



*Joseph of the House of David Our Church Entrance Mary, Mother of the City
Icons by Stephane Rene*

Masses at St. Joseph's:

Sunday, 11.30. Wednesday, 12.05; Holydays: 12.05

The church is open for personal prayer on Fridays, 12.00-15.00

Clergy: Fr. Jan Nowotnik , Deacon Jeremy Yates.

Parish Administrator: Ingrid Bowie

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FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER



Fr. Jan writes: During this month within our diocesan family, we say a fond farewell to Cardinal Nichols as he begins his well-earned retirement after 16 years as the pastor of this diocesan family. There is a Mass of Thanksgiving at the Cathedral on **Thursday 5 February at 17:30**, to which we are all invited and I hope that some of you will be able to attend.



On 14 February we shall welcome our new Archbishop, Richard Moth who will be installed as the Archbishop during Mass at the Cathedral. I am sure that we will keep our new Archbishop in our prayers as he begins his ministry among us. Let us pray for all the members of our diocesan family, that we will continue to grow as faithful disciples walking with each other as discern the way in which the Lord is asking us to respond to his Word and the gift of his love.

During this month on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes on the 11 February, we will celebrate the World Day of Prayer for the Sick, which will give us the opportunity to pray for those in our community and in our families who are sick, that they will feel close to the Lord in moments of trial and challenge. Cardinal Vincent will celebrate a Mass in the Cathedral on 7 February with the anointing of the Sick which gives us a focus for our prayer for the sick during this month.

Finally I am sure that we are all aware that Lent begins on Wednesday 18 February. There is time to think about what we will do as a parish for Lent and the ways in which we will try to be closer to the Lord and try to live more faithfully according to his commandment of love. I hope that this Lent will give us the chance to grow as a community as we look to the ways in which we will support our parish as we respond to our recent survey of our talents and step up now to use them. We can ask the Lord in our prayer to bless our endeavours and then do our best to respond with joyful and generous hearts.



THE SYNOD'S JOURNEY IS NOT DONE - WATCH THIS SPACE FOR FURTHER FOLLOW-UP !
Another 3-year Synodal Journey has begun, culminating in a Synod Assembly, Rome, October 2028. The Guidelines for this next phase are here :

<https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2025/07/07/0484/00885.html>

A monthly Reading Group, using the recently published, "The Future of Synodality", takes place, 10.00 (Refreshments) for 10.30 -12.00, Saturday 28 February 2026, The London Jesuit Centre, 114 Mount Street, London W1K 3AH - Nearest Tube Stations: Green Park & Bond Street. Registration required in order to receive chapter copies: martinjpendergast@gmail.com **ALL ARE WELCOME !**

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 – Tuesday, 10 February 2026. The latest Minutes are on the Porch Noticeboard. Further information from Fr. Jan or Martin Pendergast, SJPC Secretary on 020 8986 0807 or martinjpendergast@gmail.com



St. Joseph's Quiet Garden is now closed but open from Easter until the end of October.



Carmel-in-the-City, 7 February 2026 - Check out the website for details - Newsletters and 2026 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. Jan 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. If you wish to prepare for **Marriage**, please speak to **Fr. Jan**.

Liturgy at St. Joseph's: WE NEED YOU !

WE WELCOME MORE PEOPLE TO JOIN THE READERS' ROTA

at Sunday Masses and on other occasions.

SPEAK TO MARTIN OR FR. JAN IF YOU CAN HELP

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. Jan** 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, which has now closed - £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: **Wednesday & Sunday mornings & Holydays, 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.**

HEALTH & SAFETY & SAFE-GUARDING



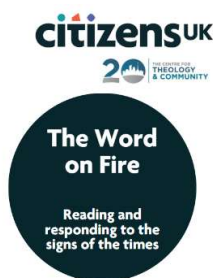
Parishioners will remember, some years ago, a fire which destroyed the Christmas Crib and was probably caused by a still-alight match left by the box of matches, and which flared up.

WHEN LIGHTING VOTIVE CANDLES, PLEASE DROP ALL PROPERLY EXTINGUISHED MATCHES IN THE NEARBY WASTE-BINS, AND PLEASE DO NOT ALLOW CHILDREN TO LIGHT CANDLES WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION

PARENTS ARE ALSO KINDLY REMINDED TO SUPERVISE CHILDREN DURING AFTER-MASS REFRESHMENTS. THEY SHOULD NOT PLAY ON THE FIRE-ESCAPE OR AROUND THE LIFT-SHAFT. UNACCOMPANIED CHILDREN ARE NOT ALLOWED TO USE THE LIFT. THE PARISH CANNOT ACCEPT RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY ACCIDENTS WHICH MIGHT OCCUR. PLEASE ALSO NOTE THAT SAFEGUARDING REGULATIONS REQUIRE PARENTS TO ACCOMPANY THEIR CHILDREN TO THE TOILETS.

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: Olivia.Blanning@citizensuk.org - 0739 958 486 or Froilan Legaspi Froilan.Legaspi@citizensuk.org - 0793 956 5863 - www.londoncitizens.org.uk **Contact Martin** for more information - 020 8986 0807



Bishop Victor Guazzelli

Great to see over 80 people gather from across England and Wales, 28 January 2026, as Citizens UK Alliances came together to build power across our Catholic parishes, schools, colleges, and communities! This marked the beginning of an ambitious journey to respond more powerfully - more prophetically - to the signs of the times; with hope, courage, and faith. Over the coming weeks and months, it was agreed to listen - with intent - to people's hopes and fears, to gather stories from across many cities and towns. We'll discern and pray, seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and we will get ready for action, as we have been doing since the mid-1990s, across Citizens UK alliances. Stories of actions were shared, demonstrating that collective power can be built and can lead to local, regional, and national changes. It was agreed to build on that.

BISHOP VICTOR GUAZZELLI FELLOWSHIP - The intention to deepen Community Organising work in, and through, Catholic institutions, was also announced. To do this, it was announced that a dedicated Fellowship will be launched - the **Bishop Victor Guazzelli Fellowship** - in memory of Bishop Victor who

was our Bishop in East London from 1976-1998, and to honour his community organising legacy. In 1981 Martin Pendergast spent 6 weeks with him experiencing the life of Basic Christian Communities in Brazil. He and Sylvia Lucas worked closely with Bishop Victor in the late 1970's & '80's. He did synodality before the word was even invented! Bishop Victor died in 2004. Citizens UK now looks forward to recruiting the first cohort of leaders in the summer!

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 2025-6 London Living Wage** is **£14.80**; outside London - **£13.45** - <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?

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 <https://westminsterjusticeandpeace.org/> & www.calaid.co.uk Contact the J&P Office at Vaughan House, Westminster or bring to St. Joseph's. The Catholic Worker Community, whom we support, welcomes volunteers. Take goods to their Harringay 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 many 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 March 2026 - Deadline for information, events: 26/02/2026