



Joseph of the House of David



*Our Church Entrance
Icons by Stephane Rene*



Mary, Mother of the City

Masses at St. Joseph's:

Sunday, 11.30. Wednesday, 12.05; Holydays: 12.05 & 19.00

On 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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NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER



FROM CANON STUART - Adieu not Goodbye!

It is my last article for this Newsletter! It all seems a little unreal but the calendar tells me that I arrived here 3 years ago on 16th October 2021. It also tells me I am celebrating a farewell Mass on 1st November 2024! These three years have been amazing and I have loved every moment of living in and around the "City"! Let me list some of my special loved moments. I love making the journey to St Joseph's Bunhill Row and I love arriving and stepping down into the holy space. The below ground church is special to me. I like its atmosphere and its sense of holiness. To see the candles burning and know that all of them are prayers of love for someone. I am so glad to be part of the otherness; part of the special spirituality. I love seeing the people gather. From a little one in a pushchair to a senior one "on wheels"! I am not forgetting of course the many others in-between. Rarely a week goes by without a new face is smiling at you and saying hello. It is a dynamic community, a loving community and a growing community. I love hearing our community make music. Aably lead by Martin most weeks, but also backed up by our terrific organists and individual songsters. An all-round effort, which is lovely to be part of. I must not

forget all those who step up to read from the youngsters standing on the red stool to the not so young steadying themselves on the lectern. I am convinced that everyone is reading out of love for the Word of the Lord. I love the involvement that our church has in the local community. I love to hear Our Lady, Mary referred to as "Mother of the City." I love the fact that Waitrose and the adjacent shops, cafes and market stalls are just round the corner! I have a special love for all of this because it was this shopping area that first brought me down Whitecross Street in 1982. In those days, the store was Safeway's but everything was almost the same. I had just moved into Shepherdess Walk off City Road and I came investigating. As I wandered around, I began to stroll a little farther and guess what I discovered? Yes the offices of the Catholic Herald and our lovely below ground church. Most Saturdays I came to pray until I left to become a member of the Catholic Church at St Monica's in Hoxton Square. Blessed be God.

So saying goodbye is filled with lovely memories as well as present joys. However, it's not goodbye is it? It is adieu which I think means: "I commit you to God." My guess is that I might be back on occasions. After all, I have been coming here for 42 years. God bless you all and bind you together in love and fellowship. Adieu!

Stuart

TO HONOUR IS AN HONOUR !



Sylvia Lucas & Len Matthews were both awarded the **Westminster Diocese Medal** for their services to education in and beyond Westminster Diocese. Sylvia also founded the Carmelite Spirituality Group, **Carmel-in-the-City**, based at St. Joseph's, and was also a founder-member of Shoreditch, now **Islington Citizens**. Len, already a Knight of St. Gregory, has also been a **CAFOD volunteer** for decades, as well as a volunteer at the homeless charity, **The Passage**, and also involved with Citizens' activities. They were presented with medals during the parish Mass, 3 November 2024 - as the medal says: **Laudate Dominum !**



**The 2021-2024 Synod of the Church concluded, 27 October 2024.
The official English translation of the Final Report is not yet available.**

<https://www.synod.va/en.html>

If we were to ask the Church: "What is your name?", it would not hesitate to answer: "Synod!" We did not discover it, nor did Pope Francis in a speech way back in 2015, but more than 1600 years ago the holy theologian John Chrysostom wrote it: "**Church and Synod are synonymous**". It was a revolutionary gesture of Pope Francis, that there will be no post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation (that is, the document with which the Pontiff makes definitive decisions on the issues that emerged during the Synod of Bishops, a consultative and not decision-making body). Giving the final word to the Final Document approved by the Synodal Assembly means that we are the Magisterium, when we assume the responsibility that every baptized person has to make Christ present in the world, according to the freedom of the voices that in these years we have raised - and we will continue not to be silent, for the love of all

the people of God - so that what has been decided does not remain on a shelf gathering dust, but can become the key to opening many doors that are still closed.

WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FURTHER FOLLOW-UP !

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>

Root & Branch Synod - <https://www.rootandbranchsynod.org/openhearts>

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) next meeting - **date to be confirmed**. The latest Minutes are on the Porch Noticeboard. We continue to consider exciting plans for a new church space and parish hall – see initial designs and plans. Further information from Fr. Chris or Martin Pendergast, SJPC Secretary on 020 8986 0807 or martinjpendergast@gmail.com



St. Joseph's Quiet Garden is open from Easter - the end of October Mondays-Fridays, 10.00-17.00, 1st Saturdays, Sunday mornings. Why not drop in and rest awhile ?

Carmel-in-the-City - Check out the website for details - Newsletters and 2024 Programme : www.carmelinthecity.org.uk Or contact 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. 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 if you wish to prepare for **Marriage**, please speak to Fr. Chris.

WE WELCOME MORE PEOPLE TO JOIN THE READERS' ROTA
at Saturday & Sunday Masses and on other occasions.
PLEASE SPEAK TO MARTIN OR FR. CHRIS IF YOU CAN HELP

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 Pendergast** after Sunday Mass. Please contact Martin for more details - 020 8986 0807.

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.

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 ?

ISLINGTON CITIZENS - St. Joseph's was a founding-member of Shoreditch Citizens which then merged into Islington & North London Citizens, part of Citizens UK. At its core is an aim to use our power to achieve

social change for the common good. We responded to street violence by enlisting over **30 safe-havens** locally, for anyone threatened and also lobbying for the real **London Living Wage**. **MORE INFORMATION:** North London & Islington Citizens Organisers: Olivia Blanning: 0739 958 4866 Olivia.Blanning@citizensuk.org or Froilan Legaspi Froilan.Legaspi@citizensuk.org - 0793 956 5863 - www.londoncitizens.org.uk **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 2024 London Living Wage** is **£13.85**; outside London - **£12.60** - <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, St. Joseph's Parish, Westminster Diocese and many local businesses, are all Living Wage Employers.

Through the work of **Caritas Westminster** **WE CAN HELP WITH ACCESSING EMERGENCY GRANTS** to help with Cost of Living and other needs. This overlaps what we do in **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.

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 Haringgay centre: Giuseppe Conlon House: 49 Mattison Rd, London N4 1BG Tel: [020 8348 8212](tel:02083488212) <https://www.londoncatholicworker.org/>



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 worship, especially during Advent, Lent, & 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 1 December 2024 - Deadline for information, events: 28/11/2024