



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES CATHOLIC CHURCH

A FAIRTRADE PARISH

**Parish Priest: Fr Rob Esdaile**

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## SUNDAY, 13 SEPTEMBER 2020 24TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Cycle A, Psalter Week 4)

### CARRY ON, EVERYONE!

This is my first Sunday out of the parish in 14 months. And it's as good for you to have a break from me as it is for me to have a break from you, dear lovely people. It's also important theologically. One of the dangers in the Catholic way of doing Church is that we end up talking about 'Father's parish'. It's never just 'Father's parish'. It's always also your parish! We share the same mission and we're on the same journey.

Once I start either getting hyper-responsible ("*It can't possibly survive without me ...*") or, worse, proprietorial, I undermine your calling. Even calling me 'The Parish Priest' risks misunderstanding. Through baptism each of us shares equally in the priestly office of Jesus Christ. My ordination doesn't make me more of a priest than any of you. It just gives me a different role, as pastor, teaching, guiding and empowering you to do what all priests do – offering the world to God in prayer and making the Gospel credible for your neighbours.

"*Christ has no hands on earth but yours,*" as St. Teresa of Avila said. My absence reminds you of that truth. And our welcome of Fr. Joe reminds you that we are Catholic, universalist (Greek *kata holos*) – people of communion, guardians of the bigger picture. Believe it. Live it. See you soon!  
- **Fr. Rob**

### MASS TIMES & INTENTIONS

**Sat** 6pm People of the Parish

**Sun** 9am Jenny Wilton RIP

**Streamed Mass: NO STREAMED MASS TODAY**

**Mon** 9.30am Georgina Foggo RIP

**Tue** 9.15am Fr. Charles Briggs RIP

**Wed** 9.30am **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**

**Thu** 9.30am Richard Hourigan RIP

**Fri** 9.30am Johanna Carey Intention

**Sat** 6pm Mary Hingston RIP

**Sun** 9am People of the Parish

**Streamed Mass:**

**Sun** 10.15am John & Margaret Donovan's Intention

**September Prayer Intentions:** For God's blessing on the New Academic Year; for the children who will receive Holy Communion for the first time this month and the young people preparing for the sacrament of Confirmation; for care of Creation and '*that the planet's resources will not be plundered, but shared in a just and respectful manner.*' (Pope Francis' intention for September)

**We commend to the Lord all who have died,** especially Doreen Nason, Olive Mitchell, James Rodgers, Peggy Jewel and Dick Hourigan, whose anniversaries of death falls this week.

**Prayers needed?** A book of prayer intentions is placed on the altar at all masses. If you'd like a name or an intention added to the book, phone or e-mail Fr. Rob.

**This weekend** Fr. Joseph Archibong, from the Kiltegan (St. Patrick's Missionary Society) community at Molesey, will celebrate our masses. Please make him very welcome! As we are now approaching capacity at both 6pm (Saturday) and 9am (Sunday) masses, please follow directions from stewards regarding seating. Those wishing to join in a live-streamed mass might join our neighbours at Holy Name from 10am this Sunday at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCyuXPRHhBAamEda4oinLpw>

**This Saturday and next** the First Communion children and their parents have a class at 4.45pm and are invited to stay for 6pm mass afterwards. This may stretch the Covid-secure capacity of the church – so **we invite other parishioners to avoid the 6pm mass** if possible on September 12 and again on September 19.

**Fr. Rob** is back from his stay in the highlands of Norfolk on Monday.

**Contactless giving** is now available in the parish before and after weekend masses in the absence of the normal offertory collection. If you need help with the technology ask at the welcome desk in the narthex (but it helps the parish even more if you can give regularly by Standing Order. Forms for this and for Gift-Aid declaration are available on the parish website: [www.olchurch.co.uk/give](http://www.olchurch.co.uk/give).

**The Repository** will be open this weekend and next with cards and gifts for First Communion (and confirmation) on sale. To keep things Covid-secure, please don't handle items prior to purchase and, if possible, use contactless payment.

**New for the Autumn:** Every **Monday evening at 8pm** join us for a **TakeTime** meditation via zoom. *TakeTime* meditations provide a calm, comfortable space in which to meet God. Please email [meditations@olchurch.org.uk](mailto:meditations@olchurch.org.uk) for the link.

**Tuesday's Mass** will be at 9.15am and will be a celebration of **The Triumph of the Cross**, live-streamed to Holy Cross School in New Malden, with the readings of the feast and music pre-recorded by the school's students. Accordingly, Monday's 9.30am Mass will use the readings for the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows.

**Asking Big Questions:** Do you know anyone who is open to asking big questions about the meaning of life and faith? Can you invite them to join our next **Alpha** course starting this Thursday, September 17? It's **online** so they don't have to be local! If you or anyone you know would like to find out more, please email [alpha@olchurch.org.uk](mailto:alpha@olchurch.org.uk)

**First Communion:** The children preparing for First Communion (to be celebrated on September 26) have preparatory sessions with their parents **this Saturday and next** at 4.45pm.

**The Sacrament of Confirmation** will be celebrated here at OLOL on Friday, October 9 at 7pm. The young people meet to prepare on September 27 and October 4. Please accompany them with your prayers, that the Spirit may work powerfully in them their whole life long.

**Remember: Face coverings are now mandatory** in church (except for children under 11 and those unable to wear a mask for reasons detailed in government guidance) and we need to observe one-metre social distance from those not in our own social 'bubble'. Adults exempt from the requirement to wear a mask must sit in the hall or Stevenson Room or side-chapels and keep to 2 metre distancing. If you forget to bring a mask, simply speak to a steward. Thank you.

**Building A Sustainable Parish:** We are restarting our application process for a **Live Simply Award** from *Cafod* and reviewing our purchasing policy for cleaning and office supplies. We remain committed to use of **Fairtrade** tea, coffee, sugar, etc. See the attachment from our *LiveSimply* team sent out with the electronic version of the newsletter. If you have a heart for this work, please join the team. Contact [livesimply@olchurch.org.uk](mailto:livesimply@olchurch.org.uk)

**Children's Liturgy:** We'd like to restart this soon but need to assess how numbers at mass grow with the start of term to check we have capacity for this, as well as working out protocols to ensure this can be done in a 'Covid-secure' manner.

**Confession:** If you want to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation this is possible by arrangement with Fr. Rob, either in church or in the open air. Just contact him to arrange a time once he's back from his break. This could be a good moment to celebrate the Lord's forgiveness, as the restrictions of lockdown are eased and we reassess our lives, individually and collectively.

**Come to weekday mass instead?** Remember that the traditional 'Sunday Obligation' is waived during the Covid-19 pandemic. If you are shielding or vulnerable (or are simply free on weekday mornings) you may prefer to come to mass on a weekday, when there is usually more space.

**Domestic Abuse:** The National Board of Catholic Women has produced an excellent booklet on the different forms of domestic abuse (physical, emotional, sexual, etc.), with statistics, details of relevant agencies, case studies, a summary of the law and Church teaching. Everyone has a right to live in physical and emotional safety – and to help when things go wrong. See <https://bit.ly/2CE9uOM>

**East Elmbridge Foodbank** continues to provide food to 100+ families a week. Particular shortage items are longlife fruit juice, instant coffee (small jars), jam, peanut butter, tinned meat and fish, pasta sauces, instant packets – noodles, rice, etc., ketchup / mayo (small bottles), rice pudding and custard. Donations can be left in the church when it is open or at the presbytery. If you wish to make a donation to pay for wholesale supplies, go to [www.localgiving.org/east-elmbridge-foodbank](http://www.localgiving.org/east-elmbridge-foodbank).

**St. Paul's Catholic Primary School** have published a lovely short video introduction for prospective parents at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuGwQ-qVwSA&feature=youtu.be>. If you have a child seeking admission for September, 2021, arrange to meet with Fr. Rob if you want his signature on the school's *Supplementary Information Form* before January.

**ElmbridgeCan** charity seeks a volunteer **Material Donations Coordinator** (approx. 6 hrs. per week) to deal with donations of stuff needed to house refugees locally; **ESOL teachers**; a **trainer** for a woman's fitness class; **cycling buddies** to show refugees local cycle routes (and one woman's bike and 4 children's bikes); and **volunteer drivers** to offer lifts on a Covid-secure basis. Contact [jeannie.tweedie@elmbridgecan.org.uk](mailto:jeannie.tweedie@elmbridgecan.org.uk)

**Going Short?** Many families are under financial pressure now. Our diocese obtained a grant of £50,000 to purchase supermarket vouchers for those in need and we have access to these. Please contact Fr. Rob in complete confidence if this could be a help to you.