

# PARISH OF THE NATIVITY OF THE LORD

St Teresa's  
Weldon Way,  
Merstham, RH1 3QA

St Joseph's  
122 Ladbroke Road,  
Redhill, RH1 1LF

Holy Family  
Yorke Road,  
Reigate, RH2 9HF

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## The Twenty-Fourth Sunday of the Year - 13<sup>th</sup> September 2020

### OPENING THE DOORS OF OUR THREE CHURCHES

**This week the Church will be open for the public celebration of Mass:**

(please note that social distancing of 1m plus a face covering must be maintained and the instructions for seating and movement within the church given by stewards must be followed)

**Friday 18th September - 10.00am St Joseph's**

**Saturday 19th September - 5.30pm St Joseph's**

**Sunday 20th September - 9.00am Holy Family - 11.00am St Joseph's - 5.30pm St Teresa's**

**This week each Church will open for private prayer on Wednesday 16th September 5pm-7pm**

24<sup>th</sup> Sun in Ordinary Time: <https://vimeo.com/456921153>

Dear Brothers and Sisters,  
The Readings this Sunday speaks of forgiveness. Sometimes, forgiveness of others can be a very real challenge for us. During the course of life, we shall receive many slights and there will be many occasions when others will - perhaps quite unintentionally - hurt us. Perhaps we carry the burden of some very significant damage and hurt. The writer of the Book of Ecclesiasticus speaks of resentment. This is something that can eat away at us, becoming more and more of a problem and source of division. All these things are a burdens, loads that weighs us down on our journey. How, then, can we put them down, these 'rocks in our pockets'. Forgiveness. Jesus, responding to Peter's question in this Sunday's Gospel, calls us to generous forgiveness. Peter's suggestion that forgiveness on seven occasions is generous meets with a call to go so much further. We are called to this level of forgiving. Why? Simply because the Lord Himself forgives without limit. The ways in which we forgive our brothers and sisters, family members, friends, people we do not know - all of these occasions enable them to meet - through us - with the Lord who forgives, who forgives without limit. There is a real responsibility here, expressed so strongly by St. Paul, who reminds us that our very lives, our deaths too, have a profound impact on others. Sometimes, the act of forgiveness is a 'little death' for us - particularly when forgiveness is especially difficult. It is necessary to step down from a position that may have become hardened, suffused with pride, to truly forgive and the Lord calls us to 'forgive from the heart' - from the very core of our being. We have the most wonderful experience of God's forgiveness for us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Sometimes, approaching this Sacrament can be a little bit daunting. Perhaps there are times when we wonder of forgiveness is possible for us. Nothing is impossible to God and, when we are truly sorry and bring our pain and sins to the God who loves us, forgiveness is given freely. As we have seen in the readings in recent weeks, God wants us to be with Him, to live His life. Opening our minds and hearts in forgiveness for others is, surely, a fruit of our own experience of forgiveness - just as Jesus explains in the parable he speaks in the Gospel this week. Let us be open to the gift of forgiveness for ourselves and, putting aside resentment and the pride that can so easily creep into our hearts, offer the gift of forgiveness and offer it freely.

*With every blessing.*

+Richard, Bishop of Arundel and Brighton

### A & B Diocese of Dialogue and Unity Event 2020

A New Normal for Christian Unity - What can we learn during the pandemic? - What vision should we aspire to as Christians and people of faith moving forward together? On Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Sept 2020- 10.45-1pm on Zoom. Prayer, Speakers, Small groups. Email Catherine to register and receive the zoom link - [catherine.martindale@abdiocese.org.uk](mailto:catherine.martindale@abdiocese.org.uk) All welcome.

### Sponsored Walk round our Churches for CAFOD Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

The walk will leave the Holy Family at 10.30am. We will then walk to St Teresa's arriving about 12.30pm where we will eat a picnic lunch. The walk will leave St Teresa's about 1.30pm for the walk to St Joseph's. All walkers are asked to respect social distancing and bring their own food. If you cannot walk, please consider sponsorship. Call Jane on 01737 762446.

### Confirmation Catechists

The Diocese is hosting a Webinar to help Confirmation Catechists explore what some of the options are as we move forward in the 'new normal' that Covid 19 has created. It will be taking place online via Zoom on 7<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm. but if you cannot attend at this time, please still register your interest and we will send you a recording of the session. To register please complete this form: <https://forms.gle/96kHpayQarneZiJV9>

### Celebration of the Sacraments

As the social easing continues we are beginning to celebrate the sacraments again and work through our 'backlog'. For the 'life-events' such as funerals, marriages and baptisms, we are allowed up to 30 people present - and we are also making plans for our 20+ Confirmation candidates and 100 or so First Communion children who have all been waiting to receive these wonderful gifts from God. Once we have been able to get up to date we will make plans for this coming years' preparations.

**Ministers of Word and Eucharist at Mass** - we need to draw up a rota from those who feel able to come to Mass and are able to assist with the new 'timetable' that we are able to offer, given some of the limitations that are in place concerning age and shielding. Please email the parish office to indicate your availability so that we can build up a varied 'pool' of ministers.

### Pilgrimage to the Holy Land

From 19<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> April 2021, for 10 days based in Jerusalem and Galilee. The cost is £2,125 full board. For further details or to register your interest please email Fr Stephen in Oxted at [parishpriest.ow@gmail.com](mailto:parishpriest.ow@gmail.com).

**PARISH CLERGY:**

**Fr Tony Bridson**

**Dcn Tim Murrill (07545 175448)**

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:**

Mon - Thu 9am - 3pm 01737 761017

pnlparish@btconnect.com

Hall Hire Bookings:

pnllhallhire@gmail.com

**PARISH SAFEGUARDING**

Katie Jones - c/o 01737 761017

**SCHOOLS:**

St Joseph's - 01737 765373

www.stjosephs-redhill.surrey.sch.uk

St Bede's - 01737 212108

www.st-bedes.surrey.sch.uk

St Joseph's Pre-School - 07847221367

www.stjosephspreschoolredhill.co.uk

**PARISH WEBSITE:**

www.thenativityofthelord.org.uk

webmaster.pnlparish@gmail.com

**ST JOSEPH'S 17<sup>TH</sup> REIGATE SCOUTS**

www.17threigate.org

**EAST SURREY HOSPITAL**

The hospital does not inform the chaplain of your presence in the hospital unless a specific request is made by either a patient or their family. This needs to be made clear to the staff on admission to the hospital. If you are going in hospital as a 'Planned Admission' you are encouraged to contact Fr Tony to receive the Sacrament of the Sick prior to admission.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR**

**THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND**

Monica Peters, Anne Moon, Olive Regan, Michael Payne, Maria Mellone, Jaden Sebastian, Noreen Leigh, Jim Howley, Shelagh Green, Bobette O'Connell, Lydia Fagan, Anne Grier, Michael Scoltock, Marcus Higgins, Raul Bantog, Chris Bayley, Marion & Barry Scholefield, Joe & Maeve Welsby, Malcolm & Maria Chelvanayagam, Damian Poole, Pam Dysart, Bill & Maureen Wasson, Fr Laurence Quin-Morris, Pat Weller, Betty Murphy, John Warren, Brigid Gow, Chris & Margaret Byrne, Edith Rashbrook, Matt Tunney, Sheilane Barrientos, Sarah Healy, Ruth Metcalfe, Margaret McGettrick, Kathleen Beckey, Claire Chantal, John Philmore, Richard & Meli Greaves, Daniel Correia, Maria Dimaculangan, Mary Carey, Maura Green, John Gaynor, Peter Reade, and all the sick and housebound of our parish.

*If you or someone you know is sick & housebound and would like to receive Communion please contact the parish on 01737 761017.*

**PARISH MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS**

**24<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)**

Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35.

**Response:** *The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger, rich in mercy.*

**Sat 12 Sept**

St Joseph's 17.30 Bill McEntee

**Sun 13 Sept**

Holy Family 09.00 People of the Parish

St Joseph's 11.00 Quentin Dagasdas RIP

St Teresa's 17.30 Thomas Michael Holly RIP

**Mon 14 Sept Exaltation of the Cross**

**Tue 15 Sept Our Lady of Sorrows**

**Wed 16 Sept Ss Cornelius and Cyprian**

**Thur 17 Sept**

**Fri 18 Sept**

St Joseph's 10.00 Pauline Burke RIP

**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)**

Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7; Romans 14:7-9; Matthew 18:21-35.

**Response:** *The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger, rich in mercy.*

**Sat 19 Sept**

St Joseph's 17.30 Moya McCormack RIP

**Sun 20 Sept**

Holy Family 09.00 People of the Parish

St Joseph's 11.00 Marie Sullivan

St Teresa's 17.30 Private Intention

The Sacrament of Reconciliation can be celebrated by appointment

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF SOUL OF:**

**Walter Sargent RIP.** Please remember him and his family in your prayers.

**Telephone support for the bereaved.**

If you have been recently bereaved and you would like to talk to someone, we have members of our bereavement team who are able to offer you the time and space to reflect on your loss. In the current circumstances face to face visiting may prove difficult, however, until that becomes easier, we can chat on the phone. If you would like to talk to someone then please contact the Parish office who will arrange this for you.

**Numbers Coming to Mass** continue to grow. Safe measures will continue on place, including sanitizing on entry and exit, social distancing restrictions in each church, the need for the presence of at least 2 stewards, and everyone participating in the Mass to wear a face covering. Many people have commented on how safe they felt, and it was good to see so many families able to sit together. We aim to build on this as more and more feel confident to return. If you have come, tell others what it was like!

**Volunteers are needed - the more the better!**

We need stewards for the Masses and cleaners for the equally important cleaning teams. You must not be from those instructed to shield themselves, nor from those under 18 or over 70 years old, or from groups considered more vulnerable to coronavirus. We need ministers of word and Eucharist, again those considerable vulnerable should abstain from offering at this time. We also need volunteers to help around the grounds with general maintenance. **If you feel you can help in any way please email the parish office with the subject line 'Volunteer'. Pass the word around and encourage others to come forward as well. Thank you.**