

The Catholic Parish of Carpenders Park & South Oxhey
St Joseph's Church, Oxhey Drive, Watford WD19 7SW
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www.carpenderspark.org.uk



Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A) 15 January 2023

Fr John Warnaby	Parish Priest	Tel: 0208 428 0088
Linda Grimes	Parish Administrator	Tel: 0208 428 0088
Office hours: Tuesday & Friday 9am-3pm		

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 14th January	Vigil: 2nd Sunday	6.00pm	Phil Carey
Sunday 15th January	2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time	8.30am	People of the Parish
		10.30am	Betty & Kevin Murphy
Tuesday 17th January	St Anthony, Abbot	7.00pm	Bernadette Cruickshank
Wednesday 18th January	Feria	9.15am	Thomas & Mary Joyce RIP
Thursday 19th January	Feria	9.15am	Hanan Pereira RIP
Friday 20th January	Feria	9.15am	Tom O'Connor RIP
Saturday 21st January	Vigil: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time	6.00pm	Parish volunteers

CONFESSIONS Saturday 5.30pm or see Fr John

Mass Intentions: Please leave plenty of time if you want a special date

Entrance Antiphon:	Liturgy of the Word: 15th January 2023 All the earth shall bow down before you, O God, and shall sing to you, shall sing to your name, O Most High!
Responsorial Psalm:	Here I am Lord! I come to do your will.
Gospel Acclamation:	Alleluia, alleluia! Blessings on the King who comes, in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens! Alleluia!
Next week's Readings:	Isaiah 8: 23-9:3, Psalm 26, I Corinthians 1:10-13,17 Matthew 4:12-23

This Sunday we break from our reading of Matthew's Gospel (the primary Gospel for our current liturgical cycle, Cycle A) to read from John's Gospel. We heard Matthew's account of Jesus' baptism last Sunday, on the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. Today, we hear John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus as found in John's Gospel. John's Gospel differs from the other Gospels because John does not describe Jesus' baptism by John the Baptist. Instead, John the Baptist announces that he knows that Jesus is the Son of God.

In today's reading, John the Baptist sees Jesus approaching and cries out, giving witness about who Jesus is. In John's testimony he says that he saw the Spirit descend upon Jesus. By this sign, John the Baptist knew that Jesus was the one who is to come after him.

John the Baptist uses two titles for Jesus that are familiar to us. John calls Jesus the "Lamb of God" and the "Son of God." By using these titles, John the Baptist identifies Jesus' ultimate purpose: to redeem sinful humanity.

John the Baptist's testimony about Jesus clearly distinguishes John's baptism from the Baptism that Jesus will inaugurate. John baptizes with water; Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit. John also puts his practice of baptism in the context of Jesus' ministry. The purpose of John's baptism was to make Jesus known to Israel.

John the Baptist's sense of purpose is clearly identified in the Gospel today: he baptized in order to prepare for and make known the ministry of the One who was to follow. John's witness is an excellent example of what it means to be a disciple. Through our Baptism, we are called to make Jesus known to all the world by our words and by the witness of our lives.

First Holy Communion 2023

****There will be a meeting for parents/guardians *only* on Thursday 19th January at 7pm in the parish hall****

Registration has now opened for those children in Year 3 and above who would like to make their First Holy Communion next Spring-May 2023. The course will commence in January 2023. Please collect a registration form from our catechist Donna, or Fr John after Mass.

Confirmation 2023

****There will be a meeting for parents/guardians *and* candidates on Thursday 26th January at 7pm in the parish hall**.**

Registration has also opened for students in Year 9 and above who would like to make their Confirmation next Summer-2023. The course will commence in January 2023. Please would Candidates collect in person, a registration form from our catechist Donna, or Fr John after Mass.

The most important preparation for both Sacraments is attendance at Mass. By applying for these courses it is expected that those participating express their commitment by joining the Parish community as we pray together at Mass.

Assisted Suicide

The House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee has launched an inquiry into assisted suicide and is inviting individual members of the public and interested organisations to comment, and also to suggest what actions might be helpful for the debate. The Catholic Church is clear that *we can never assist in taking the life of another, even if they request it*. All life is sacred from conception until natural death, and we reiterate our call for investment in high quality palliative care. Our call is one for assistance in living and not assistance in committing suicide.

There is a short online submission you can complete to make your views known at <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/M66AML/> **Deadline is Friday 20th January.**

See letter at the back of the church for further information, or visit bioethics.org.uk

OPALS (Older Persons Activity Learning and Safety)

Free event offering safety information, help and advice for the older person.

Friday 27 January 10am-2pm at South Oxhey Baptist Church.

All event guests will be seated and served refreshments and a free hot meal. Reps from a variety of agencies will move from table to table to give advice. It will be a social event and a great opportunity to meet other local, elderly residents.

To book contact Terry Morris on 07740 670 642 or email terry.morris@hertfordshire.gov.uk

Retrouvaille: A Programme for Couples Struggling in their Marriages

Help Your Marriage – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work.

For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 24 - 26 February 2023, or a Virtual weekend on 6 - 9 July 2023, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk



Vacancy for Administrative Assistant at St Michael's Catholic High School

See poster at the back of church for further details-it's on the side wall. Applications must be received by *midday on Wednesday 25th January* <https://www.stmichaelscatholichighschool.co.uk/170/non-teaching-vacancies>

School Places for September 2023 - St Joseph's School

Nursery-Now offering full time provision (9am-3pm). Applications for admission has opened for children born between 1 September 2019 and 31 August 2020. Apply to the school. **Deadline for applications is 24 February 2023.**

Further info can be found on the school website www.stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk under *Statutory Information > Admissions*. Alternatively, call the school office on 0208 428 5371 or email admin@stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk

Please remember all our sick parishioners in your prayers, especially

Helen Birch, Bebe Ryan and Alice Sheppard.

Offertory for Sunday 8th January 2023

Envelopes	£223.28
Loose	£374.63
Total	£597.91

Many thanks