

# ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

PARISH NEWS 15 DECEMBER 2013

## VOCATION PRAYER

Lord give me the gift of a generous heart to follow your will as I journey the path of life. You set before me the vocation of priesthood, religious life, single life and marriage. Grant me the grace and generosity I need to answer your call. Amen.

### The fullness of Christian faith - continued

17. Christ's death discloses the utter reliability of God's love above all in the light of his resurrection. As the risen one, Christ is the trustworthy witness, deserving of faith (cf. Rev 1:5; Heb 2:17), and a solid support for our faith. "If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile," says Saint Paul (1 Cor 15:17). Had the Father's love not caused Jesus to rise from the dead, had it not been able to restore his body to life, then it would not be a completely reliable love, capable of illuminating also the gloom of death. When Saint Paul describes his new life in Christ, he speaks of "faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2:20). Clearly, this "faith in the Son of God" means Paul's faith in Jesus, but it also presumes that Jesus himself is worthy of faith, based not only on his having loved us even unto death, but also on his divine sonship. Precisely because Jesus is the Son, because he is absolutely grounded in the Father, he was able to conquer death and make the fullness of life shine forth. Our culture has lost its sense of God's tangible presence and activity in our world. We think that God is to be found in the beyond, on another level of reality, far removed from our everyday relationships. But if this were the case, if God could not act in the world, his love would not be truly powerful, truly real, and thus not even true, a love capable of delivering the bliss that it promises. It would make no difference at all whether we believed in him or not. Christians, on the contrary, profess their faith in God's tangible and powerful love which really does act in history and determines its final destiny: a love that can be encountered, a love fully revealed in Christ's passion, death and resurrection.

### POPE FRANCIS

Pope Francis has been named Person of the Year by Time magazine. During his nine months in office, the Pope had pulled "the papacy out of the palace and into the streets", managing editor Nancy Gibbs said.



### ACTION BY CRISTIANS AGAINST TORTURE

A thank you letter has been received from Ray Dunnett, ACAT Treasurer. "I acknowledge with thanks the cheque for £160.26 raised by you, your parish priest and your fellow parishioners at St Joseph the Worker Catholic Church in response to your Christmas Card Campaign. This, and the sending of the huge total of 126 cards, is a remarkable and heartening response to the campaign. Not only should it give real encouragement to the recipients in their difficult and at times appalling situations but also it helps us to feel that the efforts put in to compiling the list are really worth it. Please pass on to all concerned.

### MISSION STATEMENT

To have Christ at the centre of our lives, enabling us to grow in faith as a community where all feel welcome, loved and valued.

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**MASS TIMES AND INTENTIONS**

SEASON OF ADVENT

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 14	6.00 p.m.	Achille D'Agata RIP	Walker family
Sunday 15	8.30 a.m.	People of the Parish	
	10.30 a.m.	Jeanne Gooding RIP	Liz White
Monday 16	9.15 a.m.	Eddie Brennan RIP	
Tuesday 17	9.15 a.m.	Special Intention	E Pattle
Wednesday 18	8.30 a.m.	Vince Calabritto RIP	A Calabritto
Thursday 19	9.15 a.m.	Mick Fitzpatrick RIP	
Friday 20	9.15 a.m.	Ints of Sadie	
Saturday 21	9.15 a.m.	Fr. John Feeley RIP	

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

FIRST MASS OF SUNDAY

Saturday 21	6.00 p.m.	Fr. John Redford RIP	
Sunday 22	8.30 a.m.	Winnie Spinks RIP	S Walker
	10.30 a.m.	People of the Parish	

EVERY SATURDAY AFTER MORNING MASS WE HAVE EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT DURING THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION FROM 9.45 A.M. TO 10.15 A.M.

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR THIS WEEKEND'S MASSES**

<b>6.00 p.m.</b>	<b>8.30 p.m.</b>	<b>10.30 a.m.</b>
Pat Creavin Gabrielle O'Regan Bill O'Regan	Joan Parker Lyn Birnie Pat Green	Chris Brooks Mary Brooks John Tobin

**READERS FOR THIS WEEKEND'S MASSES**

Imogen Creavin	Carol Giles	Marina Moffat
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**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES (21/22 DECEMBER)**

Ann Howarth	Jan Jarvis	Willa Jackson
Ewa Kania	Michael Wild	Marina Moffat
Stella Walker	Ken Eady	Dom. D'Alberqueque

**READERS FOR NEXT WEEKEND'S MASSES (21/22 DECEMBER)**

Frank Dodson	Alan Bailey	Sheila Jones
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**ADVENT RECONCILIATION SERVICES**

Wednesday 18 December	7.30 p.m.	Cathedral
Saturdays	9.45 a.m. to 10.15 a.m.	St. Joseph's

**CAROL SERVICE**

Our Carol Service with our school children will be on 17 December at 6.00 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS MASSES**

This year the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass will be celebrated at 10.00 p.m. preceded by carols. We have changed the time from midnight because of the increasing decline in numbers.

This year our Christmas Masses will be:

Christmas Eve	6.00 p.m.	Family Mass preceded with carols from 5.45 p.m.
	10.00 p.m.	Mass preceded with carols from 9.30 p.m.
Christmas Day	8.30 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass
	10.30 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass

Christmas Mass times are also on web site ([www.stjosephshutton.org](http://www.stjosephshutton.org))

**ANNIVERSARIES**

We pray for our deceased parishioners whose anniversary occurs at this time, especially: Bridget Cannon, Louise Baker, John Collins, Frank Calabritto, Dr. John Protchard, Marie Klein and Joan Wilkinson.

Priests of our Diocese: Fr. William Guinevan (1954).

May these and all the faithful departed Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory and Grace.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK IN OUR PARISH**

Nicholas Sharkey, Daniella DiLisio, Paul Denton, Don Whittle, Simone Austin. Anita Czupeynski, Annie Baker, Jacqueline Birnie, Maureen Flaherty, Pauline White, Mairead O'Driscoll, Nora McPherson, Diane Griffiths, Mary Dillane, Vince Vitali, Mary Boyer, Mano Subryan, Kathleen Green, Beryl de Prazer, and Mary Sheehan. Our Lady of Lourdes intercede for them. If there are any changes please let Fr. Leslie know.



**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**

This week we are starting our "Christmas Greetings" messaging service as we have done in previous years. We are suggesting a donation of £5.00 per message, with all the proceeds going to the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society. It's an easy way to send your love, hope, and peace messages to your friends and fellow parishioners in the St Joseph the worker family. Let's see if we can fill that back page again. Send to [ian.restall@design-portfolio.co.uk](mailto:ian.restall@design-portfolio.co.uk)

**FINANCE MATTERS**

For the week ending 7/8 December you gave £369.90 of which £88.90 was Gift Aided. Raffle profit to date: £590.00  
This week we have paid out £510.00 to clear the church roof of moss, debris etc. Also £461.00 for service of heaters in the church and the hall. *Thank you*



Fr. Leslie writes

Welcome to all our parishioners and visitors. It is good that we have gathered together to give thanks to God for the week that has passed. We are now halfway

through Advent and preparing our hearts to celebrate the birth of our Saviour. We live in a culture where we expect everything to happen instantly. We get impatient if we have to wait. We are always in a hurry. To wait for someone or something implies a state of dependency, of lack of control over things. It is that which makes us feel uncomfortable, and leads to frustration. The letter of James is full of down-to-earth spiritual wisdom. The people in exile who received Israel's prophecy are those who wait for the Lord's coming and are offered three insights today.

The first is that they are waiting for an unknown but for a promise to be fulfilled. The second insight "strengthen all weary hearts". Have courage. The third insight is to look for the signs already, here and now. The disciples of John the Baptist come to Jesus; they have been waiting for the one who is to come. Jesus points out the signs – the blind see, the lame walk. Advent reminds us that we are a people waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. It unites us to hold on to those three insights. We are waiting for the total fulfilment of God's plan. While we wait we are engaged in strengthening one another, especially the weak, and we are invited to look for the signs that Christ is already amongst us.

Please note the Reconciliation Service at the Cathedral is this Wednesday at 7.30 p.m.

Remember Jesus never tires of forgiving us for our wrong choices.

Have a good Sunday thank you and God bless.

Fr Leslie

**FLK**

Cardinal Hume said "I like to think of life as a day being prepared by God's providence,



**POPE ON TWITTER**



1. Mary, Our Mother, sustain us in moments of darkness, difficulty and apparent defeat.
2. If we see someone who needs help, do we stop? There is so much suffering and poverty, and a great need for good Samaritans.
3. Dear young people, put your talents at the service of the Gospel, with creativity and boundless charity.



**BIBLE ALIVE**

Bible Alive December edition on sale at £2.25. Day to day readings from Scripture.

**MUSIC FOR CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS MASS**

To any of our young people who are interested in singing once a month as part of our youth choir, the carols below are what we will sing at the 6.00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. Most are very well known, but you can find them all on YouTube to practise along with!  
On Christmas Eve we will rehearse from 5.15 p.m. to 5.30 p.m. just to get warmed up!

**Carol Service**

- + Once in Royal David's City
- + While Shepherds Watched
- + Ding Dong Merrily on High
- + Little Donkey

**Mass**

- + Come, come, come to the Manger
- + O Little Town of Bethlehem
- + Silent Night
- + I Saw a Star
- + Away in a Manger
- + Go Tell it on the Mountain

Thank you in advance, please come and speak to us or email mark\_jane\_minnie@hotmail.com if you need any more info!

Jane and Mark

**CHRISTMAS CARDS**

A great way to send your greetings at Christmas time and help the Brentwood Catholic Children's Society is to send your greetings via the newsletter for a donation of only £5.00. However if you are leaving cards at the back of the church, please put the full name and address on the envelope, and also make sure the recipient recipients do come to St Joseph's and also have not already gone on holiday and are therefore able to pick them up. Thanks for your attention.

**CAROL SERVICE**

The Carol Service at St Joseph's will be at 6.00 p.m. on Tuesday 17 of December with our schoolchildren. All are welcome. School end of term Mass will be on Friday 20 December at 9.15 p.m.

**CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL**

Hutton & Shenfield Union Church, Roundwood Avenue, Hutton, CM13 2NA  
(www.unionchurch.org.uk)

Saturday 14 December 10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.

Sunday 15 December 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m. followed by Festival Carol Service at 5.00 p.m.

Vote for your favourite tree.

Refreshments available.

Programme of entertainment

Entry: Adults £2.50. Under 16s Free

Raising funds for St. Francis Hospice.



**CHRISTMAS OFFERING**

Your Christmas Offering each year forms a major part of your priest's income. Please pick up an envelope as you leave church today.

Thank you and God Bless

**DURING THESE LAST DAYS OF ADVENT, WHY NOT TRY THE FOLLOWING:**

Pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary - one Mystery each week. Like Mary, ponder in your heart the words in Luke's Gospel related to each Mystery.

- \* The Annunciation: Luke 1:26-38
- \* The Visitation: Luke 1:39-56
- \* The Birth of Jesus: Luke 2:1-20
- \* The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple: Luke 2:22-38
- \* The Finding of Jesus in the Temple: Luke 2:41 -50

**Reconciliation**

Your time of prayerful reflection on the Word of God will also give you the opportunity to prepare for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

**ST. JOHN PAYNE ADVENT SERVICE**

You are warmly invited to attend our annual Advent Carol Service on Thursday 19th December at 7.30 p.m. in the Upper School Hall. This will be a wonderful way to end the school term and begin Christmas festivities, reflecting on the true meaning of Christmas before the hustle and bustle gets in the way, as well as an opportunity to socialise afterwards with some refreshments. Please do join us - we'd love to see you there.

**CAFOD ADVENT CALENDAR WITH DAILY REFLECTIONS AND PRAYERS.**

Journey with us and those with whom we work this Advent and pray for those who need our help. The calendar is based on the scripture readings of the day and is for individuals or for families to share. To journey with us this advent in your thoughts and prayers, go to: <http://www.cafod.org.uk/Pray/Advent-Calendar>

**REPOSITORY**

Christmas Cards, Calendars, Advent calendars, etc. etc. are now available. Please stop and look at we have in stock.

**ST. JOSEPH CHRISTMAS RAFFLE -**

**ITS AS EASY AS**



The Christmas raffle, the major fund raiser for St Joseph the Worker during the year, just got even better. And even easier to enter, and to win. Its as easy as 1 - 2 - 3. And this year there are now not 1, not 2 but 3 prizes. 3 chances to win a lovely prize and 3 chances to help the church!

**The prizes are:**

1. Our hamper this year is from Fortnum and Mason and this is the first prize
2. Second prize is a smaller hamper of Wimborne and Sloane personal toiletries. And very nice it is too!
3. And third prize is a lovely gift from Abigail's Deli in Ingatestone Village - afternoon tea and cakes for two, to be taken at your convenience.

As usual we don't waste money on tickets but ask you to write your name and telephone number on an envelope and that becomes your ticket. So;

1. Write your name and phone number on an envelope. Fr. Leslie has lots to spare!
  2. Put £5.00 inside the envelope. If you want to have two chances in the raffle, then you will need two envelopes with £5.00 in each.
  3. Place the envelope (s) in the box provided at the back of the church
- What could be simpler? Three chances to win church in its major fund raiser this year.

**Happy Christmas**

(hamper shown is for illustration only)



**Children's Corner**

**A Prayer to say**

Jesus, I believe that you are the one sent by God to save us all. Thank you for giving me the gift of faith. Please help anyone who finds it hard to believe in you.

Amen

**IN THE GOSPEL TODAY**

When John the Baptist was in prison he sent some of his followers to ask Jesus if he was the saviour they were waiting for. Jesus told them to see how the Good News was being given to everyone. His miracles meant the blind could see, the deaf could hear, the lame could walk and the dead could have new life. Jesus said that people who have no doubts about him are very happy.



# CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

**Robert, Pat and all the Burton family** wish Fr. Leslie, their friends and fellow parishioners a very Happy Christmas and every blessing for the New Year.

**Freda Hagerty** wishes Fr. Leslie and all friends and parishioners at St. Joseph the Worker a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

**Jan & Jim Jarvis** wish Fr. Leslie and all their friends in the parish a joyful Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

**Joan and Simon Parker** send Christmas and New Year greetings to Father Leslie, all friends and fellow parishioners of St Josephs.

**Chris & Margaret Bailey** wish Fr. Leslie, their friends and parishioners the joy and peace of Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**Jean Dunne and family** wish Fr. Leslie, and all friends and parishioners at St. Joseph's, a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year.

**Christine and Ian Restall and family** wish Father Leslie and all their friends and parishioners at St. Joseph the Worker a very happy Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year. God bless you all.

**Min & Louis O'Donovan** wish Fr. Leslie, their friends and fellow parishioners all the blessings of Christmas and a healthy New Year



Come on, let's fill up this back page!!!

