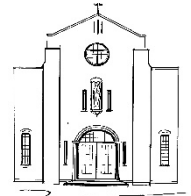
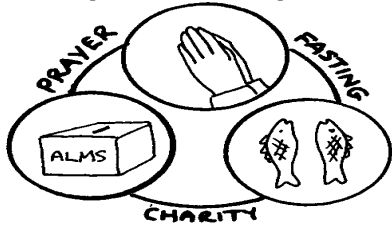


# Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2024



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## THE FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Ashes and rainbows make a strange combination. Ashes are dirty, messy, and ugly. Rainbows, on the other hand, are beautiful and inspiring. But we encounter them both at the beginning of Lent this year. On Wednesday, ashes were smudged on our foreheads as a sign of our mortality and sinfulness. Today we hear that God set a rainbow in the sky as a sign of the covenant with us. As we begin this season of Lent, let us recognize both truths: we are always in need of repentance, but God stands ever waiting to forgive us. As ashes remind us to repent of our sins, may rainbows remind us of God's eternal forgiveness.

*From "Pastoral Patterns" © 2023 World Library Publications*

### MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 17 <sup>th</sup> February		6.30pm People of the Parish
Sunday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	<b>The First Sunday Of Lent</b>	8.30am Helen Farrell RIP 11.30am Tita & Giuseppe Castiglione RIP 6.30pm Martin Murphy RIP
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> February		10.00am Grace Muscat RIP
Tuesday 20 <sup>th</sup> February		10.00am Val McGuinness – Int.
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> February		10.00am Sr Theresa RIP
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February	The Chair of St Peter	10.00am Ganna Debono RIP
Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Polycarp	10.00am Noel Doyle RIP
Saturday 24 <sup>th</sup> February		6.30pm Tim O'Connor RIP

### TODAY'S READINGS:

Genesis 9:8-15  
Psalm 24  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:12-15

### NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:

Genesis 22:1-2.9-13  
Psalm 115  
Romans 8:31-34  
Mark 9:2-10

### LIVE STREAMING FROM THE CHURCH

The live stream runs twenty-four hours a day, so you can 'visit' the Church whenever you wish. There is a link on the Parish Website and it is also accessible at <http://www.churchservices.tv/walthamcross>.

### PRAYER INTENTIONS

During Lent we are asked to pray for: Europe; Candidates for the Sacraments; Women; The Needy and Hungry of the World; Penitents and Wanderers.

**For those who are ill:** Nicola Harker, Lily Barber, Natasha Papet, Rodney Imbert, Lisa Thorogood, Tina Figueria, Iris Waters, Vera Argue, Lesley Cartwright, Patsy Joseph, Val McGuinness, Michael Verbruggen, Mary Fitzgerald, Betty Bambury, Jean Pearce,

**For those who have died recently:** Pat Deaney, Amerigo Tufano, Anna Severino,

**And for those whose Anniversaries are at this time:** Martin Murphy,

### LENTEN PRAYER AND PRACTISES

Lent begins on Wednesday. There will be Stations of the Cross in the Church each Friday morning at 10.35am, after the morning Mass, and at 7.00pm in the evening. There will also be Faith Sharing Groups meeting during Lent. They will be used on the Resource ***We Dare to Say***, a series of reflections based on five lines from the Lord's Prayer. Each session includes scripture, prayers and a reflection with questions. It is suitable for individual use as well as for groups. The booklets are available from the Parish Office, priced at £4 each. The Faith Sharing Group will meet on Thursday mornings at 11.00am in the Church.

### LENTEN ALMS

The Collection Box near the Statue of St Anthony will be used for the collection of your Lenten Alms Donations. You can also make donations on line, just put Lenten Alms as the reference. We will be using the donations to support the Broxbourne Food Bank.

Cardinal's Lenten Appeal 2024 –All Funds raised go towards projects across our Diocese. Each year, the Diocese uses donations made to support the work of its services, such as Marriage & Family Life; Youth Ministry, and Education. Funds are also used to support the work of Caritas Westminster, who work for and with some of the most vulnerable people in our Diocese. His Eminence, Cardinal Nichols, has expressed his gratitude to everyone who supports the Appeal, with whatever they can afford. So, please take a donation envelope, for more information. You can use the QR code to make your donation online. There are also copies of the Lent 2024 edition of ***"Mosaic"***, the Diocese' publication which reports on the work of Caritas in the Diocese. Thank you for your generosity.

### THANK YOU VERY MUCH

**Thank you for your last week's Offertory Collection which came to £1,016.00; plus the Regular Standing Orders**

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

On Saturday from 10.30 – 11.00am and from 5.45pm – 6.15pm.

This Parish is part of the Westminster Roman Catholic Diocese Trustee Charity No. 233699

#### **COME TO TEA!**

The Parish Centre is open every Monday afternoon for Afternoon Tea and Biscuits and a chat from 2.00pm to 3.30pm. Everyone is welcome. We even have Orange Squash for those who are too young for tea or coffee!

It is also open on a Wednesday from 1.30pm -3.00pm for Soup and Toast as well as tea, coffee or orange squash. Again, everyone is welcome. There is no need to book, just turn up and enjoy the company.

#### **200 CLUB 2024**

The Application Forms for 2024 are available as you exit the Church. The more people who join, the more is given in prizes. It's not too late to join! **Your New Numbers for this year are on the Noticeboards and also on our Website.**

#### **RCIA**

The RCIA Group meets on Monday evenings at 8.00pm in the Presbytery.

#### **SCHOOL CARETAKER – ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL**

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Waltham Cross is seeking to appoint a Caretaker to commence as soon as possible. If you are interested in this vacancy or require further information, please contact the school office on 01992 629 503 or alternatively email [schooloffice@stjosephs351.herts.sch.uk](mailto:schooloffice@stjosephs351.herts.sch.uk)

#### **CAFOD FAMILY FAST DAY**

This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give today using the envelope or online at [cafod.org.uk](http://cafod.org.uk) and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

#### **RIGHT TO LIFE**

Support an amendment to reduce the abortion law from 24 weeks to 22 weeks. Babies born prematurely at 22 weeks are thriving and there is a contradiction in the abortion law. Collect a postcard today from the back of the church and post it to your MP in support of this amendment!

#### **CARITAS ST JOSEPH'S FAMILY FORUM**

This is for anyone interested in discussing issues relating to the inclusion of people with learning disabilities. Our next event is Monday 4 March when Bernice Hardy, Co-founder of Wave (we are all valued equally) will share the story of its work to encourage more inclusive worship and social places in the heart of our communities.

#### **CARITAS SOCIAL ACTION NETWORK**

Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN) are working in partnership with St John of God Hospitaller Services to coordinate a Homes for Ukraine programme, which provides temporary housing and support for Ukrainian displaced individuals as they adjust to life in the UK. Their programme is dedicated to providing refuge for those fleeing the ongoing conflict in Ukraine and safeguarding the well-being of Ukrainians already residing in the UK. They have successfully matched 132 Ukrainian guests with generous hosts across the country since the programme's inception. Nevertheless, nearly two years since the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, the number of those still wishing to evacuate and find refuge in the UK remains high. In addition to matching hosts with guests, the project has expanded to assist Ukrainians in the UK to find private rented accommodation at the end of their hosting period. For more information please see their website:

<https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk>.

#### **VOLUNTEERING FAIR**

Caritas Volunteer Service will hold a volunteering Fair on Saturday 9 March, 3pm – 5pm, at Westminster Cathedral Hall. If you are considering volunteering and want to explore possible roles within the diocese, do come along. More details will follow here: <https://caritaswestminster.org.uk/event/volunteering-fair-2/>

#### **SUPPORT THE JRS UK LENT APPEAL**

As we fast this Lent, we remember all those who can struggle all year round to access food and warmth. Through your support, JRS UK can provide food, hardship grants and legal advice – and help restore dignity for refugee friends within a warm, loving community. Donate to the JRS UK Lent Appeal: <https://www.jrsuk.net/lent-appeal-2024/>

#### **PRAY STATIONS OF THE CROSS WITH REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS**

JRS UK has prepared its own Way of the Cross, inviting you to reflect on the experiences of refugees and forcibly displaced people in the world today, in light of the suffering that Jesus endured. Join us on Zoom as we pray Stations of the Cross this Lent on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2024. Find out more: [www.jrsuk.net/praying-with-refugees](http://www.jrsuk.net/praying-with-refugees)

#### **FR JOHN**

Fr John will be away on holiday from this (Sunday) evening until the evening of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March. Fr Tom will be here to care for the Parish

#### **TOWARDS OCTOBER 2024**

The Diocese is asking us to prepare for the next stage of the ongoing Synod. Bishops and Laypeople from around the world met in Rome for four weeks last October and considered all the submissions which had been sent in from the consultations which had been held.

Two dominant themes of the Synthesis Report from the First Session were Co-responsibility and Formation. In preparation for the next session of the Synod, which will take place in Rome this coming October, we are being asked to consider how we, as a Parish, we might better organise ourselves for the mission of spreading the Good News of God's love for the world in our local area.

The second meeting will be today, Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February, at 3.00pm in the Presbytery, to consider our response to the theme of Formation. This meeting is open to everyone.