

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

Tel: 01737 761017 - Email: pnlparish@btconnect.com - Website: www.thenativityofthelord.org.uk

The Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C) - 19th December 2021

Churches and "Plan B"

The Prime Minister has confirmed that England has moved to Plan B following the rapid spread of the Omicron variant in the UK. In this parish, within the context of our comparatively large congregations, we have tried to maintain a measured steady approach to changes we have introduced as the pandemic seemed to ease. For some this has been very frustrating, for many of the more vulnerable and anxious this has meant they have felt able to return and participate in the Mass feeling safe. Rather like the emphasis on face coverings at the moment, it is important that we are thinking more about others than ourselves. The Bishops of England and Wales have not restored 'The Sunday Obligation' but have issued a rich reflection on 'The Day or the Lord' which they urge everyone to reflect on. It is available on our website and the Bishops own website, alongside other resources. They advise that care must be taken to ensure that churches continue to be places where people feel safe to gather to worship. A key element of their guidance involves moving away from centralised detailed regulation to prudent local judgements, adopting a continuing cautious approach to easements. The key watchwords remain: discernment of local prevailing conditions and careful consideration of what mitigations are needed in light of these, with a strong emphasis on common sense risk averse activities to continue to mitigate against the transmission of the virus.

The response our Parish has adopted remains in line with the latest requirements:

- We are still asked to ensure the use of face coverings and also sanitization on entry and exit from Church.
- Track and trace is encouraged and people can continue to use the QR points or sign in themselves.
- Stewards are no longer required to manage movement of the congregation, on entry or for Communion
- There is no longer a requirement for social distancing within the Churches and all seating is available.
- Should people wish to socially distant we will maintain the use of the halls to ensure this.
- The physical sign of peace remains suspended and Communion continues to be under one kind only.
- We are able to re-introduce congregational singing gradually.
- The use of our PNL centres is still heavily restricted by our Diocesan requirements for Covid and so for the time being remain 'out of action' except for Mass overflow and our Sacramental programmes.
- We have returned to the normal weekday schedule for Mass to which all are welcome.
- St Joseph's Church will be open daily for visits and private prayer.

Christmas Masses:

Friday 24th Dec - 6.00pm St Joseph's (Vigil Mass)
Saturday 25th Dec - Midnight Holy Family (Midnight Mass)
Saturday 25th Dec - 9.00am St Joseph's Dawn Mass
Saturday 25th Dec - 11.00am St Teresa's (Day Mass)

Please keep an eye on the newsletter and website for any changes we may need to make - at this stage there are no plans for booking places.

Poinsettia's for Christmas, please bring Poinsettia plants in memory of loved ones to St Teresa Church on Sunday 19 or Monday 20 Dec before Mass and leave in the porch.

SYNOD process Update - ten questions have been posed for the Universal Church to answer in groups or individually. Our Diocese has arranged them into three sessions which can be found following this link: <https://www.abdiocese.org.uk/synod>. It is possible to answer these via the online booklet but we will also be organising a group discussion, please email the parish office if you are interested in joining a group.

Honouring Sunday the Bishops of England and Wales have issued a letter emphasising the importance of Sunday and our call to Mass. Their letter can be found on the Bishops website and attached to our parish website.

Afghanistan Crisis Appeal CAFOD is combining efforts with the DEC for 8 million people on the brink of famine because of drought, collapsing economy, food shortages, conflict, and COVID - see www.cafod.org.uk for more information and to donate to this emergency fund

School Admission Signings - St Joseph's School (SIF)

For parents who wish to apply for admission for their child under the Catholic Faith Criteria 1-6, Fr Tony at the PNL will probably not be meeting parents this year. Instead, please send your completed SIF (leaving only the Priest's section unfilled) directly to the school before 15th January, and Fr Tony will then view these applications and support as applicable. You will NOT need a face-to-face meeting with Fr Tony this year. For applications outside of the Parish of the Nativity of the Lord, please check with your Parish Priest for details of their local arrangements.

50/50 Club This month there are two winners of £40 each: **No. 95 & No. 3**. Subscriptions are now due for 2022 at £12.00 per number per year. As the name suggests, 50% of the money goes to the Parish and the other 50% goes out in monthly prizes.. For more information please email 5050club.pnl@gmail.com

Our Local Winter Night Shelter The WNS are providing a few venues offering a safe place for an evening meal and social gathering. If you would like to volunteer to help please contact the parish office for details.

Visiting Sick and Housebound if you know of anyone who cannot come to Mass please contact the parish office after obtaining their permission.

Retiring Collection this weekend: Christmas Flowers.

The Collection at Christmas is by tradition your personal offering to your parish priest. If you would like to contribute online please email the parish office for our bank details.

PARISH CLERGY:
Fr Tony Bridson
Dcn Tim Murrill (07545 175448)

PARISH OFFICE
MON - FRIDAY 9.30AM - 3.30PM
01737 761017
pnlparish@btconnect.com

Hall Hire Enquires:
pnlhallhire@gmail.com

PARISH SAFEGUARDING
Katie Jones - c/o 01737 761017
pnlsafeguarding@gmail.com

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 17TH REIGATE SCOUTS
www.17threigate.org

EAST SURREY HOSPITAL
The hospital does not inform the Catholic chaplain, Fr Albion (01293 431703) 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 your admission.

**PLEASE PRAY FOR
THE SICK & HOUSEBOUND**

Jean Longley, Bridget Steward, Dilys Purtell, Brian O'Connor, Roland Cambel, Rosaline Liberman, Michael Fife, Mary Steer, Stephanie Remnant, Monica Peters, Anne Moon, Maria Mellone, Brigid Gow, Jaden Sebastian, Anne Grier, Lydia Fagan, Chris Bayley, Bill & Maureen Wasson, Fr Laurence Quin-Morris, Maria Dimaculangan, Michael Scoltock, Marcus Higgins, Marion & Barry Scholefield, Malcolm & Maria Chelvanayagam, Damian Poole, Pat Weller, Chris & Margaret Byrne, Edith Rashbrook, Sarah Healy, Sheilaine Barrientos, John Philmore, Maura Green, Margaret McGettrick, Kathleen Beckey, Claire Chantal, Richard & Meli Greaves, Peter Reade, and all 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.

The Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)

Mic 5:1-4; Ps 79; Heb 10:5-10; Lk 1:39-44

Response: God of hosts, bring us back
Let your face shine on us and we shall be saved

Sat 18 Dec
St Joseph's 17.30 Joe & Kathy Geoghegan RIP
Sun 19 Dec
Holy Family 9.00 Dawid Zaboroswki's wellbeing
St Joseph's 11.00 People of the parish
St Teresa's 17.30 Private Intention

Mon 20 Dec
St Teresa's 10.00 Peter Tilton RIP

Tue 21 Dec
No mass

Wed 22 Dec
St Joseph's 10.00 Farrukh family int.

Thur 23 Dec
Holy Family 10.00 Lorraine Byrne RIP

Friday 24 Dec
St Joseph's 10.00 Special Intention

The Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord

St Joseph's 18.00 Parish Deceased 2021 RIP
Sat 25th Dec
Holy Family 00.00 People of the Parish
St Joseph's 09.00 All who have died of Covid 19 RIP
St Teresa's 11.00 For peace in the World

The Feast of the Holy Family

1Sm 1:20-22,24-28; Ps 83; 1Jn 3:1-2,21-24; Lk 2:41-52

Response: They are happy who deal in your house, O Lord.

Sun 26 Dec
Holy Family 09.00 People of the Parish
St Joseph's 11.00 Maeve & Joe Welsby RIP
St Teresa's 17.30 Private Intention

The Sacrament of Reconciliation can be celebrated by appointment

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE REPOSE OF THE SOUL OF:

Lionel Bay RIP His funeral will take place on Wed 12th Jan at 10.30am at St Joseph's followed at Redstone Cemetery.

Please remember them and their families in your prayers.

PRAYER FOR A SPIRITUAL COMMUNION Please use this prayer if you needing to isolate, or are unwell, or unable to come to Mass: *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 spiritually 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. (St Alphonsus Liguori)*