



# ST. JOSEPH'S PARISH, LEICESTER

St. Joseph's Church, Uppingham Road : The Rosary Church, Armadale Drive

Priest serving the parish : Father John Daley I.C.

Parish House, 12 Goodwood Road, Leicester LE5 6SG : Tel. 0116 241 5159

Website: [www.stjoseph-leicester.btck.co.uk](http://www.stjoseph-leicester.btck.co.uk). Use the "Contact us" form on our website to email us  
(Contact us, also, via the parish website for Hall Bookings - or ring the Parish House)

(Nottingham Roman Catholic Diocesan Trustees Registered Charity number 234064)

Watermead Apostolate, St. Joseph's, 12 Goodwood Road, Leicester LE5 6SG : Telephone 0116 220 7881

Sisters of St. Joseph, The Convent, Uppingham Road, Leicester LE5 6RA : Telephone 0116 241 6255

Schools : St. Paul's Comprehensive, Spencefield Lane, Leicester LE5 6HN : Telephone 0116 241 4057

and St. Joseph's Primary, Armadale Drive, Leicester LE5 1HF : Telephone 0116 241 6197

**22nd December 2019 (Prayer Week 4)**

"Grieve not for me. Remember the best times,  
the laughter, the song; the good life I lived when I was strong"

Dear People,

"God is the giver of all life, human and divine." Those words come from the Baptism ceremony in the blessing of the parents. God is the giver of all life. All that has been created in God's love. We are made for God. Most of creation cannot know - mountains, seas, the earth - they simply exist but they do give great glory to God; all creatures give God glory in a richer way - they are alive, are blessed to pass on the gift of that life, but then die.

Human beings are alive, pass on the gifts of life and are destined for eternal life with God. This is a revelation that grew slowly in the minds of the people of Israel and finds its fullest expression in the Book of Wisdom, written about fifty years before Jesus was born. Jesus came to a people ready to receive the full revelation of the resurrection of the dead: we shall live with God forever.

Jesus lived the life of a faithful Jew - Synagogue and Temple - but offered a new understanding of loving and being loved by God. He said that he came that we might have life and have it to the full. Following him, we may share divine love! It is a wonderful invitation: in this life we follow Christ, in eternal life we live with God.

The New Testament speaks of two kingdoms of God (kingdoms of heaven, the truth is the same): the kingdom of God to which everyone belongs, and the kingdom of Christ which lasts until the end of time and allows us, even now, to share something of the life of eternity - above all, in our prayer.

The sign of being in Christ's kingdom is baptism: "Unless a man be born again of water and the Holy Spirit he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven," says Jesus to Nicodemus in chapter 3 of St John's Gospel. Nicodemus belonged to God in his faithful following of the law of Moses and the teachings of the prophets, but he glimpsed something/someone new in Jesus. Jesus invited him to share new life through baptism: he did, and was one who helped bring Jesus' dead body down from the cross. He was a faithful Jew, a faithful Christian.

Two kingdoms. At the end of time Jesus will hand over his kingdom to his Heavenly Father and there will be one eternal kingdom of God for which the whole human race has been created. How the Church has struggled down the centuries to understand and express that truth: all are made for eternal life with God. Christ's followers know that wonderful truth and their mission is to share it with the world by example and inspiration.

God bless us with a happy and prayerful Christmas,

Fr. John

## THE LORD'S DAY

(see tables at back of church for copies with the background to all the readings at Christmas)

### MIDNIGHT MASS

#### First Reading

*Isaiah 9 : 2-7*

Chapter 8 has told of the desperation of the people, turning against God and king (especially verses 21 ff.), but in chapter 9 there is new hope. Galilee was conquered in 732 BC (the tribes of Zebulan and Naphtali dwelt in Galilee) but is given new hope by the promise of a child who will become king under God's protection. The suffering of Galilee becomes a prophecy and image of the later suffering and conquest of Israel (721 BC) and Jerusalem (587 BC), and the wonderful reassurance of today's reading becomes a promise for the whole nation and people.

#### Second Reading

*Titus 2 : 11-14*

Titus was a co-worker with Paul and a strong influence in bringing about reconciliation with the Church at Corinth (2 Corinthians 7:6-14). Now he is bishop in Crete and this letter, written by one of Paul's disciples (writing under Paul's name), indicates the honoured position Titus held in the Christian Church. Today's reading rejoices that God has revealed divine love in the person of Jesus, inviting the world to become the people of God.

#### Gospel Reading

*Luke 2 : 1-14*

Augustus Caesar was emperor 27 BC - 14 AD. There is nothing in Roman history to indicate that a universal census was taken during his reign, so the details of Luke's account of a necessary journey to Bethlehem are puzzling. Respect for Joseph makes us believe that he would not have imposed on Mary an unnecessary and difficult five-day journey. They would have travelled in good time. That Joseph's family in Bethlehem would have rejected a young girl about to give birth to her first child seems impossible. The story is not history - it is Gospel, full of symbolism (e.g. the shepherds symbolise the great shepherd leaders of the Old Testament: Abraham, Moses, David, rejoicing for their people).

## Mass Times and Intentions

### 4th SUNDAY OF ADVENT (A)

(Saturday) 6.00 pm at St Joseph's  
(Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.15 pm)

9.00 am at Rosary Church

10.30 am at St Joseph's

6.00 pm at St Joseph's

(Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.15 pm)  
(Intentions for Sunday Mass)

for Cathy DiSarra, Bridget Nugent, Sanatana Pereira,  
Joan & Charles Woods, David & Mary Ellen Hudson,  
Jack & Anne Laing, Patrick Commings, Thomas Kenny,  
The Callaghan Family, The Murphy Family,  
Angel Marita & Jaoa Desa, Carlos Jesus

### MONDAY 23rd DECEMBER

(St John of Kanty)

7.00 pm Mass at St Joseph's for Julie Cooper

## Christmas Mass

### TUESDAY 24th DECEMBER

6.00 pm and 10.00 pm at St. Joseph's

(Carols before each service - see over)

### WEDNESDAY 25th DECEMBER

9.00 am at the Rosary Church : 10.30 am at St. Joseph's

#### Intentions to be remembered at each Christmas Mass

James Stones, Ron Parkin, Alvina Telles, Nelson Fernandes,  
James & Peggy Nott, Pat & Sean Grady,  
Tony & Frances Cassidy, Anne & Jack Laing,  
Anna, John & Savio Pereira, Alex, Nelson & Sean Fernandes,  
Joaquim & Rosalina Rebello, The Cox and Thuillier Families,  
Bill, Mary & Catherine Murray, The O'Connor Family

### THURSDAY 26th DECEMBER

(St Stephen : Boxing Day)

10.00 am Mass at St Joseph's for Paddy Callan (B)

### FRIDAY 27th DECEMBER

(St John the Apostle)

7.00 pm Mass at St Joseph's for Hugh Burns

### SATURDAY 28th DECEMBER

(The Holy Innocents)

## FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY

(Saturday) 6.00 pm at St Joseph's

(Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.15 pm)

### SUNDAY 29th DECEMBER

9.00 am at Rosary Church : 10.30 am at St Joseph's

6.00 pm at St Joseph's

(Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament from 5.15 pm)  
(Intentions for Sunday Mass)

for Joseph Telles, Joseph Mampallil, Thanksgiving,  
Kevin & Judith Brennan

## USUAL CONFESSION TIMES EACH WEEK

SATURDAY & SUNDAY 5.15 pm at St. Joseph's  
(in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel)

## CHURCH ROTAS FOR NEXT WEEKEND

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers
Sat. 6.00 pm	TBA	Susan
Sun. 9.00 am	TBA	-
10.30 am	John	Anne G / Sister Lelia
6.00 pm	TBA	Marie

Readers and  
Ministers for  
our Christmas  
Services - see  
agreed rotas

## BLESSED SACRAMENT CHAPEL - Come to the Manger



Open for prayer every day this week from 10.45 am - dusk.

## PARKING ON GRASS AND VERGES

Please be considerate when parking your cars and do not park on the grass verges during the wet weather as it churns them up! There is ample room in nearby streets if the car park is full, but do please also be careful not block our neighbours' driveways.

## DISABLED PARKING

We are exploring parking at St Joseph's for those who struggle with mobility. Let us know in writing if you would like to be included in the planning - especially for the Christmas services.

## Prayer Box

Please pray for:  
**Families of the parish and our loved ones living and dead especially for those who have recently died:**

Sister Raphael (RIP)

Declan, Bridie, Jonathan, John, Chris,  
Maria, Kath, Mary, Anna, Patrick,  
Olven, Sheila, Cristiano

Prayers for: Leonard, Rosalind, Margaret

The McCann family and all missing children

The peoples and countries of the world, especially  
**BOLIVIA, PARAGUAY, YEMEN**

## POSTBAG

Dear Fr John and LP Anthony  
Charnwood Lions Club members were delighted to hold our annual Carol Service and Tea Party event at St Joseph's Church.

It was a pleasure sharing this day with the parishioners and we are delighted to note some positive feedback from them. It was also our pleasure to have this treat on us. Both Ketan and I have been in Leicester for a number of years and this was a small way to repay the community in Leicester who have always been good to us. I am sure Leicester Charnwood Lions will certainly plan another event at the Church.

Yours In Lionism,  
Hasmukh Tanna

Last week's collection was safely counted and banked. **£983**

\*(Christmas Flowers £310)

Thank you. Counters : TBA

(Next week: Tony)

\* RASH stands for our regular giving for Leicester's Refugees, Asylum Seekers, Homeless.

## Watermead shop

CLOSED FOR

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

Open Sunday and Christmas Eve

until 12.30 pm

(then closed until Sunday 5th January)

USUAL OPENING TIMES

Tues, Wed, Thur from 10.30 am-3.30 pm

Sun 11.45 am-12.15 pm

Information from 0116 220 7881 / 0

www.watermead-apostolate.co.uk



## Dates for Diary 2020

### Pilgrimage to Lourdes and Nevers

13th -20th June 2020  
Cost: **£595**

### Pilgrimage to Lisieux

2nd - 5th March 2020

Cost: **£345**

Both pilgrimages include coach and ferry travel - and overnight stays with bed and breakfast. (Pick-ups in Nottingham, Derby and Leicester)

For more information and booking forms, please contact Fr. John McCay at [jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jmccay1982@yahoo.co.uk) or 0115 9810320.