoughts of illness; feast on the healing power of God.

Fast from words that pollute; feast on phrases that purify.

Fast from discontent; feast on gratitude.

Fast from anger; feast on patience.

Fast from pessimism; feast on optimism.

Fast from complaining; feast on appreciation.

Fast from worry; feast on trust in God's Care.

Fast from unrelenting pressure; feast on unceasing prayer.

Fast from facts that depress; feast on verities that uplift.

Fast from lethargy; feast on enthusiasm.

Fast from thoughts that weaken; feast on promises that inspire.

Fast from shadows of sorrow; feast on the sunlight of serenity.

Fast from problems that overwhelm; feast on prayer that undergirds.

Fast from bitterness; feast on forgiveness.

Fast from self-concern; feast on compassion for others.

Fast from personal anxiety; feast on eternal truth.

Fast from discouragements; feast on hope.

*William Arthur Ward - American author, teacher and pastor, 1921-1994*

**Let's give it a try!**

**FRIDAYS IN LENT, BEGINNING 3 March, 18.00, The Way of the Cross, followed at 18.30 :**

**LENTEN REFLECTIONS & SHARING IN THE HALL**

**ENLARGING THE SPACE OF OUR TENT (Isaiah 54: 2)**

During our 2021-2022 Synodal Listening sessions many parishioners asked for gatherings to help us grow in faith. This Lent faith-sharing opportunity takes up the Synodal Theme of journeying-together and is an invitation to reflect with fellow-Christians on issues which are at the heart of the finding God's reign in 2023: **poverty**, the impact of **the cost of living**, **homelessness**, **racial justice**, the **care of creation**, the welcome we extend to **migrants and refugees**, and **peace-making**.

**ALL ARE WELCOME !**

**CHURCHES IN EC1/EC2 - LENT & HOLY WEEK 2023**

**11 March, 10.00 (refreshments) for 10.30, St. Giles Cripplegate, Fore Street, Barbican EC2Y 8DA**

**18 March, 10.00 (refreshments) for 10.30, Jewin Welsh Church, 70 Fann Street EC1Y 0SA**

**WEDNESDAY, 5 APRIL 2023, 20.30,**

**ST. GILES CRIPPLEGATE - ECUMENICAL TENEBRAE**



**ALL ARE WELCOME !**



### **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/> **The Vatican's Synod Office**

**has this link to the Prague Assembly :** <https://prague.synod2023.org/en/>

**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 phone/e-mail - 020 8986 0807

[martinjpendergast@gmail.com](mailto:martinjpendergast@gmail.com)



**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** - <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, 1 APRIL 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 2023: [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 .....** **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 ...



[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 2 April 2023 - Deadline for information, events: 30/03/2023**