

Parish Newsletter for St. Joseph's Maidenhead & St. Elizabeth's Cookham

5th Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year B

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Newsletter
401
3rd/4th
Feb 24

The first reading is tough to hear, and we have to admire Job. We talk of 'the patience of Job'. Job is the example and the hero of depression. He just had it bad. All had gone wrong, and he felt no good, no hope, no meaning. His family collapsed, his wealth disappeared, and he cursed the day he was born. He went through all of the depressions people have, but somehow kept that glimmer of light alive. He never totally lost God, and God never lost him. Depression is a huge illness. Many suffer; many are affected. Treatment can be of help, and the listening times of friends as well as therapy is healing. There are many helps on the human level. There is the help also of faith and prayer at times. And the help of someone who, listens, empathises, doesn't judge nor give easy cures. Love from God never ends even though it may not appear near just now. This is the Jesus of the gospel – bringing the grace of healing, of freeing from any evil, of constant love. Imagine a time of darkness in your life; picture it in its colour, and imagine the bright light of Jesus penetrate that darkness. Ask for help and give thanks for help.

Give light, Good Lord, to all who live in the valley of darkness and the shadow of doubt.

READINGS:

1st Reading: Job 7:1-4, 6-7

Psalms: Psalm 146:1-6 **R/**
**Praise the Lord who heals
the broken-hearted**

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians
9:16-19, 22-23

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Ministry of Reader and Ministry of Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion:

The Church in Maidenhead is giving a workshop for those in our community who feel called to be Ministers of Word and/or Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, and Ministry to the Sick and Housebound. You are welcome to attend a **90-minute** session on either **7pm Fri 16 Feb** or **11am Sat 17 Feb** at St. Joseph's Church, but it is open to all Christians in the Maidenhead area. Please let either parish office know, if this is something that you feel called to do, as a service to our community. Both Ministries are essential, and we need more people to serve in these roles. At present, we are very short of both. Father Liam will guide these two meetings.

What is Lent? Lent, the solemn 40-day period before Easter, holds profound significance in the Catholic Church and other Christian traditions. Starting on Ash Wednesday and concluding on Holy Thursday, it is a season of penitence and preparation. Throughout Lent Catholics engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These practices serve to deepen our connection with God, our awareness of Jesus' sacrificial love, and to prepare our hearts and minds for the Paschal Mystery—the journey of Jesus' passion, death, & resurrection. Lent is an invitation to reflect, repent, and renew one's commitment to living a life of faith, ultimately leading to the joyful celebration of Easter.

This year 2024, Lent begins on 14 February with Ash Wednesday and concludes on Holy Thursday, 28 March. The evening of 28 March we begin the Holy Season of the Easter Triduum: Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, Easter Sunday.

A LENTEN PREPARATION TALK by Kevin Hughes. This talk is a reflection aimed at helping us get the most out of this time of Grace and Reconciliation: **5 Feb 10am** St Edmund Campion Church ; **7pm** St Thomas More Church, Twyford **7 Feb 6:30pm** St Joseph's Church, Maidenhead

14 Feb Ash Wednesday Mass: 10am & 7pm St Joseph's ; 9.30am & 7pm St Edmund's ; 7pm St Elizabeth's

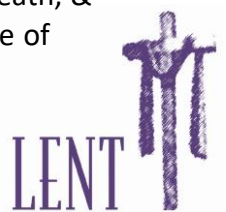
Fri 23rd Feb CAFOD Family Fast Day This Lent, your donations to CAFOD's Family Fast Day appeal will help hardworking people like James the fisherman in Liberia with resources, tools and training to feed their families for good. Give using the envelope or online at cafod.org.uk and please join us in praying with James that our sisters and brothers around the world have what they need to feed their families.

Reconciliation services: **9 Mar 11am** St Edmund's **20 Mar 7pm** St. Joseph's

Stations of the Cross: Every Friday after 10am Mass in St Joseph's

Lenten Project: To buy a reliable speedboat for the Missionary work in Basankusu, Congo. Donations to **CDP Maidenhead St Josephs Church** Ac **00882667 / 30-93-04**. Please include your name and "+Lent" as reference, to earmark your contribution.

Please be reminded we will **not have flowers** at the altars during Lent.



IN CHURCH

10 Feb 4.30pm Confirmation session at St Edmund Campion Primary School

4 & 25 Feb 9.30am FHC in the Parish Hall

6 Feb Baptismal Course at St Joseph's: For all parents whose child is being baptised in M'head. Please meet one of the parish priests before attending the class

11 Feb, 2.30-5pm, Bereavement Support Group St Edmund Campion Hall. Come for a cup tea and cake to talk or share with others who are also grieving

18 Feb, Filipino Mass All are welcome!

Toddlers Group Every Friday in termtime, 8.45am-10.45am St Edmund Campion Hall

10-18 Mar Novena to St Joseph. After Mass 10am weekday & Sun 11am. Zoom 6pm millhillmissionaries.co.uk/novena/

See Fr Liam's letter on the **10-year mission plan**

Mass Times & Mass Intentions (Feb 2024)

Sat	3rd	10:00	Rodrigues Family Intentions, SI
		18:30	Coleman Family, FM
Sun	4th	08:00	Margaret Philip, A Mary & Michael Carrigan, A Fabiola Angel Costa, SI
		09:15	People of the Parish
		11:00	Maud Brady, A
Mon	5th	10:00	No Mothers' Prayers / No Mass
Tue	6th	10:00	Rev John Lord Lewington, FM
Wed	7th	10:00	Joyce & Dominic Manuel, SI Deryk & Marth Manuel, SI Naomi Lobo, SI
Thu	8th	10:00	Coleman Family, FM
Fri	9th	10:00	Charlotte Ray, SI Elizabeth John & Sean McKeon, A
Sat	10th	10:00	Louisa Coleman, FM
		18:30	Brian Weavers, A
Sun	11th	08:00	People of the Parish
		09:15	
		11:00	Mothers' Prayer Group, SI

Chinese New Year:

This falls on Saturday, 10 Feb, & celebrations culminate with the Lantern Festival on 24 Feb.

As we have a number of families who are Chinese or of Chinese descent, we as a parish community, wish you every joy and blessing as you celebrate your new year. 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.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

8 Feb, 2pm Rosary + 6pm Journeying together through Holy Scripture with Fr Bernie. Both via Zoom: ID 82806901794 Password 312990 or: <https://tinyurl.com/2hz5axvp>

8-11 Feb, Retrouvaille: For Couples Struggling in their Marriages Virtual event. Call or text: 07887 296983 / 07973 380443 Email: retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com Website: www.retrouvaille.org.uk

2 Mar 10am 2024 Day of Recollection led by Fr Liam Cummins at Corpus Christi Church. £10/person includes lunch and refreshments. Parking at St Teresa's Catholic Academy, Easthampstead Road.

1 Mar, 2pm WORLD DAY OF PRAYER (WDP) 2024 is hosted by High Street Methodist Church. Focus of prayer: Women of Palestine. Please join this ecumenical church service and stay for refreshments

- **SVP** please refugees who are facing homelessness & destitution. If you want to donate clothes, please leave them by the Sacred Heart Altar for collection. Alternatively, you can donate to **CDP Maidenhead St Josephs Church** sort code **30-93-04 A/C 00882667** with your name and **+SVP** as reference
- **Every Tues, 3.30-4.30pm:** Talkin' Table at Rio Cafe in the Library. Buy a coffee and make new friends!
- **ACTION FOR ROUGH SLEEPERS IN MAIDENHEAD project** See: <https://www.brettfoundation.charity/homeless-project> Questions or suggestions: call 07749 917134
- **Every 2nd & 4th Mondays 10.30am-12pm. Riverside Christian Fellowship's free tea/coffee-mornings** St. Luke's Road - next to the Territorial Army Centre. (Access via St. Luke's roads or Kidwell's Park)

Magazine We need writers, contributors, photographers for our upcoming Parish Magazine. Please contact the office if you're interested in helping or advertising!

To contribute to St Joseph's and St Elizabeth's (instead of HMRC), you can **boost** your contribution by **25%**!

Gift Aid if you can! Please use our contactless machine or see our information pack/website or contact parish office. Thank you!

MISSIO Red Box Collection: Grab a box from the church entrances and/or parish office.

Last week's collection

Gift Aid: **£117.00**

Non-Gift Aid: **£601.45**

TRIPS 3rd Mar 24 Escorted Pilgrimage to Knock & Co Mayo, £899pp. Please see Notice board/ online newsletter for more information.