



Joseph of the House of David



Mary, Mother of the City



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**CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE :** <https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/bunhillrow/>

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**APRIL 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 Reflection from Canon Stuart:** I read recently a greeting sent from the Vatican to the People who follow the teaching of Shree Vardhaman Mahavir and are celebrating the 2631 anniversary of his birth. These believers are called Jains. At the heart of the message there was this greeting: ***May this festive commemoration bring happiness and peace to your hearts and homes, and bless your families and communities with a spirit of unity and solidarity!*** I found this a lovely greeting and so appropriate for us Catholic Christians to hear as we come through Holy Week and into Eastertide. At the heart of our faith is Community. The story of Good Friday is a challenge to me in many ways not least in recalling that at the Cross of Jesus were simply Mary his beloved Mother and John his beloved disciple. The community had dispersed. Wonderfully the story did not end there! With the Resurrection, the community is formed anew. In that Easter Upper Room, the Resurrected Jesus appears to the disciples who are gathered in a renewed spirit of unity and community. On the road to Emmaus, the Resurrected Lord opens up the Scriptures and breaks the Bread to the Resurrection Community. The Acts of the Apostles is full of this good news story. People and yes, whole families, become followers having received into their lives the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of unity and solidarity. It will be a joy for us to see 4 new members join our Community of Unity and Solidarity. Please pray for Alexa, Arron, Hendrick and Marty. As last year some of our new Catholics are joining us with a partner who is already a Catholic and wants to share that faith with them. There is no doubt that family life is a vital element in our faith community. It is a joy to see a growing community in our church and that growth is strengthened by strong and faithful families. As the Vatican Letter goes on to say, ***“we consider it helpful to share with you some thoughts on the need for Christians and Jains alike to stand in solidarity with suffering humanity and be both a sign of hope and a source of help.”*** By their very existence families and Christian communities express to the world at large a solidarity and a desire for the whole world to stand together in peace, hope and love. As the Book of Joshua beautifully proclaims “as for me and my household we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15) I join with Fr Chris and Abbot Christopher in wishing our wonderfully united and strong Resurrection Community. a very Happy Easter !

## HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2023

WEDNESDAY, 5 APRIL 2023, 20.30,

### ST. GILES CRIPPLEGATE - CANDLELIGHT ECUMENICAL TENEBRAE OF MUSIC & READINGS



ALL ARE WELCOME!

ST. JOSEPH'S, 6 APRIL, MAUNDY THURSDAY, MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER, 19.30.

GOOD FRIDAY, 7 APRIL, CHILDREN'S WAY OF THE CROSS, 11.00.

ST. JOSEPH'S & ST. MARY MOORFIELDS PASSION LITURGY, 15.00, AT ST. MARY MOORFIELDS, 4-5 ELDON STREET, EC2M 7LS; ST. JOSEPH'S, THE WAY OF THE CROSS,

18.00 HOLY SATURDAY, 8 APRIL, ST. JOSEPH'S & ST. MARY MOORFIELDS SOLEMN

EASTER VIGIL WITH BAPTISMS & CONFIRMATIONS, 19.30, AT ST. JOSEPH'S.

EASTER SUNDAY, 9 APRIL, MASS WITH RENEWAL OF BAPTISMAL PROMISES, 11.30.

**Thursday, 20 April** - Westminster Cathedral Guided Tour & Reception at the invitation of the Friends of the Cathedral, gathering at the main entrance after 5:30pm Mass. Please sign-up if you would like to attend this special event by **Thursday, 13 April 2023**.

### 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,,phone/e-mail - 020 8986 0807 [martinjpendergast@gmail.com](mailto:martinjpendergast@gmail.com)



The Cardinal Hume Quiet Garden is open from Easter - October 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, 13 MAY 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.

**THIS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT, SIGNED BY EACH OF OUR CLERGY, IS NOW DISPLAYED IN ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH**

**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 7 May 2023 - Deadline for information, events: 04/04/2023**