

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 Mgunwe (01684 574250 – resident at St Joseph’s, Malvern)

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

Deacon: Rev’d. 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

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



Mass Times:

Sat 08 March	4.00pm	Blackmore Park	Doretta Monti – Int
Sun 09 March	9.00am	Upton	
Tues 11 March	9.30am	Upton	Jim Power – R.I.P.
Thurs 13 March	10.00am	Blackmore Park (Exposition from 9.15am)	Pope Francis – Int
Fri 14 March	9.30am	Upton	John Kerton – R.I.P.
Sat 15 March	4.00pm	Blackmore Park	
Sun 16 March	9.00am	Upton	

1st Sunday in Lent

2nd Sunday in Lent

Last week’s **Second Collection** for the Cathedral Maintenance Fund raised £78.94 – thank you.

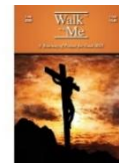
Friday 14/03 is **CAFOD’s Family Fast Day for Lent** and there will be a Second Collection next weekend in aid of their work

A word of thanks to one and all who organised and contributed to the **World Day of Prayer** service last Friday (07/03) – within the confines of St Joseph’s church we were transported to the Cook Islands by song and scenery that conjured up before us the beautiful plants and flowers, and had us walking in our mind’s eye beside the seashore, rejoicing that, “we are fearfully and wonderfully made” – Take a bow.

Churches Together in Upton’s **Lent Lunches** continue this **Friday, 14/03 from 12-1.30pm** in the “Church Room,” Old Street, with St Joseph’s very own Super-Soupers providing a mouth-watering variety to suit even the most discerning of palates – give your Tum a Treat and turnup to support our chefs! CTU’s chosen charity this year: **SARA – Severn Area Rescue Association** [www.sara-rescue.org.uk/stations/upton/]

We Dare to Hope – In this Jubilee Year of Hope, each Tuesday through the season of Lent our Cluster of churches is offering a series of reflections on Hope, beginning this week on 11/03 and ending on 08/04. We will gather from 6.15pm for light refreshments, with a talk beginning at 7pm; followed by discussion/sharing, and concluding with prayer – ending at 7.45pm.

- **Tues 11/03** – St Joseph’s, Malvern – *Christian Hope*
- **Tues 18/03** – Our Lady & St Alphonsus, Blackmore Park - *The Decision to Hope*
- **Tues 25/03** – St Wulstan’s, Little Malvern – *The Prayer of Hope*
- **Tues 01/04** – St Joseph’s, Upton – *Hope against Hope*
- **Tues 08/04** – St Joseph’s, Malvern – *Christ, Our Hope*



“Walk With Me” Booklets available at the back of the Church – £1 voluntary



“Let us journey together in hope” is the theme of Pope Francis’s Message for Lent which is, in turn, inspired by the Jubilee 2025 theme “Pilgrims of Hope”; and the Syond on Synodality. “This Lent, as we share in the grace of the Jubilee Year, I would like to propose a few reflections on what it means to *journey together in hope*, and on the summons to conversion that God in his mercy addresses to all of us, as individuals and as a community...” For the full text, click on the poster or QR Code, and/or see our website



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 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 / 01886 832468 or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240 or safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk, if you have any concern.



The Holy See

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS FOR LENT 2025

Let us journey together in hope

Dear brothers and sisters,

We begin our annual pilgrimage of Lent in faith and hope with the penitential rite of the imposition of ashes. The Church, our mother and teacher, invites us to open our hearts to God's grace, so that we can celebrate with great joy the paschal victory of Christ the Lord over sin and death, which led Saint Paul to exclaim: "Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" (*1 Cor* 15:54-55). Indeed, Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is the heart of our faith and the pledge of our hope in the Father's great promise, already fulfilled in his beloved Son: life eternal (cf. *Jn* 10:28; 17:3). [1]

This Lent, as we share in the grace of the Jubilee Year, I would like to propose a few reflections on what it means to *journey together in hope*, and on the summons to conversion that God in his mercy addresses to all of us, as individuals and as a community.

First of all, *to journey*. The Jubilee motto, "Pilgrims of Hope", evokes the lengthy journey of the people of Israel to the Promised Land, as recounted in the Book of Exodus. This arduous path from slavery to freedom was willed and guided by the Lord, who loves his people and remains ever faithful to them. It is hard to think of the biblical exodus without also thinking of those of our brothers and sisters who in our own day are fleeing situations of misery and violence in search of a better life for themselves and their loved ones. A first call to conversion thus comes from the realization that all of us are pilgrims in this life; each of us is invited to stop and ask how our lives reflect this fact. Am I really on a journey, or am I standing still, not moving, either immobilized by fear and hopelessness or reluctant to move out of my comfort zone? Am I seeking ways to leave behind the occasions of sin and situations that degrade my dignity? It would be a good Lenten exercise for us to compare our daily life with that of some migrant or foreigner, to learn how to sympathize with their experiences and in this way discover what God is asking of us so that we can better advance on our journey to the house of the Father. This would be a good "examination

of conscience” for all of us wayfarers.

Second, to journey *together*. The Church is called to walk together, to be synodal. [2] Christians are called to walk at the side of others, and never as lone travellers. The Holy Spirit impels us not to remain self-absorbed, but to leave ourselves behind and keep walking towards God and our brothers and sisters. [3] Journeying together means consolidating the unity grounded in our common dignity as children of God (cf. *Gal* 3:26-28). It means walking side-by-side, without shoving or stepping on others, without envy or hypocrisy, without letting anyone be left behind or excluded. Let us all walk in the same direction, tending towards the same goal, attentive to one another in love and patience.

This Lent, God is asking us to examine whether in our lives, in our families, in the places where we work and spend our time, we are capable of walking together with others, listening to them, resisting the temptation to become self-absorbed and to think only of our own needs. Let us ask ourselves in the presence of the Lord whether, as bishops, priests, consecrated persons and laity in the service of the Kingdom of God, we cooperate with others. Whether we show ourselves welcoming, with concrete gestures, to those both near and far. Whether we make others feel a part of the community or keep them at a distance. [4] This, then, is a second call to conversion: a summons to synodality.

Third, let us journey together *in hope*, for we have been given a promise. May *the hope that does not disappoint* (cf. *Rom* 5:5), the central message of the Jubilee, [5] be the focus of our Lenten journey towards the victory of Easter. As [Pope Benedict XVI](#) taught us in the Encyclical *Spe Salvi*, “the human being needs unconditional love. He needs the certainty which makes him say: ‘neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord’ (*Rom* 8:38-39)”. [6] Christ, my hope, has risen! [7] He lives and reigns in glory. Death has been transformed into triumph, and the faith and great hope of Christians rests in this: the resurrection of Christ!

This, then, is the third call to conversion: a call to hope, to trust in God and his great promise of eternal life. Let us ask ourselves: Am I convinced that the Lord forgives my sins? Or do I act as if I can save myself? Do I long for salvation and call upon God’s help to attain it? Do I concretely experience the hope that enables me to interpret the events of history and inspires in me a commitment to justice and fraternity, to care for our common home and in such a way that no one feels excluded?

Sisters and brothers, thanks to God’s love in Jesus Christ, we are sustained in the hope that does not disappoint (cf. *Rom* 5:5). Hope is the “sure and steadfast anchor of the soul”. [8] It moves the Church to pray for “everyone to be saved” (*1 Tim* 2:4) and to look forward to her being united with Christ, her bridegroom, in the glory of heaven. This was the prayer of Saint Teresa of Avila: “Hope,

O my soul, hope. You know neither the day nor the hour. Watch carefully, for everything passes quickly, even though your impatience makes doubtful what is certain, and turns a very short time into a long one” (*The Exclamations of the Soul to God*, 15:3). [9]

May the Virgin Mary, Mother of Hope, intercede for us and accompany us on our Lenten journey.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 6 February 2025

Memorial of St Paul Miki and Companions, martyrs.

FRANCIS

[1] Cf. Encyclical Letter *Dilexit Nos* (24 October 2024), 220 .

[2] Cf. Homily for the Mass and Canonization of Giovanni Battista Scalabrini and Artemide Zatti, 9 October 2022.

[3] Ibid.

[4] Ibid.

[5] Cf. Bull *Spes Non Confundit* , 1.

[6] Encyclical Letter *Spe Salvi* (30 November 2007), 26.

[7] Cf. Easter Sequence.

[8] Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* , 1820.

[9] *Ibid*, 1821.