



ST. JOSEPH'S HIGHGATE

OPEN | AFFIRMING | INCLUSIVE

PARISH BULLETIN

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FINDING GOD IN THE PIT



In Jeremiah 38, the prophet is thrown into a deep, muddy cistern—left to sink, alone, in darkness. He cannot climb out by himself. But God sends help through Ebed-Melech, who gently lifts Jeremiah to safety.

Depression can feel just like that cistern—dark, heavy, and inescapable. Many of us have been there, or perhaps are there now. Sometimes, like Jeremiah, we didn't choose the pit. Life's losses, broken relationships, illness, unprocessed grief, or even a slow loss of faith, can bring us to a place where hope feels far away.

Medicine, therapy, and rest are gifts from God, just as Ebed-Melech's rope and cloth were. But our faith also invites us to look deeper—not to blame ourselves for depression, but to listen for its message. Are we carrying grief we have not been allowed to express? Are there boundaries we have been too afraid to set? Are we spiritually exhausted, perhaps feeling far from God?

Depression can sometimes numb us, hiding emotions we fear to face. Yet, in Christ, all our emotions are safe to bring into the light. Even the anger or grief we've silenced can lead us toward healing when we offer it honestly to God in prayer.

And just as Jeremiah could not rescue himself, so too we may need others to help us out of our pit—friends, counsellors, doctors, and our church family. That is not weakness; it is God's design that we carry one another's burdens.

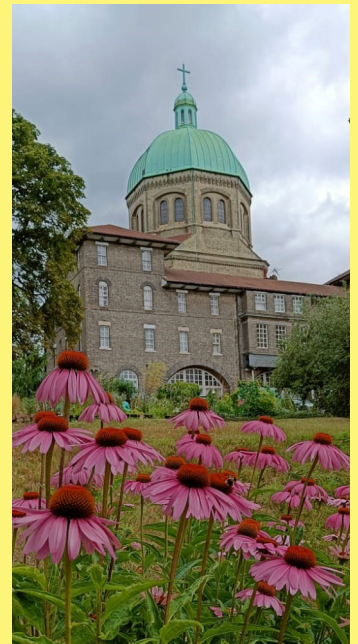
If you feel you are in the mud today, remember: God has not abandoned you. He is already sending someone—or something—to lift you up. And if you know someone in the pit, perhaps you are their Ebed-Melech, sent to bring them light and hope.

Welcome to St. Joseph's

Welcome to St. Joseph's, a place where the warmth of our spirit shines brightly and the heart of our community beats in harmony with Jesus' message of love and acceptance. At St. Joseph's, we cherish the divine spark within every individual, celebrating the rich tapestry of humanity that graces our lives. Here, we joyfully honour diversity as we embody a vision of radical hospitality and inclusiveness.

Our doors and hearts are open to people of all ages, races, and gender identities; embracing the beautiful mosaic of nationalities, ethnic backgrounds, and sexual orientations. We welcome every family structure, economic circumstance, physical and mental ability, educational journey, and faith background. Though differences exist among us, we believe in loving alike even while thinking differently.

We invite you to be part of this nurturing community, where we travel together on a faith journey toward deeper love, understanding, and mutual respect. Join us as we grow in spirit, sharing in the beauty of our collective experiences and aspirations.



Human Rights for All Humans



Join March for Life UK on Saturday 6th Sept in London! The right to life underpins every other right we have and without it every other right is rendered meaningless. Abortion denies the most vulnerable in our society their most basic right, the right to life, which is why this year's theme is 'Human Rights for All Humans'. Unite with thousands of others at this family-friendly event where we recognise the value of life from conception and stand up for all those who have been impacted by abortion. Find out more at marchforlife.co.uk or email info@marchforlife.co.uk

Save the Date - **Lectio Divina**
Tue. 7pm-8pm at Red Room
Wed. 10:30am-12 at Bupa

ST. JOSEPH'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2025

Save the Date: Saturday, 15th November 2025, from 12pm to 4pm

Join us as we unwrap the magic of the season at the St. Joseph's Christmas Bazaar! With hearts brimming with joy and gratitude, we extend a warm invitation to everyone for a day teeming with festive cheer and community spirit.



- Hampers and quality toys
- Bottles for our Tombola
- Bric-a-brac, jewellery, and accessories
- Plants and kitchenware
- Crafts and raffle items from local businesses.

Please drop off

all donations in the sacristy. Your contributions are vital for our event's success!



Exciting Raffle!

Get your raffle tickets from the month of September—just £1 each or £10 for a book of ten. Don't miss the grand draw at the Bazaar featuring fantastic prizes like gift vouchers and luxurious hampers! Your unwavering support and kindness make all the difference. Together, let's make this year's Christmas Bazaar a memorable celebration. All proceeds will lovingly support our cherished church needs.

For more details or to sign up as a volunteer, please connect with our priests or the Bazaar team after every Mass. Mark your calendars and join this joyful occasion! We can't wait to celebrate with you!



St. Joseph's Parish Hall

— Let the Spirit of Christmas Shine Bright!

Celebrate the Season with Us!

Our beloved Bazaar, brought to life by the inspiring dedication of Abuk, Cheryl, Diana, Roni, Bernard, Fessehaye, and Gerald, promises an enchanting experience for all. Your participation and support will help us craft beautiful holiday memories together.

How You Can Help:

Volunteer Opportunities:

- Friday, 14th November: Lend a hand as we set up stalls and prepare the venue for a magical day.
- Saturday, 15th November: Dive into the festivities by volunteering at various stalls and activities.



Donations Needed:

Your generous contributions are the heart of our event:

- Delicious cakes and mince pies (to be delivered on the day)



We are profoundly grateful for your generous contributions to last weekend's collection, totalling an impressive £1227. Your kindness and support empower us to serve and nurture God's Kingdom. Together, we make a significant impact on our community and beyond. May God's blessings shower upon you and your loved ones. Thank you sincerely for your support.

Please pray

for the recently deceased members of our Parish and their grieving families. May we lift up in prayer the souls of our departed sisters and brothers from our parish, may they find eternal peace in the arms of our loving God. And may we ask for comfort and strength for their families as they navigate through their grief and loss. Let us come together in solidarity and support, holding each other up in prayer during this difficult time.

Maurice William (Wed. 27 Aug. 10:30am)

Mass intentions from 16th August 2025

"I would be disobeying the LORD if I stopped praying for you!" 1 Sam. 12:23

Sat, 16 Aug 2025	07.00 pm	Sean McCann	Anniversary
Sun, 17 Aug 2025	08.00 am	Elizabeth Farrelly(sick), Victoria Maria Phillips & family	Anniversary
	10.00 am	Suzanne Phillips, Maurice Williams	Lately Dead
	12 noon	Martin Flattley, Aideen Phillips, Sean McCann	Anniversary
	07.00 pm	Missa PP	Intentions
Mon, 18 Aug 2025	09.30 am	Michael Mayer-Riekh	Birthday
	06.30 pm	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
Tues, 19 Aug 2025	09.30 am	Maz Smith	Intentions
	06.30 pm	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
Wed, 20 Aug 2025	09.30 am	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
	06.30 pm	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
Thur, 21 Aug 2025	09.30 am	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
	06.30 pm	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
Fri, 22 Aug 2025	09.30 am	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions
	06.30 pm	Frederick Ntow	Intentions
Sat, 23 Aug 2025	09.30 pm	Passionist Mass Guild	Intentions

Mass Intentions get fully booked for several weeks ahead.
If you would like a Mass said on a particular date or anniversary it is advisable to request it in good time.

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Jer 38: 4-6, 8-10/ Ps 40: 2, 3, 4, 18 (14b)/ Heb 12: 1-4/ Lk 12: 49-53. **Mon:** Jgs 2: 11-19/ Ps 106: 34-35, 36-37, 39-40, 43ab and 44/ Mt 19: 16-22. **Tue:** John Eudes, p, rf. Jgs 6: 11-24a/ Ps 85: 9, 11-12, 13-14/ Mt 19: 23-30. **Wed:** Bernard, ab, dr M. Jgs 9: 6-15/ Ps 21: 2-3, 4-5, 6-7/ Mt 20: 1-16. **Thu:** Pius X, pp M. Jgs 11: 29-39a/ Ps 40: 5, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10/ Mt 22: 1-14. **Fri:** Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary M. Ru 1: 1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22/ Ps 146: 5-6ab, 6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10/ Mt 22: 34-40. **Sat:** Rose of Lima, v. Ru 2: 1-3, 8-11; 4: 13-17/ Ps 128: 1b-2, 3, 4, 5/ Mt 23: 1-12. **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.** Is 66: 18-21/ Ps 117: 1, 2/ Heb 12: 5-7, 11-13/ Lk 13: 22-30.

St. Joseph's Parish: Invitation to a Sacred Journey of Faith

Dear Parish Family,
We are filled with joy to announce that applications for St. Joseph's Communion and Confirmation Programmes for 2025 are now available! This is a precious opportunity for our young ones and those inspired at any age to deepen their faith through these sacred sacraments.

First Holy Communion

For our cherished children aged seven and above in Year 3 or higher, we invite you to embark on this spiritual voyage. Preparation sessions are beautifully integrated into our 10am Sunday Mass from January through June. Please ensure that your application forms are submitted by October 1st. For more information, feel free to reach out to us at communion.joseph@gmail.com.

Confirmation

To all the vibrant students entering Year 9 or above this September, we warmly welcome you to apply for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Please collect an application form from the Church porch and remember to include a copy of your baptismal certificate, even if the sacrament was celebrated at St. Joseph's. All forms must be submitted by October 1st. For queries, contact confirmation.joseph@gmail.com.

For Adults

If you feel inspired to complete your sacraments of initiation, we encourage you to speak with our priests, who are ever ready to support you on this path. We are also excited to announce that a recently confirmed young parishioner has embraced the role of "Young Catechist" to mentor others. Year 12 students and above who wish to contribute to this enriching ministry are invited to email us or speak with Fr. George. Join us as we walk together on this sacred path of faith and growth. Visit our website for more details, and come be an integral part of our spiritual family at St. Joseph's Parish.

Welcome to St. Joseph

God loves everyone. No exceptions.

St. Joseph's Welcomes You. We are here for you! We invite you to join us on the spiritual journey as we learn and grow together, and as we seek to help and serve others.

MASS TIMES: Weekdays: 9:30am, 6:30pm, Saturdays: 9:30am followed by adoration until 11am, 7pm Vigil Mass. Sunday: 8am, 10am, 12noon, 7pm
Sacrament of Reconciliation
Saturday: 10am to 10:30am and from 6:30pm to 6:45pm. Weekdays on request