



As we move into 2022, Father Ephraim, and I want to thank you all for your warm welcome since we arrived in October 2021 to your parish of St. Joseph's and St. Elizabeth. We very much appreciate your kindness and care over the past few months. We thank you for your support and encouragement. We belong to an amazing community and despite this long season of Covid-19, we continue to stand strong and proud as people of hope, love, joy and peace. This Christmas we celebrated the Masses with limited numbers, but many of you watched via the livestreaming. The liturgy was beautiful and so many of you got involved in setting the scene within and outside the church.

I must say, I am deeply touched by your abundant generosity of donations, well wishes and gifts over the Christmas period. For your spirit of solidarity and being such fantastic witness of living a life of faith, I say thank you.

I pray this prayer for you:.....

New Year's Prayer

As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family, our friends and our parish community of St. Joseph's and St. Elizabeth's.

Let us release our grudges, our anger and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains.

Let us live each day in the most loving ways, the God-conscious way.

Let us serve all who are in need, regardless of race, colour or creed.

Let us keep God of our own understanding in our hearts and to chant God's name each day.

Let us lead the world from darkness to light, from falsehood to truth and from wrong to right.

Let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, discriminating against none.

May your year be filled with peace, prosperity and love.

May God's blessings shower upon you and bestow upon each of you a bright, healthy and peaceful new year.

**God bless you all,
Liam**

APPOINTMENTS if you wish to speak to Fr Ephraim or Fr Liam in confidence on any matter, please contact him for an appointment. They are always happy to visit your home if so desired, adhering to social distancing guidelines.

Father Ephraim will be the 'link person' for pastoral matters concerning the parish of St. Joseph's and St. Elizabeth's. He will also be chaplain to St. Mary's school.

Father Liam will be the 'link person' for the parish of St. Edmund Campion and will be chaplain to St. Edmund Campion school.

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The Parish Website and Facebook page: www.stjosephsparish.co.uk <https://www.facebook.com/StJoMaidenhead/>
St Edmund Campion website page: <http://st-edmundcampion-mh.co.uk/>
Diocesan website: <https://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/>



**PARISH NEWSLETTER FOR
ST. JOSEPH'S, MAIDENHEAD & ST. ELIZABETH'S, COOKHAM**
Number 312 9th January 2022
The Baptism of The Lord, Psalter Week 3, Year C



Today, Jesus' baptism by John, was a special moment – the real coming of God's spirit upon him. It was the same Spirit, who had come upon Mary at the moment of Jesus' conception and would come to Jesus at his last moment on the Cross.

The spirit brings him new energy. The feast marks that something new is happening, and that Jesus is the beloved and son from eternity and into time.

The Spirit came upon him – but not just for himself.

He would send the Spirit later to us – of forgiveness and of perseverance in doing good.

Today is about energy. Jesus found a new spirit in himself after his prayer and he heard words he would never forget. Maybe you have heard words of love from someone you will never forget. They give energy to the heart and soul, making us people always on the go, ready for new life within us.

The Spirit pours the energy of God into bread and wine, and they are changed forever. He sends himself forever. It is sending the love and presence and energy of God.

We know that we can get stuck. We know that this pandemic of Coronavirus is eating away at us. Who will be infected next? How many more to die? Can we live 'normal and routine lives' side by side with the latest variant of Covid, Omicron?

We need new infusions of the Spirit to give new energy.

We are beloved sons and daughters of a God who loves us and cares for us.

Can we be the type of people who others think it's good to meet and encounter?

Can we be open to the spirit of God, open to new life, new love, being really fully the person, I can be?

May the waters of baptism, O Lord, bring us the new life of your love.

Readings:

1st Reading: **Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11.**

He will feed his flock like a shepherd.

Responsorial: **Psalm 103**

R./: Bless the Lord my soul! Lord God, how great you are.

2nd Reading: **Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7**

Purified through the water of rebirth and renewal.

Gospel: **Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**

The Baptist points to Jesus the Saviour, whom God calls "my Son, the Beloved"

St. Mary's Primary School: It is with great joy we welcome Mrs. Rosemary (Rosie) Akehurst, as our new head teacher to St. Mary's school. It is a great school, and we know she will enjoy her many years to come there. She herself writes:*"I am delighted to be joining St. Mary's Catholic Primary School in January 2022 as Headteacher and I view it as a privilege to be chosen to lead the further development of this wonderful school. As a former pupil of St. Mary's, myself, I have always been aware of the unique culture, Catholic values and ethos which permeates throughout the school. I am excited about being part of this again...".*

Every blessing from all the parishioners from St. Joseph's and St. Elizabeth's.

St Joseph's Maidenhead and St. Elizabeth's Cookham are part of the Great Park Pastoral Area of the Diocese of Portsmouth which includes.
St Edmund Campion - Maidenhead: St Edward's - Windsor: St Mark's - Dedworth: St Thomas More - Twyford: Our Lady of Peace - Wargrave

Weekly Mass Times, Intentions and Parish Diary

Saturday	8 th January	10:00	Deceased Members of DeSousa Family
		18:30	Philip Dias, RIP
Sunday	9 th January	08:00	Cecelia & Tony Cardozo, RIP
		09:15	Bill & Alice Witt, RIP
		09:30	First Holy Communion Group meet in Hall
		11:00	People of the Parish (Livestreamed)
Monday	10 th January	10:00	Mothers Prayer Group meet in Church
Tuesday	11 th January	10:00	Catherine O'Donovan, SI
		11.30	Funeral Service, Margherita Siragusa, RIP
Wednesday	12 th January	10:00	Angel Sanjurjo, A
Thursday	13 th January	10:00	Tony Pinnell, RIP
Friday	14 th January	10:00	Alice & Cyril Maguire, SI
Saturday	15 th January	10:00	Rivita Rodrigues, SI
		18:30	Rhea Leolie, RIP
Sunday	16 th January	08:00	Theo Monteiro, RIP
		09:15	People of the Parish
		11:00	Martinho & Filomena Cardozo, RIP (Livestreamed)

Code: SI: Special Intention, **RIP:** Rest in Peace, **A:** Anniversary, **FM:** Foundation

For Livestreamed Mass: Please click on the link below, scroll down and you will find the YouTube logo:

<https://stjosephsparish.co.uk/>

DECEASED

Please pray for the souls of:

Margherita Siragusa, RIP, Funeral Service will take place on Monday 11th January at 1.45pm in St Joseph's Church followed by burial in Braywick Cemetery

Daniel East, RIP, Funeral Service will take place on Tuesday 12th January at 11.30am in St Joseph's Church followed by burial in Braywick Cemetery

Stephen Dumbrell, RIP, Funeral Service will take place on Tuesday 12th January at 3.30pm in Easthampstead Park Crematorium

HEALING MASS: Each First Friday will see a 'Healing Mass' being celebrated alternatively at St. Joseph's Church and St. Edmund Campion Church for 2022. We bring together all our needs and especially asking God's healing spirit upon people and situations in our parish. You are very welcome.

4th February. 10am Mass celebrated at St. Edmund Campion.

4th March. 10am Mass celebrated at St. Joseph's.

HOUSEBOUND: If you know of anyone who is sick and/or housebound, please let Shauna (Parish Office) or Fr Ephraim or Fr Liam know in the office so that a visit can be arranged.

The First Friday of the month is traditionally a time when a priest visits a home to anoint anyone who is house bound, with holy oil, and to administer the sacrament of Holy Communion. The parish has several people on this list. If indeed, you or someone you know would like a visit from a priest, then please contact Fr. Ephraim or Fr. Liam.

FACE COVERINGS: It is encouraged, from a moral and respectful point of view, to continue wearing face mask during Public Worship. (This indeed, is a legal requirement, and several of our parishioners have an exemption from wearing masks).

SHIELDING for those in our community who continue to join at the Eucharist via streaming but for one reason or another cannot physically come to the church and would like to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, please let Fr. Ephraim or Fr. Liam or indeed the parish office know. They will bring the Holy Sacrament to you whilst adhering to social distancing and a safe environment.

CONGRATULATIONS: to Edgar as he was enrolled into the Guild of St Stephen. Edgar was presented with his Guild Medal on St Stephen's Day. We look forward to welcoming many more Altar Servers into the Guild in the coming year because St Stephen, the First Martyr, is the Patron Saint of Altar Servers

Sacraments

First Holy Communion: Children eligible to start Stage Two of the First Holy Communion Programme begin on Sunday 9th January. The children will be officially enrolled at the 11am Mass after their class. We continue to pray for them.

Confirmation Programme: Candidates, eligible to start Stage Two of the Confirmation Programme will begin on Saturday the 15th January. A letter and an update of dates is being sent out to their families over the weekend. Please note the requirements to enter Stage Two of the programme. We continue to pray for them.

RCIA: We are blessed with having twelve candidates join the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults). These are made up of people from the three church communities of St. Joseph's, St. Elizabeth's and St Edmund Campion. They are all involved with our church community. Some desire to be baptised, others to be received into the church from another church, and some are Catholics who desire to complete their Initiation process by the Sacrament of Confirmation. All we be fully initiated at the Easter Vigil, April 16th. Classes begin on January 13th. We continue to pray for them.

FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION To make a contribution to St Joseph's and St Elizabeth's. You can make a donation direct to our Parish bank account and setup a monthly standing order for regular donations with these details: Name: PRCDT St Joseph Maidenhead Sort-code: 30-93-04 Account no.: 00882667. There is also a contactless "Sum Up" machine, where you can contribute to the weekly collection.

GIFT AID YOUR OFFERINGS Remember to Gift Aid your offerings to the Parish. St Joseph's can claim back from the taxman an extra 25% of what you have given. It's simple, you sign a certificate to say you are a taxpayer and want your donations to be subject to Gift Aid. Any offerings you make by numbered envelope, standing order or direct debit are then treated as gift aided. Please note that we have no access to your personal tax data and never reveal people's offerings. Forms can be found on our website: www.stjosephsparish.co.uk at the bottom of the Donations page. Louise Wood is our Finance Officer and can be contacted by email accounts@stjosephsparish.co.uk for forms and advice. If you would prefer, please leave a message on the parish telephone for her, 01628 783988.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS Thank You to all our parishioners who gave so generously to the request for a contribution towards Christmas Flowers. Thank you to Angela Fetcher who made St Elizabeth's Church look amazing over Christmas and in St Joseph's Church thank you also to the flower rota ladies Lorraine Pring, Pat Webber, Carol Arthur, Joan Boland, Teresa Dale and Marlene Nicholls who gave up their time on Christmas Eve to decorate the church. Any surplus money from the collection would be held for future flowers - Thanks to all.

Volunteers Needed: We are looking for volunteers to help with the running of the following teams during week and weekend Masses. If you can help, please get in touch with Fr Liam, Fr Ephraim, Shauna or Gloria in the Parish/Centre Offices. We aim to have a training session in March with present and new volunteers.

