

Christ the King Newsletter

Focus of the Week

BINGO NIGHT

Saturday 27 April – 6.30pm

Tickets £12.50 Child £5.

£3 per game book includes 5 score cards.

We would be grateful for any donated prizes which can be left in the parish office.



CANA WEEK SUMMER 2024

28 July – 3 August

Sclerder Abbey, Looe, Cornwall

chemin-neuf.org.uk

An Opportunity To Strengthen Your Love For Each Other.

A unique six-day guided journey.

An opportunity for a couple to deepen their relationship.

You will arrive at the abbey and live a simple life; within a safe environment, your children are also looked after with structured activities. You can stay within the abbey or you can pitch up with your tent and wake up to the Cornish coastline.



St. Joseph's Table

Lent is interrupted every year with a few big feasts – St. Patrick (17 March), St. Joseph (19 March), and the Annunciation (25 March, though this year, because it falls in Holy Week, it's changed to 8 April). These are days to lighten our Lenten fast and celebrate the feast! St. Joseph's Day is a big feast in Sicily where I grew up (as big as St. Patrick for the Irish). St. Joseph's Day is commemorated and celebrated in Italy also as Father's Day.



Today I would like to share with you a beautiful memory of one of the eldest and popular tradition that it is still celebrated in my home town.

Around the 14th century, Sicily was affected by a terrible drought and famine and the population started praying and begging St. Joseph to help them. With his intercession they survived eating the fava bean (broad beans). It was the only crop that would grow in such harsh conditions. So bountiful the crop became that the famine ended. Sicilians promised St. Joseph to celebrate his day with the "St. Joseph's Table", an altar with special foods, flowers and devotional object as their thanksgiving for his help. To this special table are invited a group of poor people to represent the Holy Family, reliving their journey in need of food and shelter. All other attendees must wait until the Holy Family has finished their meal before they are allowed to eat.

"The altar" is traditionally comprised of three ascending tables, or "steps," representing both the Holy Trinity and the ascent from earth to heaven. At the centre of the last and highest table is a statue of St. Joseph or a picture of the Holy Family.

St. Joseph's Table is a result of a vow made in the previous year, in which a family promised to build an altar if St. Joseph granted a petition and often it is customary for the family to beg for supplies to build it.

The table is adorned with plants, candles and a various speciality of foods, assorted vegetables dishes, pasta, fruits and dessert. Meat is not part of the meal as this day falls in Lenten season. There are decorative breads formed and baked into the shapes of various Catholic symbols, such as a St. Joseph's staff, chalice, cross, fish or heart. Some of these breads are not eaten as part of the meal, but later given to the poor with any leftovers, along with any money that guests may have contributed.

In addition to private altars, public altars are traditionally built in the churches or in a public "piazza".

After many centuries, the St. Joseph's Table still serves as a reminder that those who have enjoyed some measure of good fortune must share it with those who have less. It is quite fitting, then, that the Solemnity of St. Joseph occurs during Lent, a time of reflection, humility and almsgiving.



Caterina Schifano

Notices of the Week

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS' MEETING

Sunday 17 March at 10am
In the Small hall.



ST JOSEPH'S MASS

Saturday 16 March – 5.30pm

St Joseph's College, in Sri Lanka, is one of the premier Catholic schools in the island. The past pupils of the college in the UK are celebrating St Joseph's feast a week earlier with their AGM and Mass followed by a social.



PALM SUNDAY - 24 MARCH

Please bring a palm to celebrate Palm Sunday.



ROCK THE MUSICAL

Sunday 24 March - 7.30pm

No tickets required, donations welcome towards pastoral activities of the parish.



MASS TIME AND MUSIC CO-ORDINATOR

Palm Sunday 11am Mixed Choir - Caroline Haines & Jo Collins

Holy Thursday 8pm Organ and Mixed Choir - Caroline Haines

Good Friday 3pm No Choir - Solo Jo Collins

Easter Vigil - Saturday 8pm

Mixed Choir - Caterina Schifano

Easter Sunday 11am Group - Jeannette Ballantyne



CHOCOLATE EGGS FOR OUR EASTER EGG HUNT

We are collecting chocolate eggs for our Easter Egg Hunt which will take place on Easter Sunday after 11am mass. Please bring the eggs to the parish office. Thank you for your generosity, the children will be delighted.



FUNERAL



The funeral mass for **MICHAEL SHACKLETON** will be at 11.00am on **Wednesday 27 March**.

Please pray for his soul.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

As in previous years the Stations of the Cross will be recited each Friday in Lent.

Options are **10.15am** (followed by 11am mass) and **6pm** (followed by time of adoration).



ANNUAL MASS OF THANKSGIVING FOR THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY

Westminster Cathedral, Saturday 25 May 2024 at 2:30pm.

The Cardinal is inviting to this Mass all couples in the Diocese, who are celebrating their 5th 10th, 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th and 60th (and every year over 60) wedding anniversary of Catholic marriage in 2024. If you are celebrating an anniversary, please give the parish office the following details: husband and wife's names, wedding date, full postal address and email (or telephone number, if no email) by Wednesday 10 April 2024.



SUNDAY READINGS – YEAR B

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Jer 31:31-34

Ps. 50

Heb 5:7-9

Jn 12:20-30



PASSION SUNDAY

Is 50:4-7

Ps. 21

Phil 2:6-11

Mk 14:1 – 15:47

Contact Us

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Mass Schedule

Mon - Sat: 11.00am (except on Tuesday)
Saturday: 5.30pm
Sunday: 9.00am, 11.00am

Adoration – Confession Mon - Fri: 6.00–7.00pm

Parish Live Streaming

@ChristTheKingParishCockfosters
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