

PARISH OF ST JOSEPH CHELSEA

Christmas Time December 2024



***Best wishes to all in our parish of St Joseph
as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.***

***Christmas is a time for prayer, family and
friends.***

***Let us rejoice in the Lord's presence as we
celebrate his birth with hope and peace in
our hearts.***

***We welcome all visitors to our parish,
and lift our voices together in familiar songs
and carols,
and do what we do best – celebrate the Mass,
the great feast of Christians.***

God Bless



We would like to express our warmest thanks and gratitude to all the wonderful volunteers of the Parish of St Joseph's who have made Christmas celebrations possible; especially the cleaning teams, and those who attended the working bee on the 14th of December, St



Joseph's Music Ministry – singers and organists, altar servers, ushers, collectors, readers and extra-ordinary ministers of Holy Communion, St Joseph's Altar Society and Flowers team, all Sacristans, and all who assisted in setting up the Advent Wreath, Crib, and Christmas Tree. Much appreciation to our wonderful parishioners who kept vigil with our Lord during Reconciliation and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament during the last week, allowing Father Williams to hear Confessions knowing that our place of worship was well watched over.

We also thank God for the presence amongst us of the Sisters of St Paul de Chartres, and for the outstanding work of the parish office team.



The Nativity

G K Chesterton (1874 – 1936)

The thatch of the roof was as golden,
Though dusty the straw was and old,
The wind was a peal as of trumpets,
Though barren and blowing and cold:
The mother's hair was a glory,
Though loosened and torn,
For under the eaves in the gloaming —
A child was born.

O, if a man sought a sign in the inmost
That God shaketh broadest his best,
That things fairest are oldest and simplest,
In the first days created and blest:
Far flush all the tufts of the clover,
Thick mellows the corn,
A cloud shapes, a daisy is opened —
A child is born.

Though the darkness be noisy with systems,
Dark fancies that fret and disprove;
Still the plumes stir around us, above us,
The tings of the shadow of love.
Still the fountains of life are unbroken,
Their splendour unshorn;
The secret, the symbol, the promise —
A child is born.

In the time of dead things it is living,
In the moonless grey night is a gleam,
Still the babe that is quickened may conquer,
The life that is new may redeem.
Ho, princes and priests, have you heard it?
Grow pale through your scorn.
Huge dawns sleep before us, stern changes -
A child is born.

And the mother still joys
for the whispered
First stir of unspeakable things;
Still feels that high moment unfurling,
Red glories of Gabriel's wings.
Still the babe of an hour is a master
Whom angels adorn,
Emmanuel, prophet, anointed —
A child is born.

To the rusty barred doors of the hungry,
To the struggle for life and the din,
Still, with brush of bright plumes and with
knocking,
The Kingdom of God enters in.
To the daughters of patience that labour
That weep and are worn,
One moment of love and of laughter —
A child is born.

And till man and his riddle be answered,
While earth shall remain and desire,
While the flesh of a man is as grass is,
The soul of a man as a fire,
While the daybreak shall come with its banner,
The moon with its horn,
It shall rest with us that which is written —
“A child is born.”

And for him that shall dream that the martyr
Is banished, and love but a toy,
That life lives not through pain and surrender,
Living only through self and its joy,
Shall the Lord God erase from the body
The oath he has sworn?
Bend back to thy work, saying only —
“A child is born.”

Christmas 2024

Christmas Eve

Tuesday 24 December

5:30pm Christmas Carols followed by

6pm Vigil Mass

8:30pm Christmas Carols followed by

9pm Night Mass

Christmas Day

Wednesday 25 December

9:30am Christmas Carols followed by

10am Christmas Dawn Mass

Thursday 26 to Tuesday 31 December

Mass 9am

New Year 2025

Wednesday 1 January

Mass 9am

Thursday 2 to Saturday 4 January

Mass 9am

St Joseph's Parish Office Christmas and New Years Hours

Tuesday 24/12 9am-2pm

Wednesday 25/12, Thursday 26/12 & Friday
27/12 CLOSED

Monday 30/12 CLOSED

Tuesday 31/12 9am-2pm

Wednesday 01/01 CLOSED

Thursday 02/01 & Friday 03/01
9am-2pm

