

# ST JOSEPH THE WORKER, HUTTON WITH ST JOHN AND ST ERCONWALD, INGATESTONE



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20<sup>TH</sup> / 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER 2025 ✝ FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

## MASS TIMES

All liturgies and devotions are at Hutton unless otherwise stated.

**WEEKEND MASSES:** Saturday Vigil Mass 5.30pm (Hutton), Sunday 9.00am (Ingilestone) & 10.30 a.m. (Hutton).

**WEEKDAY MASSES** – 9.15 a.m.: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday

**CHURCH OPENING HOURS:** St Joseph's – every day 9am-5pm. St John's Tuesday & Friday 10.30am – 12.30pm; Sunday 8.30am – 11am.

**NO MASS ON THURSDAYS**

**ADORATION AND CONFESSIONS:** Saturday 10.30 – 11.15 a.m. or on request before Mass or any other time.

**PARISH OFFICE HOURS:** Wednesday and Friday 9.30 a.m. – 3 p.m.

## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup>	5.30 p.m.	Angela Booker	<b>R.I.P.</b>
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.00 a.m.	Grace & Donald Shaw	<b>R.I.P.</b>
	10.30 a.m.	Peggy Fehily	<b>R.I.P.</b>
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Dominic D'Albuquerque	<b>R.I.P.</b>
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Kathleen Green	<b>R.I.P.</b>
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	4.30 a.m.	Fr Noel Doyle	<b>R.I.P.</b>
	7.00 p.m.	Bishop Thomas McMahon	<b>R.I.P.</b>
	9.30 p.m.	Gerard Fraser	<b>R.I.P.</b>
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30 a.m.	Bina Southgate	<b>R.I.P.</b>
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup>	9.15 a.m.	Robert O'Brien	<b>R.I.P.</b>
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup>	5.30 p.m.	Janice and David Masters.	<b>Intentions</b>
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.00 a.m.	Private (JMC)	
	10.30 a.m.	Ngbokwa Juliana Okoro (30 <sup>th</sup> Year Death Anniversary)	<b>R.I.P.</b>

## OFFERTORY COLLECTION

*Thank you for your generous donations*

Date 13/14 December

Hutton:	£280.00
Ingilestone	£ 230.20

## ROTAS

	Readers	Eucharistic Ministers
Saturday 20 <sup>th</sup> – 5.30 p.m.	Marian Anderson	Mark Brennan
Saturday 27 <sup>th</sup> – 5.30 p.m.	Natalie Coleman-Dale	Marian Anderson
Sunday 21 <sup>st</sup> – 10.30 a.m.	Sophie Newbould	Lyn Birnie
Sunday 28 <sup>th</sup> – 10.30 a.m.	Uzoamaka Ekpechue	Brian Hockett

## READINGS AT MASS

**First reading:** Isaiah 7:10-14

**Responsorial Psalm:** Psalm 23(24):1-6. ¶ cf. 6

**Response:** *Let the LORD enter; He is the king of glory.*

**Second reading:** Romans 1:1-7

**Gospel Acclamation:** Mathew 1:23

**Alleluia, Alleluia!**

*Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel – which means, God with us. Alleluia!*

**Gospel:** Matthew 1: 18-24.

## MASS ATTENDANCE

Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup> December	–	5.30 p.m.	95
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	–	9 a.m.	47
Sunday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	–	10.30 a.m.	91

## FR GARY

The Gospel this Sunday turns our attention to Saint Joseph. In a season often associated with Mary's 'yes', we are invited to notice Joseph's quiet obedience and steady faith. And this is a blessing for us because one of our two parishes is dedicated to St Joseph!

Joseph is faced with a situation he cannot explain and did not choose. His plans are overturned, his future suddenly uncertain. Yet the Gospel tells us that he is a just man. His goodness is shown not in fine words, but in a willingness to do what is right even when it costs him.

In the silence of a dream, God speaks. Joseph is not given a full explanation, only a simple instruction: Joseph's response is immediate and complete. He does what is asked of him.

Joseph accepts a role that is largely hidden. He does not speak a single word in the Gospel, yet his actions shape the Holy Family and protect the child who is to be called Emmanuel, God-with-us. Through Joseph's obedience, God's promise is quietly fulfilled.

As Advent comes to its close, this Gospel invites us to reflect on our own response to God's call. We may not be asked to do great things, but we are often asked to do faithful things. To trust when the path is unclear. To act with integrity when no one is watching. To allow God to work through us in ways that remain unseen.

In Joseph, we see that holiness is often found not in understanding everything, but in doing what God asks. This Advent, may we learn something of his silence, his courage, and his trust, as we prepare to welcome Christ into our lives.

The Christmas Masses have been publicised for the past few weeks. I hope the range of times means that there is a time convenient for as many of our community as possible. At the **4.30pm vigil Mass**, we are encouraging our children to come dressed as characters from the Nativity. We have had some wonderful productions put on by the school and so I know that some of the children have their costumes already! The **7pm** will be at St John's in Ingilestone with, and we hoping to have the church illuminated with candlelight, and with all the traditional carols which we will have at all the Christmas Masses. The **9.30pm** back at Hutton will be the traditional 'Midnight Mass.' In the darkness of night, we celebrate the birth of the Light of the World. In the **Mass of the Day at 1030am** we are reminded of this child's Divinity as we continue to celebrate and rejoice.

I wish you all and your loved ones a very Happy Christmas.

*Fr Gary*

## Christmas Masses

### Christmas Eve

4.30pm – Mass for our Children

7.00pm – Sung Mass (Ingilestone)

9.30pm – Mass during the Night (Hutton)

### Christmas Day

10.30am – Mass of the Day (Hutton)

Maybe you know someone who has not been to Mass for a while? Without nagging them, perhaps this Christmas might provide you with an opportunity to invite them to join us? Christmas is a time for families. And that includes our parish family. Welcome them home this Christmas.

## A Celebration of the Life of an Admirable Woman - 28th December

We remember and celebrate Ngbokwa Juliana Okoro, our beloved Mother, Grandmother, Mother-in-law, Sister, Auntie, loyal Friend, Preacher and a Philanthropist. We honour an admirable woman of God whose life touched so many, as her Birthday and 30th death anniversary occurs next week 28<sup>th</sup> December 2025 on the Feast of the Holy Family.

You are invited to join us for refreshments after the 10:30am Mass. You are greatly appreciated. All are welcome!

Thank you very much for keeping us in your prayers.

With love from Ngozi Ekpechue Family.

## Welcomers, Readers and Eucharistic Ministers:

Please sign up for these ministries over the Christmas Period on the sheet at the back of the church. Thank you for your service in our parish.

## Mass Time Change

As Diocesan Master of Ceremonies, Fr Gary will need to be at the Cathedral early on Tuesday to go through the running order with the servers and to help set things up for the liturgy. Mass on Tuesday morning will be at 8.30am. Thank you for your understanding.

## Parish Christmas Cards

There are plenty of parish Christmas cards left. Would you consider delivering some to your road? Or perhaps you could give them to someone/some people who you know are Catholic but have not been for a while? Something as simple as a Christmas card may be just the thing to welcome them back to our parish family.

## Christmas Clean

We are aiming to have our churches looking at their best for the great celebration. Our cleaning teams will be getting everything read on Tuesday 23rd December at 10am at St John's, Ingatestone and after Mass at St Joseph's, Hutton. Do you think you might have the time to help-out? Cleaning materials (as well as tea, coffee and biscuits!) are provided.

## Christmas Tree Decorations

Last year our children decorated our Christmas trees so beautifully with their hand-made Christmas decorations. I would if our younger members might be able to step forward again to make our trees look their best? Decorations can be hung on the trees anytime between now and Christmas. Parents, please accompany your children if they are coming into church to pray or place their decorations on the tree. Thank you!

## Christmas Collections

Our diocese does not pay its priests a salary or pay into a pension for them. While basic living expenses are covered, priests depend to a great extent on the generosity of their parishioners. In smaller parishes like ours, a priest may claim up to just under £600 per month from parish funds as a form of stipend. Here, that amount is shared between Hutton and Ingatestone. In addition, the priest may keep what is given at the Christmas and Easter Masses. These two collections form a significant part of a priest's income. They make a real difference to his ability to set something aside for retirement, to provide for times of illness, and simply to live a balanced life, with the possibility of rest, friendship, and an occasional holiday. The Christmas collection is therefore a personal gift to your priest, and a very practical way of supporting his work and ministry. Thank you, as always, for your kindness, generosity, and continued commitment to the life of our parish.

## Christmas and Standing Orders

The diocese does not allow any donations made by standing order to be directed towards the Christmas and Easter support of clergy unless the donor has specifically requested this in writing. For that reason, those who normally give in this way may wish to consider making an additional personal gift at this time. This can be done very simply. Donations may be made using the card machine at the back of the church, by bank transfer or online donation. If using the parish bank details, please mark the reference 'Christmas'. For those more comfortable with their phone, a QR code is also available next to this notice. However, you choose to give, please know that it is very much appreciated, and received with real gratitude.



## PARISH NOTICES

**Keep a Flame Burning (Ex. 27:19-20)** - Our sanctuary lamp always burns to honour Christ and His presence in the Blessed Sacrament. It represents Our Lord among His people, and the fulfilment of His promise that He will be with us always. Would you like to sponsor a light in memory of a loved one or for a specific intention? Please contact Ngozi who will make a note of the date.

This week the sanctuary lamp burns ***In Remembrance of Deceased Members of the Dillane and McPherson Families.***

**New Vestments:** St Joseph's has a new set of Rose vestments which have been specially donated in loving memory of Douglas Bennie. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

**New Stations of the Cross:** Our new Stations of the Cross at St Joseph's were put up on Friday and are looking wonderful. They have been donated by the Sisters of Mercy and have come from the Sion Community chapel in Brentwood, which is owned by the sisters. The Sisters of Mercy have a long-standing connection with our school and parish. Please remember the sisters in your prayers, especially Sr Jude, without whom this would not have been possible. Please also pray for the Sion Community who are preparing to move to a new spiritual home.

**Advent Daily Reflection Booklet:** Walk With Me Advent Booklets are on sale at the back of the church at St Joseph's, priced at £1.50. They are a useful short daily reflection as part of your advent preparation. Please put monies in the Repository wall box.

**St Joseph's Christmas Hamper Raffle:** We have been donated a wonderful Luxury Hamper for our Christmas raffle, with a giant Toblerone as second prize and a bottle of Champagne as third prize. To be in with a chance of winning these marvellous prizes please take an envelope from the back of the church and return it with £5 inside, and your name and phone number on the front. The raffle will be drawn on Sunday 21 December after 10.30 Mass. Our target is to raise £1000 for church maintenance funds. Thank you!

**First Holy Communion:** FHC parents can find the Mass attendance register at the back of the church. Please sign this after Mass so that we know you have attended with your child. Many thanks.

**Cards and Gifts:** The Repository is open before and after mass every Saturday evening and Sunday morning. We have a range of religious Christmas Cards, candles and calendars at reasonable prices.

**Maranatha!** Come Lord Jesus! You are warmly welcomed to an evening of praise and worship, including mass and adoration.

**Save the dates:** Friday 16th of January and Friday 13th of February 2026.

**Time:** 7:00pm to 9:00pm, including refreshments after.

**Venue:** The Blessed Sacrament Church, 116 Melbourne Avenue, CM12DU, Chelmsford. Bring your friends!

Organised by the CDSC (Charismatic Diocesan Service of Communion).

## REGULAR NOTICES

### Tea and Coffee



Tea and coffee are available after both the 9am at Ingatestone and the 10.30am Mass at Hutton.

Refreshments are also served after the Saturday evening Mass on the first Saturday of the month.

There will be refreshments after the 10.30 Mass, and everyone is welcome. Please sign up on the list at the back of the church to help. New volunteers are always welcome. You only have to provide the milk, and full instructions are given.

**Parish Registration:** If you are new to the parish and would like to register, the Parish Registration forms are available in the Church porch, or you can register on the website. If you are a parishioner at Ingatestone then please email the Parish Office.

**200 Club - Hutton:** There are cash prizes to be won through our popular 200 club. For just £2 per entry, you could be eligible to win prizes of £50, £30 or £20 each month. Half the proceeds go to boost parish funds. Please complete a 200 Club standing order form and hand it to Marian Anderson or Fr Gary.

**Anointing of the Sick:** If you know of someone in the parish who is very ill, please contact Fr Gary to arrange a visit. Please pray for all the sick people of our parish.

**Funerals:** To book a funeral, please contact the Parish Office.

**Marriage support** - Does your relationship need some TLC? Need help with deeper issues? Contact: +44 7887 296 983. Visit: [www.retrouvaille.org.uk](http://www.retrouvaille.org.uk)

**Hall Hire:** The Parish Hall of St Joseph the Worker is available for hire, please contact the Parish Office.

## SACRAMENTAL PROGRAMMES

**Baptism:** It is always a pleasure to welcome new members into the Church. It is by Baptism we become part of the Body of Christ. Baptism forms can be obtained from the parish office.

**FHC & Confirmation:** Email your inquiry to the parish office at [hutton@brcdt.org](mailto:hutton@brcdt.org).

**Marriage:** Please contact Fr Gary via e-mail to organise a meeting.

## A Little Joke

Why is it always cold at Christmas? Because it's Decem-brrrr!