

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

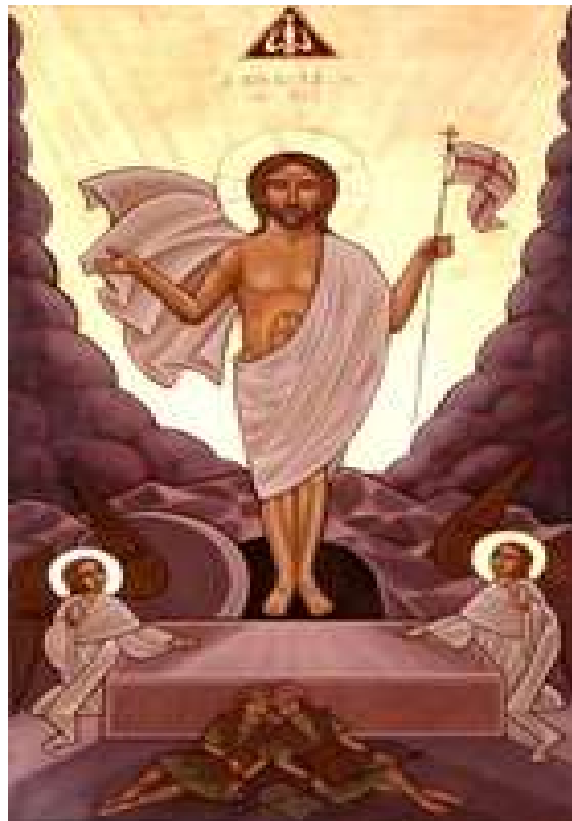
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**APRIL 2024
NEWSLETTER**



Christ is risen – Risen indeed, alleluia!

An Easter message from Fr. Chris : Dear friends, what a beautiful Lent, Holy Week and Easter we have kept this year. I want to thank everyone who has helped make it so special in so many different ways, a

real experience of our parish family journeying together to the Cross, the Empty Tomb and beyond. A very special highlight for me was early on in Lent, the First Sunday of Lent, in fact, Sunday 18th February, when we celebrated our Mass in the hall, sitting in groups, listening to the Word of God and then to each other as we shared our thoughts and reflections on the church in this place, our life as a parish community and our mission to our neighbourhood. Some great things were shared that day, and I am so grateful for the generous way everyone responded. There's a lot of wisdom at St Joseph's! Now is the time to start thinking about how to put our ideas into action, how we can respond to God's promptings, how maybe we can offer our own time and talents to make some of our dreams a reality. We will be exploring this further in the coming months, so watch this space, and perhaps ask yourself, "is there more of myself I can give, is there more I can be, is there more I can bring?". Let's let the joy of Easter open new doors, new possibilities, new opportunities to love and serve our parish and our wider world. Let's bring St Joseph's alive again!

With huge thanks from Canon Stuart and me for your gifts and greetings this Eastertime, and the assurance of our prayers for each one of you.



OUR SYNODAL PATHWAY CONTINUES

The October 2023 Synod Assembly in Rome ended, not with a Final Report but with a summary of all the round-table discernment and reflection, offering us a road-map towards a 2nd 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 October 2023 Synthesis Report can be found here:

https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/assembly/synthesis/english/2023.10.28-ENG-Synthesis-Report_IMP.pdf

We now have more Vatican Synod Office suggestions as to how to move towards the next Synodal Assembly in Rome, in October 2024: Westminster Diocese :

<https://rcdow.org.uk/synod/>

<https://www.synod.va/en/news/how-to-be-a-synodal-church-in-mission.html>

https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/news/2023-12-12_towards-2024/ENG_Document_TOWARDS-OCTOBER-2024_XVI_II-Session.pdf

https://www.synod.va/content/dam/synod/news/2023-12-12_towards-2024/ENG-Worksheet.pdf

The School for Synodality offers helpful resources : <http://www.schoolforsynodality.org.uk/>

International Catholic Women - <https://wucwo.org/index.php/en/training/formation/2123-wucwo-s-school-for-synodality>

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) last met, 27 February 2024. Our **2nd OPEN PARISH MEETING & CONVERSATION**, was held after Mass, **Sunday, 17 December 2023**, with a Bring-&-Share Lunch and around 40 people taking part again - **new voices and new ideas ! A Full Report from December 2023 is now available in the Church Porch ... We gathered again for a Synodal Listening Mass, 18 February 2024.** From this, a Synthesis of our Response to Westminster Diocese's Synodal process was sent in March 2024 and was included in St. Joseph's March 2024 Newsletter - **see website** The date of the next Parish Open Conversation – **tbc**

The latest St. Joseph's Pastoral Council Minutes are also 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

St. Joseph's Quiet Garden is now usually open until the end of October 2024
Mondays-Fridays, 10.00-17.00, 1st Saturdays & Sunday mornings.



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 - 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 & 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** 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 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, 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 - 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. **Do join our next North London Citizens meeting on Wednesday 10th April, 4pm - 5pm as we discuss:** Updates from campaign teams + Plans for MP engagement (https://citizensuk.contentfiles.net/media/documents/23_09_21_CitizensUK_CitizensAgenda.pdf) + Plans for growing North London Citizens - **ZOOM** - 10 April 2024 16:00-17:00. <https://cuk.zoom.us/j/97987166323?pwd=SG9PQWh4TXFwZmVVSks5ZVlkTkZxZz09>

London Citizens Mayoral Accountability Assembly 2024 - Thursday 25th April, arrival for 6pm, start at 18:30-20.00, Methodist Central Hall, Westminster ([map](#)) **Register** to secure your spot at the biggest event in the run-up to the London Mayoral election! Tickets are in high demand, so please do register asap - www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/823784851667/?discount=NLC11ind **NB Please note that each ticket needs to be registered individually. Agenda: 1. Living Wage:** Ensure all in our city benefit from a real Living Wage and Living Hours by influencing key sectors and using the powers of the Greater London Assembly. **2. Housing:** Address the dire need for affordable, safe, and sustainable housing to foster a sense of security and belonging among residents, through building more Community Land Trust homes, tackling rogue landlords, and quicker repairs and retrofit in social housing. **3. Migrants and Refugees:** Provide asylum seekers access to free bus travel, support ESOL through publicity campaigns, an annual

ESOL day with the Deputy Mayor for Skills and funding for childcare, and support our national campaign on fair pathways to Citizenship. **London Citizens Accountability Assemblies** started in 2000, when the role of Mayor of London was first created. Since then, everyday Londoners like you have made a London Living Wage a mainstream idea, won support for our neighbours with insecure immigration status, genuinely affordable Community Land Trust homes, and many more important social justice victories.

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. **The REAL 2023/24 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 - Newsletters and 2024 Programme :

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 & Leysian Mission.

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 IS NOW DISPLAYED IN ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH.

CITY EVENTS - The Friends of City Churches - <https://www.london-city-churches.org.uk/cityevents.html>



Next St. Joseph's Newsletter due 5 May 2024 - Deadline for information, events: 02/05/2024