# Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

**Sunday 19th July 2026**






**204, High Street**

Waltham Cross
Herts EN8 7DP
01992 623156

http://parish.rcdow.org.uk/walthamcross
walthamcross@rcdow.org.uk

## SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Each Sunday when we come together to worship God, we are nourished first by God's word in the readings, psalm, and Gospel and then by Christ's own body in the Eucharist. We may take both for granted, because each is available to us every Sunday, but these are gifts that are meant to be treasured. In today's Gospel, Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a great treasure buried in a field, bought by a person lucky enough to have found it. But we have our treasure right here and right now, given to us by a God of infinite generosity. May we be blessed with the wisdom to see the treasures we have in the Word and Eucharist.

*From "Pastoral Patterns" © 2026 World Library Publications*

### MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Saturday 18th July | | 6.30pm Padraig Harrington RIP |
| Sunday 19th July | **Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time** | 8.30am Thanksgiving<br>11.30am Salvatore and Francesca Solazzo<br>6.30pm People of the Parish |
| Monday 20th July | Apollinaris | 10.00am Bernard Kichakuri RIP |
| Tuesday 21st July | Lawrence | 10.00am Mary McKinney |
| Wednesday 22nd July | Mary Magdalene | 10.00am Hugh Corson RIP |
| Thursday 23rd July | Bridget of Sweden | 10.00am Samuel Easow RIP |
| Friday 24th July | Sharbel Makhluf | 10.00am Nicolina Mariconda RIP |
| Saturday 25th July | James | 6.30pm People of the Parish |

| **TODAY'S READINGS:** | **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:** |
|---|---|
| Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 | 1 Kings 3:5-6a, 7-12 |
| Psalm 86 | Psalm 119 |
| Romans 8:26-27 | Romans 8:28-30 |
| Matthew 13: 24-43 | Matthew 13:44-52 |
| CBC Missal: Page 328 | CBC Missal: Page 338 |
| CTS Missal: Page 746 | CTS Missal: Page 750 |

### 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 our-lady-of-the-immaculate-conception-and-st-joseph-waltham-cross - MCN

### PRAYER INTENTIONS

During Ordinary Time: We are asked to pray: A Deeper Understanding between Christians and Jews; Human Life; Those Who Suffer Persecution, Oppression and Denial of Human Rights; Europe; Seafarers

**For those who are ill:** Agnes Curtis, Shirley Willis, Anthony & Robert Newman, Gerard O'Malley, Mary Holmes, Tara Clarke, Gerry Robinson, Hedley Imbert, Isaac Abraham, Derek Carter, Ermelina De Freitas, Peter Jones, Medha Samabji, Geraldine Cleveland, Janina Prusiene, Maria Dos Santos, Marco Cafferelli, Lily Harker, Ignatius Fessal, Marco Avanzato, Meghan & Conor Bennett Kelly, Sue and Ian Wallace,

**For those who have died recently:** Hildegard Polat, Francesca Devizio, Antonino Digiovanna, James Lewis-Smith, Carmela Ingrao, Bernadette McCauley,

**And for those whose Anniversaries are at this time**: Bernard Kichakuri,

### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

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

### THANK YOU VERY MUCH

**Thank you for your last week's Offertory collection which came to £996.74 plus, the Regular Standing Orders.**

**If you are using Offertory Envelope No. 422, can you please come and see us in the Parish Office. Thank you.**

### SEA SUNDAY

Thank you for giving to Sea Sunday. Our Parish raised £266.61. Your generous gifts will ensure that Stella Maris chaplains can continue to be a friend for seafarers and fishers in times of need. To find out more about how your support helps those who live and work at sea, please visit www.stellamaris.org.uk.

### FUNERAL THIS WEEK

The Funeral Mass for the late Francesca Devizio will be celebrated on Thursday 23rd July at 11:30am.

### BAPTISM THIS WEEK

Sunday 26th July at 1.00pm - Edima Udom

### RELIEF CLEANER/CARETAKER FOR ST JOSEPH'S PARISH CENTRE

We need a relief cleaner/caretaker to cover for our present caretaker when he is absent. The hours are 7.30am-9.30am, Monday to Friday. It will be a zero hour contract, and you could be called upon at short notice. If you are interested, please speak to Fr John.

## There will be no singing at the 11.30am Mass until September.

**RCIA**

If you are not already a Catholic, or have been away from the Church for some time, or just did not get around to celebrating one of the Sacraments at the 'right age', or would like to discover more about the Catholic Church, then this is the Group for you! For further details, please see Fr John. The Meetings will start in September.

**CONFIRMATION PREPARATION 2026-2027**

The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated here next summer (2027). If you normally attend Mass here, and are in year Nine at secondary school, or older, you are eligible for Confirmation here at St Joseph's. If you wish to be prepared here, please come and speak to Fr John. The Preparation will start in September, so Applications need to be received back by the end of August.

**AFTERNOON TEA**

On the 1st and 3rd Monday of every month from 2.00pm – 3.30pm, Afternoon Tea is available in the Parish Centre. All are welcome.

**200 CLUB WINNERS JUNE 2026**

1st No. 16 Beatrice Nowak; 2nd No. 116 Mary Holmes; 3rd No. 60 Michael McManamin

**APF SUMMER COLLECTION**

We have started the collection for the APF. APF red box holders should find a brown envelope with their name in the box at the back of the church. Please take the envelope home, fill it with the contents of your APF box, and return it to the Parish Office next Sunday. The APF is the charity that helps Catholic missionaries to continue to work in countries across the world. We thank you for all the money you give to this important work. If you have any questions, please contact Terry O'Sullivan - thrums55@googlemail.com.

**LIVING WELL CAFE 11.00am -1.00pm**

The Living Well Café is open every Wednesday between 11.00-1.00pm. The Parish has now taken on the running of the café. The café supports a regular group of 25-30 people aged between 60-94yrs, many of whom have been bereaved and isolated, offering a safe space to connect, make friends, have simple refreshments and take part in seated exercise session. It is a lifeline for many of them. Everyone is welcome to come along.

**FREE LEGAL ADVICE**

Darren Sylvester, a Solicitor from DJS Law, will be offering a free legal advice surgery. If you would like free, independent, impartial and confidential advice, (for example) debt, employment, housing, consumer rights, wills & probate, lasting powers of attorney (the list is not exhaustive) then come along on the last Wednesday of every month between 7.30pm – 9.00pm. The next session is Wednesday, 29th July 2026.

**ST PAUL'S CATHOLIC CHURCH – YOUTH GROUP**

In summer 2026, St Paul's Catholic Church will be launching a new Youth Group for young people aged 13–18. This group is a welcoming space for teenagers to relax, connect with others, and explore faith in a way that relates to everyday life. While rooted in Catholic teaching, sessions will focus on real-world topics such as identity, friendships, mental health, music and culture, social media, and the challenges young people face today. Each meeting will include games and activities, open discussions, and time for reflection and prayer. The aim is to help young people discover how God and faith connect with their lives in a meaningful and practical way. Whether you are already involved in parish life or simply curious, you are very welcome to come along.
Email: stpaulsyouthgroupcheshunt@gmail.com for more details.

**THE RADIO MARIA ENGLAND YOUTH TEAM AT ST MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

The Radio Maria England Youth (RMEY) team at St Mary's Catholic School would like to share their final 'Growing in Grace' programme for this academic year with you - ''overcoming fear'**,** recorded at the Radio Maria UK studio in Cambridge. The programme will air on Sunday 19nd July at 8pm**.** The RMEY team reflect on finding strength and hope in God at times of difficulty and tribulation. You can access the programme on DAB+ radio and on the **Radio Maria England** app, or simply by typing https://radiomariaengland.uk/ into your browser.

**FAITH IN FOCUS: IS GOD ASLEEP?**

People have wondered over the centuries how it is that we call God almighty and powerful, yet things happen in our world that he seems powerless to do anything about. If we were God we'd surely be out there in the thick of it, sorting things out and making sure some people got their just deserts for what they've been up to. But God doesn't stir. It's as if he's asleep like the farmer in today's gospel. Philosophers say that God does not intervene because this would interrupt the laws of nature. Theologians say that God has given us total freedom to behave in any way we choose and this free will would be contradicted if God kept treating us like puppets or robots. What matters, they say, is that we should be prepared to accept ultimate responsibility for our actions both sides of the grave.

The writer of the Book of Wisdom gives us a clue. In the face of evil God watches from afar, but he always steps in to offer people the gift of repentance. In other words, God is hoping that even the most sinister (and that of course includes us) will seize the chance of mending their ways. God is mild in judgement and governs with lenience, Wisdom says, and even after sin he holds out the olive branch if only the sinner is prepared to repent.

God's perspective is different from ours. The kingdom of God is still at the growing stage. He sees things over a lifetime and he judges in eternity's seconds. He is not a God who nips in the bud, but one who is always prepared to wait until the eleventh hour - just in case. At times this may seem frustrating to us when we would like some sort of dramatic intervention as God stoops to give someone their comeuppance. But there again, when he allows us to make slow progress in the hope that one day we might repent, then we're quite glad that he seems to be sleeping.