

# The Parish of St Joseph

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## **Mass: The Week Ahead**

Ordinary Time resumes with week 7, Psalter  
Week 4, Weekday Cycle of Readings Year II

Sunday 26 May, Solemnity of  
The Most Holy Trinity  
09:15: People of the Parish

Tuesday 28 May, Feria in Ordinary Time  
09:30 Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
10:00:  
**18:00 Rosary, led by Steve**

Friday 31 May, Feast of the Visitation of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary  
18:30: Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
19:00:

Sunday 2 June, Solemnity of  
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ  
09:15: People of the Parish

**Confession:** During Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament or by appointment.

**Pope's Prayer Intention for June:** For migrants fleeing their homes. We pray that migrants fleeing from war or hunger, forced to undertake journeys full of danger and violence, find welcome and new opportunities in the countries that receive them.

**We bring before The Lord all those who are unwell or housebound:**

We pray for the sick and housebound of the Parish and all known to us who are particularly unwell at this time. We pray also for those known to us whose death anniversaries fall during the week ahead and for their loved ones.

**Big Breakfast for Christian Aid:** Raised £834.07  
Well done to everyone who took part.

**Gift Aid-** Please see Helen Dudley if you would like to know more about our planned giving scheme, Gift Aid and Standing Orders.

**The New Lectionary:** The Bishops' Conferences of England & Wales and Scotland have authorised the mandatory use of The New Lectionary in all our parishes from Advent 2024.

This New Lectionary is divided into four volumes and comes at a cost of £695.00 for the four. Any donations towards this mandatory purchase will be greatly appreciated.

**The Story of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary:** This is a fairly late feast, going back only to the 13th or 14th century. It was established widely throughout the Church to pray for unity. The present date of celebration was set in 1969, in order to follow the Annunciation of the Lord and precede the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist. Like most feasts of Mary, it is closely connected with Jesus and his saving work. The more visible actors in the visitation drama (see Luke 1:39-45) are Mary and Elizabeth. However, Jesus and John the Baptist steal the scene in a hidden way. Jesus makes John leap with joy—the joy of messianic salvation. Elizabeth, in turn, is filled with the Holy Spirit and addresses words of praise to Mary—words that echo down through the ages.

It is helpful to recall that we do not have a journalist's account of this meeting. Rather Luke, speaking for the Church, gives a prayerful poet's rendition of the scene. Elizabeth's praise of Mary as "the mother of my Lord" can be viewed as the earliest Church's devotion to Mary. As with all authentic devotion to Mary, Elizabeth's (the Church's) words first praise God for what God has done to Mary. Only secondly does she praise Mary for trusting God's words. Then comes the *Magnificat* (Luke 1:46-55). Here, Mary herself—like the Church—traces all her greatness to God.

**Reflection:** One of the invocations in Mary's litany is "Ark of the Covenant." Like the Ark of the Covenant of old, Mary brings God's presence into the lives of other people. As David danced before the Ark, John the Baptist leaps for joy. As the Ark helped to unite the 12 tribes of Israel by being placed in David's capital, so Mary has the power to unite all Christians in her son. At times, devotion to Mary may have occasioned some divisiveness, but we can hope that authentic devotion will lead all to Christ and therefore, to one another. (*Franciscan media*)