

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



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

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**JULY 2023
NEWSLETTER**

A Reflection from Canon Stuart - Some Definite Service

It was an amazing sight at our Cathedral in Westminster on Saturday 24 June 2023. It was the feast of the Nativity of St John the Baptist and it was also the day on which Cardinal Vincent ordained five men to the Sacred Priesthood. It was great to see them go through the amazing ritual of Priestly Ordination. Arriving in their deacons' robes they went through various rituals: they made promises, they swore oaths, but above all they bowed their heads so that the Cardinal and the priests present could lay hands on their heads and in silence invoke the Holy Spirit.

Through this sacred action, the Cardinal "handed on" the heaven authority for each of our new priests to act in the name of Jesus as they begin a ministry of consecrating; anointing; blessing; absolving; ministering mercy to the Holy People of God.

Before Saturday, each of our new priests could only have imagined what it would be like to be a priest but the next day they discovered the reality of it all. Each priest returned to the community which nurtured them and celebrated the Mass for the first time. I had the privilege of being at one of these masses and I can tell you that there was an excitement and joy expressed by the people present. However, I should not be surprised for the day before at the Cathedral the new priests walked through the crowd and it was as if they were pop-stars. Cheering, clapping; smiling and a sense of deep joy.

So, the Catholic Church and its Diocese of Westminster has five new Priests: Fr Marco; Fr Francis; Fr. John; Fr Juan Sola and Fr Patrick. Praise the Lord!

In our parish, your priests are little older but I promise you we are not set in our ways. The excitement that Fr Chris and I experienced on Saturday inspired us. It left us with three achievements to work for:

- Stay spiritually youthful and excited by the challenge of ministry
- Work towards finding more priestly vocations.
- Encourage every person in our community to understand that God is calling them to do some special service.

So let us encourage you dear people with some lovely words of St John Henry Newman: "God has created me to do Him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission." Lord help us know what you want us to do!

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.



The Joint St. Joseph's / St. Mary Moorfields Pilgrimage to Aylesford, Saturday, 10 June 2023,

OUR SYNODAL PATHWAY CONTINUES – this is how we got to NOW:

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/>

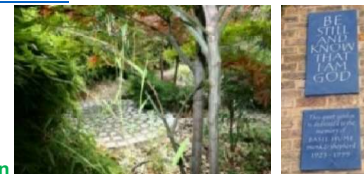
The European Continental Phase was completed with the Prague Assembly, 5-12 February 2023 (the Working Document for this stage is available here in different languages:

<https://www.synod.va/en/highlights/working-document-for-the-continental-stage.html> **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/> **The Final Report is here:**

https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/common/phases/continental-stage/final_document/Europa_IT_ENG.pdf **The Working Document** for the Synod Assembly in Rome, October 2023, was published 21 June 2023: <https://www.synod.va/en/news/instrumentum-laboris-a-document-of-the-whole-church.html> **For the first time** in centuries, not only bishops but 70 lay people, including 35 women, will now take part and have a vote.

Farm Street Jesuit Church has a useful Synod Page on its website: <https://www.farmstreet.org.uk/synod-on-synodality>

St. Joseph's Pastoral Council (SJPC) met, 16 June 2023. Our first **OPEN PARISH CONVERSATION**, was held after Mass, **Sunday, 25 June 2023**, with a Bring-&-Share Lunch and around 40 people taking part - **new voices and new ideas** ! The latest SJPC Minutes are on the Porch Noticeboard. **We are beginning to consider exciting plans for a new church space and parish hall – see initial designs and plans.** Further information - Fr. Chris or Martin Pendergast, SJPC Secretary, phone/e-mail - 020 8986 0807 martinpendergast@gmail.com



The Cardinal Hume Quiet Garden open from Easter - October 2023
Many thanks to all those who are helping keep the Garden open. Look out for our froglets !

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.

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 - CAFOD LENT FAST DONATIONS = £455.00
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 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/>

Through the work of **Caritas Westminster WE CAN HELP WITH ACCESSING EMERGENCY GRANTS** to help with Cost of Living and other needs. This overlaps to some extent with what we do in **ISLINGTON CITIZENS** - www.londoncitizens.org.uk - We are a member-institution of Citizens UK - Islington & North London 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 - **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, 2 SEPTEMBER 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 - 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**

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
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 - <https://www.london-city-churches.org.uk/cityevents.html>

The Friends of the City Churches' volunteer Church Watchers usually help to keep City churches open to visitors and worshippers on a regular basis.



STOP PRESS - CAN YOU HELP? Blessed Sacrament, Copenhagen Street Foodbank. N1 0SR. Like so many foodbanks, our clientele and expenses have been escalating. We serve over 120 households each week. We depend totally on volunteers. The foodbank is open on Thursdays from 13:00 - 15:30. There are two shifts for volunteers: 9:30 - noon to pack and prepare; 12:30 - 4:00 to serve and clear up. Although we have to do a lot of purchasing, we rely on donations of needed items. Volunteers could collect and deliver such items to us. Financial donations are welcome and can be deposited directly into our bank account. - Copenhagen Street Foodbank, Lloyds Bank, Sort Code: 30-98-97, Account number: 54929762
Email Contact: copenhagenstreetfoodbank@gmail.com

Next St. Joseph's Newsletter due 6 August 2023 - Deadline for information, events: 3/08/2023