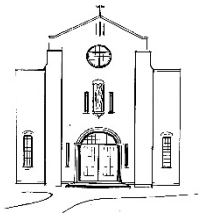
Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception and St Joseph

Sunday 23rd August 2026





204, High Street

Waltham Cross
Herts EN8 7DP
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THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Today, we hear Jesus challenge his disciples. "Who do you say that I am?" he asks them, after asking them what others say. Saint Peter responds at once, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." We are the disciples who Jesus challenges now. How do we answer this question? As we encounter him here today and receive him in the Eucharist, let us think of who Jesus is for us.

Today we hear two people being given great authority. In the first reading, the Lord summons Eliakim, presenting him with the key of the House of David. In the Gospel, Jesus promises Saint Peter the keys to the kingdom of heaven. From David to Eliakim to Jesus Christ to Peter to, now, Pope Leo XIV, God imparts authority to those chosen to lead us. As we listen to today's readings, let us pray that Pope Leo and all the bishops grow in wisdom and courage as they lead us, the Church, in the way of the Lord.

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MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Saturday 22nd August		6.30pm Bridie Cunnane RIP
Sunday 23rd August	**The Twenty-First Sunday**	8.30am People of the Parish
	In Ordinary Time	11.30am Rose Slattery RIP
		6.30pm John Cunningham RIP
Monday 24th August	Bartholomew	10.00am Martin O'Toole – Int.
Tuesday 25th August	Louis	10.00am
Wednesday 26th August	Dominic	10.00am
Thursday 27th August	Monica	10.00am Margaret Nelson – Int.
Friday 28th August	Augustine	10.00am
Saturday 29th August		6.30pm Denilo Herrera – Thanksgiving



TODAY'S READINGS:	**NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**
Isaiah 22:15, 19-23	Jeremiah 20:7-9
Psalm 138	Psalm 63
Romans 11:33-36	Romans 12:1-2
Matthew 16:13-20	Matthew 16:21-27
CBC Missal: Page 381	CBC Missal: Page 391
CTS Missal: Page 764	CTS Missal: Page 768

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, Janina Prusiene, Maria Dos Santos, Lily Harker, Ignatius Fessal, Marco Avanzato, Meghan & Conor Bennett Kelly, Bridie Burke,

For those who have died recently: Bernadette McCauley, Ann McCormack, Giuseppe Cassenti, Sr Ansila, Sherine Ford,

And for those whose Anniversaries are at this time: Rose Slattery, D. Nadarajah, Severina Ballanza,

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

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 £855.03 plus, the Regular Standing Orders.

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.

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.

ST VINCENT DE PAUL SUMMER RAFLE

Help the SVP alleviate poverty. Their members, volunteers and staff provide friendship, practical help and daily support to people in need in your community. Every ticket you buy makes a difference, supporting the SVP's work locally and nationwide. The SVP will be running a tea and coffee morning after the 8.30am & the 11.30am Masses on Sunday 27th September. The Raffle tickets are available from the Parish Office. Thank you.

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, 26th August 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.

ACT NOW – CONTACT YOUR MP

A Private Members' Bill on assisted suicide – so-called assisted dying – has been reintroduced to the House of Commons. The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill will have its Second Reading and vote on Friday, 11 September 2026.
Our clear principled objection to this Bill remains and we renew our call for Catholics and people of goodwill to unite in prayer and compassionate action. Archbishop Richard Moth, President of the Bishops' Conference, explains our strong opposition to this legislation:
"The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill which aims to legalise assisted suicide has returned to the House of Commons, and Members of Parliament will vote on its Second Reading on 11 September. This bill is wrong in principle. It is also deeply flawed and, if passed, could lead to vulnerable people feeling pressured into ending their lives.
"The Bill has a serious lack of protection for health and social care staff and risks putting many wonderful hospices and care homes in the position of no longer being able to operate.
"I urge you to write to your Members of Parliament to petition them to vote against the Bill at Second Reading."

GET ACTIVE, YOUR WAY

Aged 40-64 and not currently active? Your County wants to hear from you. Join your local group: Waltham Cross
St Joseph's Parish Centre, 22nd September, 6-7pm. Please see noticeboards for more information.

ST IGNATIUS COLLEGE

St Ignatius College Admissions: Please join them for their Open Evening for prospective Year 7 pupils on Tuesday 15th September from 5:30pm to tour the school and hear from the Headteacher at 7.15pm. Please see noticeboards for more information.