

# ST JOSEPH, UPTON UPON SEVERN, WITH OUR LADY AND ST ALPHONSUS, BLACKMORE PARK

*This parish forms part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No. 234216*

**Parish Priest: Fr. Nazarius Mgungwe (01684 574250 – resident at St Joseph's, Malvern)**

**Fr Hugh Sinclair (retired – 01684 592602 – resident at St Joseph's, Upton)**

**Deacon: Rev. Seán Duffy (07913 163696)**

The Parish Account name is: *Blackmore Park and Upton*

**St Joseph's Church, 9 School Lane, Upton upon Severn, Worcs. WR8 0LA.**

**Our Blessed Lady and St Alphonsus, Blackmore Park, Hanley Swan, Worcs. WR8 0EA**

Hospital Chaplains: Worcester Royal, Newtown and South Bank: 01905 963712

Parish Website: [stjosephupton.co.uk](http://stjosephupton.co.uk)

**Confession:** Fr Hugh hears confessions before 4pm Mass on Saturdays; or by appointment

## Mass Times:

<b>Sat 28 September</b>	4.00pm	Blackmore Park	
<b>Sun 29 September</b>	9.00am	Upton	
Tues 01 October	9.30am	Upton	St Thérèse of the Child Jesus
Thurs 03 October	10.00am	Blackmore Park	(Exposition from 9.15am)
Fri 04 October	9.30am	Upton	St Francis of Assisi
<b>Sat 05 October</b>	4.00pm	Blackmore Park	
<b>Sun 06 October</b>	9.00am	Upton	

26<sup>th</sup> Sunday in  
Ordinary Time

27<sup>th</sup> Sunday in  
Ordinary Time

“**God walks with His people**”, is the title chosen by Pope Francis for his [Message for the World Day of Migrants and Refugees](#) (WDMR), which we are celebrating this Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>. In his message, the Holy Father reminds us that all of us, God's people, are migrants on this earth, on our way to the “true homeland”, the Kingdom of Heaven. Pope Francis's message can be found by clicking on the link above or on the QR Code



Next weekend there will be a **Second Collection** in aid of CAFOD.

“**Lychgate IV – Out of the Depths!**” As the waters recede the unmistakable outline of the Lychgate can be discerned taking shape again – the timbers firmly jointed and the roof beams sheltering beneath their temporary tarpaulin ready for the return of the tiles – not long now...

**Finance Committee Meeting – Re-rescheduled:** Monday, 30<sup>th</sup> September at 3pm in the Coffee Room, Upton

An invitation from the Worcester Circle of the Newman Association: We are starting our 2024/25 programme on **Wednesday 2nd October at 7pm** with a talk by David McLaughlin with the intriguing title: **Jesus in his own time: Religion, economics and politics**. Everyone is welcome, both regular attenders and especially new members. All meetings are at St. George's RC Church Hall, Worcester and finish around 8.30 pm.

St Joseph's, Malvern, is hosting a **Cursillo Encounter Morning** from 9.30am-1pm on **Sat 5th October**. You are warmly invited to a time of reflection & fellowship with talks and discussion, led by Cursillo, to deepen your encounter with God, self and others. Light refreshments in the form of teas and coffees, cakes and pastries will be provided as well as chicken curry and rice for lunch. To help plan the catering, **please sign up** on the sheet at the back of the Church to let us know you're coming.

**An introduction to the Lindisfarne Gospels:** Anglo-Saxon Historian Suze Mathews will give us an illustrated introduction to these beautiful gospels; how and why they were made and used by the monks of Lindisfarne in the early 8th century. **Friday 11th October**, gather for light supper at 6.30 pm, **talk at 7pm at St Joseph's, Malvern**. Suze gives her time for free but asks for donations to Aid to the Church in Need.

Please pray for the sick of the Parish and all who are housebound; and for the needs of the **Malvern Hills Food Bank** – listed on the noticeboard and at [www.malvernhills.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.malvernhills.foodbank.org.uk)

**Health & Safety:** If at any time you come across anything which is a danger to the public, in either of the Churches or grounds, please contact our Parish Health & Safety Representative Mark Fisher (07960 077117) or, if he is not available, Deacon Seán. Thank you.

Emergency contacts: Anne Rasile 01684 310317; St Wulstan's, Little Malvern 01684 574658; St George's Worcester 01905 963712

The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance & the National & Archdiocese's policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Kevin Douglas. He can be contacted at: [sg.stjoseph.malvern@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.stjoseph.malvern@rcaob.org.uk) / 01886 832468 or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk), if you have any concern.



# The Holy See

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## **MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR THE 110th WORLD DAY OF MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES 2024**

(Sunday, 29 September 2024)

### ***God walks with his people***

*Dear brothers and sisters!*

Last 29 October marked the conclusion of the First Session of the XVI Ordinary General Assembly of the Synod of Bishops. This session allowed us to deepen our understanding of synodality as part of the Church's fundamental vocation. "Synodality is mainly presented as a joint journey of the People of God and as a fruitful dialogue between the charisms and ministries at the service of the coming of the Kingdom" (*Synthesis Report*, Introduction).

Emphasizing the synodal dimension allows the Church to rediscover its itinerant nature, as the People of God journeying through history on pilgrimage, "migrating", we could say, toward the Kingdom of Heaven (cf. *Lumen Gentium*, 49). The biblical narrative of Exodus, depicting the Israelites on their way to the promised land, naturally comes to mind: a long journey from slavery to freedom prefiguring the Church's journey toward her final encounter with the Lord.

Likewise, it is possible to see in the migrants of our time, as in those of every age, a living image of God's people on their way to the eternal homeland. Their journeys of hope remind us that "our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ" (*Phil 3:20*).

The images of the biblical exodus and of migrants share several similarities. Like the people of Israel in the time of Moses, migrants often flee from oppression, abuse, insecurity, discrimination, and lack of opportunities for development. Similar to the Jews in the desert, migrants encounter many obstacles in their path: they are tried by thirst and hunger; they are exhausted by toil and disease; they are tempted by despair.

Yet the fundamental reality of the Exodus, of every exodus, is that God precedes and accompanies his people and all his children in every time and place. God's presence in the midst of the people is a certainty of salvation history: "The Lord your God goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you" (*Deut* 31:6). For the people who came out of Egypt, this presence manifested itself in different forms: a pillar of cloud and fire showing and illuminating the way (cf. *Ex* 13:21), the meeting tent that protected the ark of the covenant, making God's closeness tangible (cf. *Ex* 33:7), the pole with the bronze serpent assuring divine protection (cf. *Nm* 21:8-9), manna and water (cf. *Ex* 16-17) as God's gifts to the hungry and thirsty people. The tent is a form of presence especially dear to the Lord. During David's reign, God chose to dwell in a tent, not a temple, so that he could walk with his people, "from tent to tent and from dwelling to dwelling" (*1 Chr* 17:5).

Many migrants experience God as their traveling companion, guide and anchor of salvation. They entrust themselves to him before setting out and seek him in times of need. In him, they find consolation in moments of discouragement. Thanks to him, there are good Samaritans along the way. In prayer, they confide their hopes to him. How many Bibles, copies of the Gospels, prayer books and rosaries accompany migrants on their journeys across deserts, rivers, seas and the borders of every continent!

God not only walks *with* his people, but also *within* them, in the sense that he identifies himself with men and women on their journey through history, particularly with the least, the poor and the marginalized. In this we see an extension of the mystery of the Incarnation.

For this reason, the encounter with the migrant, as with every brother and sister in need, "is also an encounter with Christ. He himself said so. It is he who knocks on our door, hungry, thirsty, an outsider, naked, sick and imprisoned, asking to be met and assisted" (*Homily, Mass with Participants in the "Free from Fear" Meeting, Sacrofano, 15 February 2019*). The final judgment in Matthew 25 leaves no doubt: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (v. 35); and again "truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me" (v. 40). Every encounter along the way represents an opportunity to meet the Lord; it is an occasion charged with salvation, because Jesus is present in the sister or brother in need of our help. In this sense, the poor save us, because they enable us to encounter the face of the Lord (cf. *Message for the Third World Day of the Poor, 17 November 2019*).

Dear brothers and sisters, on this day dedicated to migrants and refugees, let us unite in prayer for all those who have had to leave their land in search of dignified living conditions. May we journey together with them, be "synodal" together, and entrust them, as well as the forthcoming Synod Assembly, "to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, a sign of sure hope and consolation to the faithful People of God as they continue their journey" (XVI Ordinary General Assembly *Synthesis Report: Proceeding Along the Journey*).

## Prayer

God, Almighty Father,  
we are your pilgrim Church  
journeying towards the Kingdom of heaven.  
We live in our homeland,  
but as if we were foreigners.  
Every foreign place is our home,  
yet every native land is foreign to us.  
Though we live on earth,  
our true citizenship is in heaven.  
Do not let us become possessive  
of the portion of the world  
you have given us as a temporary home.  
Help us to keep walking,  
together with our migrant brothers and sisters,  
toward the eternal dwelling you have prepared for us.  
Open our eyes and our hearts  
so that every encounter with those in need  
becomes an encounter with Jesus, your Son and our Lord.  
Amen.

*Rome, Saint John Lateran, 24 May 2024, Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Help of Christians*

FRANCIS