

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/>

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 - The church is open for personal prayer.

Clergy: Fr. Chris Vipers, Canon Stuart Wilson

Parish Administrator - Ingrid Bowie

St Mary Moorfields, 4 - 5 Eldon St.

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NOVEMBER 2023  
NEWSLETTER

**A Reflection from Fr. Chris:** Dear friends, I have recently attended three very different but equally beautiful funeral liturgies; for Fr Dominic McKenna at his parish in Borehamwood, for Fr. Francis Kemsley O.Carm. at Aylesford Priory, and for Bishop Keith Rignlin (the husband of the Superintendent Minister there, Revd. Canon Jennifer Smith) at Wesley's Chapel.

At each celebration it was so clear that the funeral liturgy was **for** them, not **about** them. Because each one was not so much a "celebration of life" but a celebration of the eternal life which they are now living to the full and which each of us are learning to live here on earth. Each funeral was a loud and proud celebration of our Easter Faith.

November is known as the Month of the Holy Souls but it begins with the great celebration of All Saints' Day. I love that these two celebrations merge into one. In our stories we have all got our own saints, and not just those recognized and canonized. And that reminds us that we can be – and are - saints for others too.

We have to acknowledge, though, that in all the celebrating of great lives lived and the eternal life we share, the pain of grief and loss doesn't disappear. Losing a baby, a child, a parent, a partner, a friend, can be felt for a lifetime. Perhaps we should make space here at St Joseph's to walk with each other in our grief, to share our stories and memories, to help each other journey in faith. I would love us to plan a moment for this during this month of November. Please let me know if **you** would find this helpful. But for now, let me share some beautiful words I found on a prayer card:

*Walking with grief*

*Do not hurry as you walk with grief;  
it does not help the journey.*

*Walk slowly, pausing often:*

*do not hurry as you walk with grief.*

*Be not disturbed by memories that come unbidden.*

*Swiftly forgive; and let Christ speak for you unspoken words.  
Unfinished conversation will be resolved in Him.*

*Be not disturbed.*

*Be gentle with the one who walks with grief.*

*If it is you, be gentle with yourself.*

*Swiftly forgive; walk slowly, pausing often.*

*Take time, be gentle as you walk with grief.*



**OUR SYNODAL PATHWAY CONTINUES –** The October 2023 Synod Assembly in Rome ended, 29 October 2023, not with a Final Report but with a summary of all the round-table discernment and reflection, offering us a road-map towards a 2<sup>nd</sup> Synod Assembly, October 2024. This gives us the foundations to consider more practical proposals such as the ordination of women in the permanent diaconate, a globally more welcoming ministry with LGBT+ Catholics such as we have in Westminster Diocese, the possibilities of occasional sharing the Eucharist with other Christians, among many other considerations. The Synod's 2023 Synthesis can be found here:

[https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/assembly/synthesis/english/2023.10.28-ENG-Synthesis-Report\\_IMP.pdf](https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/assembly/synthesis/english/2023.10.28-ENG-Synthesis-Report_IMP.pdf)

**Farm Street Jesuit Church has a useful Synod Page on its website:**

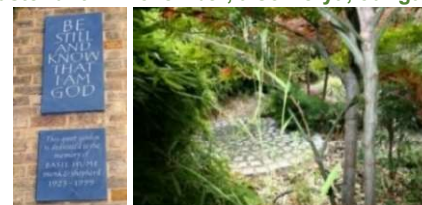
<https://www.farmstreet.org.uk/synod-on-synodality>

**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 ! A Full Report coming shortly ...**

The latest St. Joseph's Pastoral Council 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 – [martinjpendergast@gmail.com](mailto:martinjpendergast@gmail.com)

**St. Joseph's Quiet Garden is now closed until Easter 2024. We are grateful to Richard Drennan for opening it regularly from Easter until 1 November, also Derya, our gardener, who tends it carefully.**



**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, & 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 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** or **Martin** 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 [migrantsupport@aol.com](mailto:migrantsupport@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, welcomes 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/> 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](http://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](mailto:Olivia.Blanning@citizensuk.org) OR [Froilan.Legaspi@citizensuk.org](mailto:Froilan.Legaspi@citizensuk.org) - 0793 956 5863 - **CONTACT MARTIN FOR MORE INFORMATION - 020 8986 0807**

**A message from Matthew Bolton, CEO, Citizens UK:**

"As Citizens UK, we wanted to reach out to all our members at this painful and deeply worrying time. We are horrified by the escalating violence and tragic loss of life in Israel and Gaza. We are sending strength and solidarity to all our friends, colleagues and members who have family and loved ones affected at this time. This conflict poses challenges to community relations here in the UK. We are heartened by the support shown to and between communities but know that there are real differences, and that people within and between communities hold a wide range of views. As Citizens UK we are committed to building diverse alliances who work together on issues of common concern, building a spirit of trust and solidarity.

Over the last few days, we have seen this in action: On 18 October, **Nottingham Citizens** gathered 100 people from 30 diverse communities. The assembly was opened with an interfaith reflection from Karen Worth from Nottingham Liberal Synagogue and Sajid Mohamed from the Muslim social action project Himmah. They spoke about the establishment 10 years ago of SaSH (Salaam Shalom) Kitchen, an interfaith space for food and connection for Nottingham's most vulnerable, and why the work of Citizens UK was so important at this difficult time. Karen Worth from Nottingham Liberal Synagogue said: *'Relationships are really important at this difficult time, and we stand together in devastation and heartbreak about what is going on in the Middle East... Our message is that our relationships transcend that... and we won't stand for any increase in antisemitism or Islamophobia in our city.'* **London Citizens** brought together 300 people on 17 October, from diverse communities across the capital, to discuss and agree on the social justice priorities they collectively wanted in our London Citizens manifesto to take to the upcoming elections for Mayor of London. Sufia Alam from the East London Mosque & London Muslim Centre said: *'It is important that we are not divided when times are hard but we exert ourselves to work cohesively for the greater good of the communities we serve changing lives for a better society.'*

**Essex Citizens** gathered 164 people in Southend on 16 October and held 1,000 face-to-face, one-to-one conversations, exploring their differences and commonalities - and how they could organise together to change their city. This is part of an action-learning process at Citizens UK to strengthen our practice in organising across differences. Ershad, a resident of Southend and participant at the event said: *'I noticed how people looked at each other before and after the conversations. Distrust turned to trust, disconnection changed to connection, alienation changed to familiarity and friendship.'* Over the coming weeks, it is even more important that we work together on issues of common concern here in the UK. One campaign that has united diverse communities in Citizens UK is that of refugee welcome and community sponsorship. It was always our strategy with community sponsorship and the recent Communities for Ukraine scheme that these safe and welcoming routes would be offered to all refugees from future conflicts. We have been working with the Government to open up community sponsorship to new groups of refugees and we are close to launching a new scheme called Communities for Afghanistan. We will continue to push for community sponsorship to be a route for all refugees including those from this humanitarian crisis. Please be in touch with your Organiser and Leadership Group with questions and ideas for how we can strengthen community relationships and continue to work for the common good so these can be shared across our network."

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 £13.15;** outside London - **£12.00.** <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 DECEMBER 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 .....**

**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** - <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.



**Next St. Joseph's Newsletter due 3 December 2023 - Deadline for information, events: 30/11/2023**