

# SAINT JOSEPH'S PARISH NEWSLETTER

Burton Road, Derby DE1 1TJ

Week beginning the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2021

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: PSALTER WEEK 4



Tel. 01332 343777 | Website. [stjosephderby.org.uk](http://stjosephderby.org.uk) | Facebook. [stjosephderby](https://www.facebook.com/stjosephderby)  
Instagram [stjosephderby](https://www.instagram.com/stjosephderby) | Twitter. [@stjosephderby](https://twitter.com/stjosephderby)

## FATHER KEVIN SAYS...

“Dear Friends, as we come ever nearer to Christmas our readings are focused on the most shocking thing in the Christian religion. Not that a man can die and rise from the dead - but indeed that God Himself should take upon Himself humanity. Not simply the appearance of humanity, as in the myths of (for example) the Greeks and the Romans, but an entire human existence from conception and birth to death. We honour the assumption of this human existence on the 25th of March, the feast day of the Assumption (the brightest liturgical festival in Lent), but brighter still is the festival of the birth of Christ, when that sacred humanity became visible to the eyes of men and women. Our second reading today is from the excellent letter to the Hebrews, which was composed to deliver this astonishing idea to Jewish communities - that the God Who had revealed Himself as a Spirit to their ancestors through Moses and the prophets had actually gone and become a man. In so doing, their prophecies had astonishingly been brought to fulfilment. These prophecies had spoken of God arriving to shepherd His own people, to rule them, to reunite them, to extend His glory to all the world. This would happen through a human figure - the successor of King David, the Messiah. Both the Shepherd God and the Messiah appear in our gospel reading, in the one Person of Christ, still within His Mother's womb, and both S. Elisabeth and little S. John the Baptist are overwhelmed. May we be overwhelmed ourselves this Christmas, and never cease to be astonished that God became a Man, so that the children of men could be gods.”

Father Kevin presently blogs on the parish website, where you could find small articles on the Catholic Faith:  
<http://www.stjosephderby.org.uk/>

## Mass intentions

### N.B. NO NEED TO BOOK FOR MASS

<i>Saturday the 18<sup>th</sup></i> 18.00	<b>FOURTY SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR C</b>	Intentions of R. McK
<i>Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup></i> 8.00 am 10.30 am		Robert Slack RIP People of the Parish
<i>Monday 20<sup>th</sup></i> 10.30am	<b>Advent Feria</b>	Pope Francis & Bishop Patrick
<i>Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup></i> 10.30am	<b>St Peter Canisius</b>	Holy Souls
<i>Wednesday the 22<sup>nd</sup></i> 10.30am	<b>Advent Feria</b>	Richard Forkin RIP
<i>Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup></i> 10.30 am	<b>St John of Kenty</b>	Int M. W
<i>Friday the 24<sup>th</sup></i> 6.00pm	<b>Christmas Eve Vigil</b>	Tony Leckey RIP
<i>Midnight</i>	<b>Carols Mass during the night</b>	People of the Parish
<i>Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup></i> 8.00am 10.30 am	<b>The Nativity of the Lord</b>	Sarah Rafferty RIP Joe Coleman RIP
<i>Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup></i> 8.00 am 10.30 am	<b>Christmas Octave &amp; Feast The Holy Family</b>	People of the Parish All sick & suffering

## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

As we are unable to attend daily Mass, you might like to use this prayer to express our faith in Christ and His Presence in the Eucharist, and we ask him to unite Himself with us.

### ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.  
I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul.  
Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally,  
    come at least into my heart.  
I embrace You as if You were already there  
    and unite myself wholly to You.  
Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

## NEWS

**On synodality.** Following on from the Bishop's recent pastoral letter, telling us about the new project of the Holy Father in Rome (the letter may be downloaded from the parish website, using the download tree in the upper left-hand corner of the main page, steering towards 'papal documents'), the synod, which is ordinarily a meeting of bishops either locally or globally, is anticipated by the Holy Father with this new effort at listening to all of us in the churches around the world – a large-scale listening project intended to improve the effectiveness of our work as the Church of God. Let us pray together for a good result for this enterprise; the Diocese has endeavoured to provide us with related prayer-cards, that may be obtained from the back of the church, and from the house at request.

Over the coming months we will be asked to consider various questions, which will form a part of our local and national discernment ahead of the Synod. Here are the **third** questions for you to consider: **(1)** How do I hear and respond to the voice of God's Holy Spirit, in my life; what signs of the Spirit at work do I see in the life of my parish? **(2)** What steps may the Holy Spirit be calling us to take, as a parish, on our journey together into God's future? Please let us have your thoughts by email [parish@stjoesphderby.org.uk](mailto:parish@stjoesphderby.org.uk)

**Christmas Masses.** I have decided to preserve the Sunday scheme for Christmas day as well. So, we shall have the 18.00 vigil on Christmas eve, the 8.00 Mass in the older form in the morning, and the 10.30 Mass later in the morning. I am also adding a midnight Mass at 00.00, given the large number of people who attended it last year. We shall have an informal congregational singing of carols in the half-hour before the midnight Mass, to which all are welcome. ***Please note that the Sunday vigil Mass on the evening of Christmas day is cancelled.***

**Finding God in the Word.** Given the number of people that attended last Monday, we shall continue with the meetings in January. Details to follow. The meetings are fairly informal and everyone is welcome, with no obligation to share if you do not want to. The sessions are held in the church, where there is plenty of room. We share our reflections on Scripture in a prayerful atmosphere, focusing particularly on the Gospel for the following Sunday's Mass.

**Penitential Services:** 7.00pm Wednesday 22 Dec Our Lady of Lourdes, Mickleover

There will be period of Eucharistic Adoration during which Fathers Kevin, Neil and Jonathan will be available to hear Confessions.

**Live Stream Mass for the Sick, their Families and Care-Givers** offered by Bishop Patrick every Thursday at 7pm.

**Grapevine.** The latest issue is now available here: <https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk/whats-on/grapevine-e-bulletin>.

**YOU CAN NOW DONATE** to your parish via the Diocesan website go to <https://www.dioceseofnottingham.uk> and you will see a yellow button at the top of the page 'On line giving'.

**'Faith In Families' Boxes** From January 5th, 'Faith in Families' will be merging with 'Adoption Focus', based in the West Midlands. This is to ensure greater financial stability and allow for the continuation of the important work with adoptions and with Catholic schools across the East Midlands.

As a result, we will be ceasing to collect 'Faith in Family' boxes, so, if you have a box that needs emptying, please hand it in at the church as soon as possible and by 1st January at the latest. If you would like your receipt, please ensure that your address details on the box are correct.

'Faith In Families' would like to thank all parishioners who have supported their work over the last 70+ years and hope that some might wish to continue their generosity to the new charity details of which will be available in due course.

Thanks must also go to E for all his work with the boxes over time on behalf of the Parish.

## THE COMMUNITY THIS WEEK

**Please keep in your prayers** all those who are sick in whatever way around the world especially those in our parish, all those in hospital, nursing homes and being looked after at home. Also remember those who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur around this time. Most importantly all those who work in the NHS striving heroically to keep us all safe, the emergency services, the drivers & supermarket staff, postmen, refuse collectors and all those helping to keep the country going. We have been asked to pray also and in particular for the Nigerians, especially in the south of Nigeria, who are experiencing a great deal of social strife, with young people being slaughtered on almost a daily basis.

**Our school on the hill** has kindly provided us with a regular newsletter, which I have now made available from the parish website (PDF format). You may find it on the download tree at the top left-hand corner of the website; steer through 'school newsletters.' It is always good to see what the school community is up to, especially in these challenging times.

**Cleaning teams** Now that more people are becoming more comfortable in returning to Mass we need to reinstate our cleaning teams. Some of those who previously carried out this important ministry for our parish have indicated their willingness to continue, thank you. However, we need more volunteers please. As you will be aware the more people/teams we have the fewer times you will be needed. If you are able to offer your support in this please either email the parish [parish@stjosephderby.org.uk](mailto:parish@stjosephderby.org.uk) or let Fr Kevin know, please provide your contact details.

**From Monday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2021**, many of the restrictions imposed by the Government over the past year and a half were removed last month. The Bishops have confirmed that there will be no need to book for Mass, stewards will no longer be required but **hand sanitising and the wearing of masks remains**. You will no longer be required to sign in but you **may** scan the QR code, if you use the NHS telephone applications and if you wish to do so. Please remember that not everyone will be comfortable with close proximity with others, so please keep this in mind as you take your seats.

**Confirmations 2022**. we would like to invite applications from parents of young people who feel they are ready to work towards confirmation. We now have a date for confirmations in the spring, and we shall soon be beginning a weekly programme, working up to that date. Some of your children have already participated in part of the course before the pandemic hit and closed us down and have already confirmed you wish your child to continue; I would like to ask them to attend with everybody else, although it may seem repetitive to a degree. This is because I don't know most of the candidates and I must be able to certify them as prepared when the Bishop arrives. If you haven't already applied or wish to apply for the first time, please contact us at [parish@stjosephderby.org.uk](mailto:parish@stjosephderby.org.uk) so we can begin the process.

**Confessions at the church**. I have been hearing confessions, either on the driveway outside the church or in the seclusion of the parish centre, since I arrived in March 2020. I do understand the argument for anonymity during confession. Having observed the practice of other parishes in the deanery, I have restored the confessional in church. There is now at least half an hour for confessions before every Sunday Mass, as well as an hour for confessions after the 10.30 Mass on Saturdays. You may still call at the house, of course, if you wish (preferably calling ahead to make certain I am available).

**The Old Mass (TLM)** will continue to be offered at 8.00 am on Sundays, through the generosity of the Bishop. This is the Mass as it was until roughly 1970 and is offered in the Latin language. There are some aids for following the Mass in Latin and a simple online aid is this website: <https://divinumofficium.com/cgi-bin/missa/missa.pl>.

**Planned giving boxes** As the restrictions have been lifted, we are now able to put the boxes out for you to pick up. **Please take yours from the table near the entrance**. Please note that your number has changed and only your name will be on the box. This will enable us to leave them available under GDPR. There are still a number of boxes unclaimed so please

check if you are expecting a box. Thank you to all those who have continued to make your offerings and have contributed to keep the parish going through these difficult times.

**Tea and Coffee after Mass** This has been going on for the last few Sundays and we would like to restore what we had before the lockdowns. And we would like to have more volunteers, if possible. If you would like to support this, please let us know via an email ([parish@stjosephderby.org.uk](mailto:parish@stjosephderby.org.uk)). There will be a rota sign-up sheet in the parish centre if anybody wishes to commit. Please note that we also meet for tea and coffee after some weekday Masses, and especially on Wednesdays.

**Mass Intentions.** If you would like to have a Mass Intention please email us ([parish@stjosephderby.org.uk](mailto:parish@stjosephderby.org.uk)) with the details, we will endeavour to meet any requests for specific dates where possible. You can send your offering either by cheque or by using the bank details below. Request envelopes are available in the entrance porch. I am attempting to restore the office of Reader/Lector at Mass and I would like to invite parishioners who would like to read as in the past to come up and see me, or to contact us by e-mail: [parish@stjosephderby.org.uk](mailto:parish@stjosephderby.org.uk).

**Bible study.** Some of our parishioners had expressed an interest in a regular bible study session last year, and the only way this could be done seemed to be with video-conferencing. **This now takes place regularly on a Thursday evening at 19.00, live, in the parish centre.** The next meeting will be during Christmas week, the 30<sup>th</sup> of December. We have conquered large areas of the Promised Land and are now being ruled by the Judges; there is however the promise of a pan-tribal Hebrew king. If you would like to join in (with the study, not the invasion), feel free to come up or call the house for more information.

**Weekly rosary via Zoom.** Call at the house or send e-mail if you would like to join in. This takes place on Zoom every Wednesday at 19.00.

**Do you know** of anyone who does not have a computer and therefore no access to our website and newsletter? If so, please let us know or ask them to contact us by phone (343777) so we can take their details and communicate with them in an alternative way. We're prepared to mail newsletters around, so let us know if you would like that. All precautions will be taken with the handling of papers that are mailed out.

### OUR PARISH SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL (SVP) CONFERENCE

The SVP exists as a particular Catholic response to the prevalent forms of poverty and indigence in our society at large. The work of members of the society extends beyond the provision of financial support to individuals and families, focusing very much on visiting people who are sick, lonely, in prison or suffering from addictions. Person-to-person contact is essential, and spending time with those who wish it, very much in the spirit of the great French priest, Saint Vincent de Paul.

The work of the Society has been affected, like so much else, by the present public health crisis, and our rather young conference at S. Joseph's had to end their meetings early last year. Our members would like to re-establish old contacts and find new ones, as we return to work. At the moment, the best approach seems to be using telephones, while keeping to data-protection regulations. **We would like to know therefore of anybody who would benefit from friendly telephone conversations at this rather difficult time, and if they would be pleased to provide their contact details to that end.** Please contact the presbytery in the usual ways, by telephone, e-mail or post, and relevant information will be communicated to the SVP group.

If you would like to join the parish SVP group, please contact us in the usual ways and you will be redirected. If you would like to give towards the costs of the work of the SVP, please use these details: SVP St Joseph – Derby, acct 51256029, sort 60-60-04. **There is now a bin near the entrance of the church, to receive dried foods or tinned food for distribution to those who may need them.**

**Stay safe, everyone!**