

Teams for	10/3	17/3	24/3	31/3	7/4	14/4
Children lit. (4)	2	none	3	none	none	none
Coffee 9am (10)	1	2	3	4	5	6
Coffee 11am (9)	7	8	9	1	2	3
Flowers	Lent	Jo	Sisters	All	All	Sisters

**LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND:** Mary Lynch, Victor Francis, K Cashman, Tim Charles, Helena Nowak & Jean McIntosh.

**ROSARY:** Daily 25 minutes before Mass starts.  
**DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET:** Every Tuesday at 2.00pm in Church  
**BAPTISMS/WEDDINGS:** Please contact the Parish Office through email or phone.  
**CONFESSIONS:** Hethe: *Saturday from 3.15pm - 3.50 pm (in the Sacristy)* Bicester: 5.15 pm - 5.45 pm  
**EAST TIMOR COMMUNITY PRAYER:** First Sunday of the month at 5.00pm @ Ursuline Convent  
**HOLY HOUR:** Every First Friday from 6.00pm to 7.00pm (Not during Lent)  
**PARISH OUTREACH GROUP:** Please contact the Office if you need some form of practical help -252 277.  
**PIETY SHOP:** Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday around Masses.  
**URSULINE LAY ASSOCIATES MEETING:** 2nd Wednesday of every month at 2pm @ Ursuline Convent.

**PARISH VISITATION:** Canon Paul Fitzpatrick will be visiting our parish over the weekend of 16th and 17th March. During his stay, he will be meeting with both our Deacons, Parish Community, Sisters, Head Teacher, Chair of Governors of our parish school, couple of sick parishioners. On Sunday, after 11 am Mass we will have a **Bring and Share Lunch celebration in St John Paul II Centre. Please add details to the list on the notice board if you can bring and share!**

**COFFEE MORNING:** Thank you all for your support. The total raised was £193.50. I look forward to seeing you at the next Easter Coffee Morning on Friday, 5th April.

**CHURCH GROUNDS SPRING CLEAN** Volunteers are needed to help tidy up the church grounds, ideally a dozen volunteers! If you can help on Saturday, 23rd March from 2-4pm please speak to Lucia or email the Parish Office. Sweeping, tidying, and general gardening.

**COMMISSIONING OF EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS** This will take place during Holy Thursday evening Mass. All ministers are asked to attend to be commissioned for this role. If you would like to become an Extraordinary Minister please speak to me (Canon John).

**PENITENTIAL SERVICE AND CONFESSIONS:** On Monday, 25th March at 7pm we will have a short service of Reconciliation followed by individual confessions. There will be a few visiting priests available to hear our confessions. Please keep this evening free.

**BORN FOR THIS -** A musical reflection on the Passion & Death of Jesus Christ presented by students from BGN School - Tuesday 26th March at 7pm here in church. All are welcome - there is no charge.

**LILIES IN REMEMBRANCE** If you would like to contribute towards the Easter flowers then please complete and return a form which can be found at the back of church. All loved ones will also be remembered during the Easter Vigil Mass. Payments can be made by card option 'Easter Flowers.'

**EASTER RAFFLE TICKETS:** Please take some booklets with you and sell to your family and friends. The draw will take place on Palm Sunday after 11 am Mass. Thank you for your support. Payments accepted by card under 'Easter Raffle'

**PLOUGHMAN'S 'n' PUD LUNCH:** On Sunday, 21st April at 12.30pm in the St John Paul II Centre. Vegetarian option available. Limited tickets only. £10 per person available from the Piety Shop/Parish Office. Don't delay!

**100 CLUB** We are now taking subscriptions for our new 100 Club year which will run from April 1st 2024-31st March 2025. Draws take place on the last Sunday of the month after 9am mass. Please complete the form included in the bulletin and return to the Parish Office. This is a great way to support the parish. For only £60 per year or £5 a month (monthly payments only by standing order please). There is no limit as to how many numbers you can have, more numbers to increase your chances of winning and subscriptions can also be bought for friends and family as gifts. **Winners for February 2024**, drawn Sun 25th February : £100 M Nugent 35, £50 E King - 70, £25 - No. 94. You have to be in it to win it. Good Luck!

**YEAR OF PRAYER 2024:** Theme - "WE DARE TO SAY" - "Our Father". Planning to have 5 sessions on "Our Father" on the following dates: Thursday evenings of June, 6th, 13th, 27th, July 4th and 11th. All sessions will take place in St John Paul II Conference Centre at 7pm. All welcome.

**PIETY SHOP** St Patrick's Day, Easter, Confirmation and Mothers Day, 1st Holy Communion items now available. Come and have a browse!

**PARISH ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP** have published a Lenten Challenge to Reduce our Carbon Footprint leaflet which is available at the back of church and on our website. Please take time to read it and take action to help reduce the effects of climate change.



## DURING LENT

### What Do We Do during Lent? Fasting

As Jesus fasted in the desert for forty days, we, too, are called to forgo something for the same period when observing Lent. It is during this time we can deepen our awareness of his sacrifice on the Cross, as well as Jesus' daily forgiveness of our sins and unconditional love for us. It should be noted, however, this personal sacrifice should be difficult but healthy, while respecting responsibilities. Despite the challenge of fasting, we can take solace in knowing Jesus protects us during our struggle, as St. John Henry Newman reminds us: "Even in our penitential exercises, Christ has gone before us to sanctify them to us. He has blessed fasting as a means of grace, in that He fasted."

**HOLY HOUR AND MASS FOR VOCATIONS:** On Thursday, 21st March from 6 pm to 7pm Holy Hour followed by Mass at 7pm.

**THE CHOSEN SEASON 3 'The Chosen'** will continue on Thursdays at the St John Paul II Centre at 7pm. Please see the first page.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS:** Every Friday at 7pm during Lent.

**LENTEN MASSES AT SCHOOL** These will take place on Thursdays at 8am during Lent. All Welcome.

**HOLY TRINITY, HETHE** Monday films resume after the 9.30am Mass on Mondays. All Welcome. During Lent there will be Stations of the Cross on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at 9.30am at Hethe.

### Dates to remember in 2024

Saturday 16th March- Confirmations in both Parishes  
 Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th March - Parish Visitations (Both Parishes)  
 Saturday 11th May - First Holy Communions (St Mary's) at 11am  
 Saturday 18th May - First Holy Communions (non St Mary's) at 11 am  
 Sunday 2nd June - Corpus Christi Procession after 11 am Mass  
 Saturday 22nd June - Parish Forum Meeting 10am-12 noon  
 Sunday 7th July - Family Festival & Presentation of Certificates (11am Mass)



### FINANCIAL INFORMATION

#### SECOND COLLECTIONS

10th/17th/ 24th March - Parish Maintenance

#### PARISH GIVING

**BICESTER LINK TO DONATE:**

<https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=528>

**Standing Orders/Donations/Payments**

**Bicester:** Sort Code: 51 70 15 Acc. No: 02342731

**Hethe:** Sort Code: 51 70 15 Acc. No: 02301466

**MASS STIPENDS/OFFERINGS:**

**Canon John Y Batthula:** Sort code: 60-08-40 Acc. No. 75459760

**CONTACTLESS** You can also donate by scanning the QR code with your phone or by card at the machine in the church porch. If you pay tax, please consider Gift Aiding your donation. Each time you make a subsequent donation using the same card, Gift Aid will be collected automatically. Gift Aid it!!- you could add 25% to the value of your donation. Contact Sr Sani the Parish Gift Aid Co-ordinator or speak to me. (Canon John)

**HETHE BICESTER**



Church	First Collection	For Cathedral Second Collection	Standing Orders	Tap & Go Donations	Mass Attendance
Bicester	£291.42	£ 137.10	£1165	£ 100	449
Hethe	£101	£87	£170		31



**An Induction Loop system is provided. Please switch Hearing Aid to 'T'**

**We use live streaming** Go to the website and/or follow this link <https://mcnmedia.tv/iframe/e8896647923e089406131a3b96e45994de4a89c4> OR <https://www.mcn.live/Camera/church-of-the-immaculate-conception-bicester>



# The Catholic Parishes of Immaculate Conception @BICESTER



## And Holy Trinity @Hardwick Rd, HETHE OX27 8AW

Henley House, 12 Causeway, Bicester OX26 6AW

[www.immaculate-conception.org.uk](http://www.immaculate-conception.org.uk)

Deanery website: [banburyandwarwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk](http://banburyandwarwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk)

The Parishes of the Immaculate Conception & Holy Trinity are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No: 234216



### Fourth Sunday of Lent

Sunday Cycle B - Weekdays - Lenten Readings  
 Weekend beginning 3rd - 10th March 2024 Psalter Week 4

Pope's Prayer Intention for March: We pray that those who risk their lives for the Gospel in various parts of the world inflame the Church with their courage and missionary enthusiasm.

## MONTH OF SAINT JOSEPH

MARCH	TIME	INTENTIONS	FEASTS	LECTORS	E O MINISTERS	STEWARDS
SAT 9th	4.00 pm @Hethe	Wellbeing of Helen McDermott	4th Sunday of Lent		B Kelly/V Burns/S Wilde	R Deane
	6.00 pm	Catenians Mass Intention for Vocations		R John/T Nugent	L & D Jiminez	M Marrs/P Behan
Vigil Mass	9.00 am	Ladislav Cigoho (RIP)	Mothering Sunday	M Daniel/L Cleeve	Sisters	Volunteers
SUN 10th	11.00 am	Canon John's 32nd Priestly Ordination Anniversary - Thanksgiving		J Franta/A Kearsley	J Kokore/Sr Rose	Kokore Family
MON 11th	9.30am@ Hethe	Holy Souls	Lent Feria	R Deane		
	12 noon	Bill & Kitty Hornby & Angela Nelson (RIP)		M Daniel	J Kokore	
TUE 12th	8.30 am	Margaret Forsyth (RIP) & Timothy Joyce (RIP)	Lent Feria	J Kokore	Sr Sani	
WED 13th	9.30 am	Bridie Conlon (RIP) 1st Anniversary	Lent Feria	L Cleeve	Sr Rose	
	11.00 am	Nuptial Mass of Johnny & Anna				
	3.00 pm	Funeral Service of Brenda Holmes (RIP)	at North Oxford	Crematorium		
THU 14th	8.00am @Sch	Mary Pickering (RIP)	Lent Feria			
	12 Noon	Benjamin Squire (Healing)		H King	Frankie	
	7.00 pm	"Chosen" Video				JPII Centre
FRI 15th	12 Noon	In Thanksgiving - Elizabeth Fleury & Family. Followed by internment of ashes of Mee Yung Sze (RIP)	Lent Feria	E King	Sr Rose	
	7.00 pm	Stations of the Cross				
SAT 16th	4.00 pm @Hethe	Helen Parnaby (RIP) 1st Anniversary Jean Withers (RIP) 3rd Anniversary	Lent Feria		B Kelly/V Burns/S Wilde	R Deane
Vigil	6.00 pm	People of the Parish/L & T Thompson (RIP)		Confirmandi	S & M Doherty	L Hattam/ L O'Flynn
SUN 17th	9.00 am	Timothy Joyce (RIP)	5th Sunday of Lent	L & R Weaver	A Hall/Sister	L & C Cleeve
	11.00 am	Nona Remy (RIP)	Dementia Prayer Week	T Lane/N Ward	J Marshall/Sr Sani	Orleans Family



This week we pray for...

**SANCTUARY LIGHT: Canon John Batthula**  
**OUR LADY'S LIGHT: Helena Nowak**

Dean of Banbury & Warwick Deanery & Parish Priest

Very Rev. Canon John Y Batthula BA, MA, Dip. Cat., MA Ed

Only for confidential matters: [canonjohn.batthula@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:canonjohn.batthula@rcaob.org.uk)

Parish Deacons: Rev Mr Michael Panjko MA 01869 246 459

Rev Mr Nick St John: 01869 246 787

Retired Priest: Rev. Fr. Pat Armstrong

Parish Sisters: Ursuline Convent - Sr Rose Mathew - 01869 327 689

Parish Office: Monday - Friday 9.00am - 4.00pm

Parish Secretary: Lucia Hattam 01869 253277 / [tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk)

St John Paul II Centre: Sr Sani Vijayan 01869 324 307 / [office@johnpaulcentre.co.uk](mailto:office@johnpaulcentre.co.uk)

Gift Aid Email: [ga.tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:ga.tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk)

St Mary's Catholic School Head Teacher: Mr Daniel O'Connor

01869 252035 / [office.3824@st-marys-bicester.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3824@st-marys-bicester.oxon.sch.uk)

**Archdiocese of Birmingham:** "Our Vision is to be a Catholic Diocese which is faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ, full of missionary disciples who work together co-responsibly in vibrant communities of faith, joyful in their service of God and neighbour".

**Safeguarding:** Both our Parishes operate in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance & the National and Archdioceses policies and procedures at all times.

Our Parishes Safeguarding Representatives are:

Elizabeth Green: [sg.tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk) & Les Cleeve: [sg.holytrinity.hethe@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:sg.holytrinity.hethe@rcaob.org.uk)  
 Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 2306240 or [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concerns.

Parish Sacramental Programme Coordinator - Clare St John  
[psc.tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:psc.tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk)

Parish Children's Liturgy Coordinator - Elspeth Morgan  
[pclt.tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:pclt.tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk)

Parish Altar Server's Coordinator - Deacon Michael Panjko  
[dce.michael.panejko@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:dce.michael.panejko@rcaob.org.uk)

Parish Youth Coordinator - Deacon Nick St John

[yth.tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:yth.tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk)

Parish Environmental & Peace and Justice Group - Janet Marshall  
[peg.tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:peg.tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk)



Entrance antiphon: **Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.**

**First Reading** "God's wrath and mercy are revealed in the exile and release of his people" 2 Chro.36:14-23

All the heads of the priesthood, and the people too, added infidelity to infidelity, copying all the shameful practices of the nations and defiling the Temple that the Lord had consecrated for himself in Jerusalem. The Lord, the God of their ancestors, tirelessly sent them messenger after messenger, since he wished to spare his people and his house. But they ridiculed the messengers of God, they despised his words, they laughed at his prophets, until at last the wrath of the Lord rose so high against his people that there was no further remedy.

Their enemies burned down the Temple of God, demolished the walls of Jerusalem, set fire to all its palaces, and destroyed everything of value in it. The survivors were deported by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon; they were to serve him and his sons until the kingdom of Persia came to power. This is how the word of the Lord was fulfilled that he spoke through Jeremiah, 'Until this land has enjoyed its sabbath rest, until seventy years have gone by, it will keep sabbath throughout the days of its desolation.'

And in the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, to fulfil the word of the Lord that was spoken through Jeremiah, the Lord roused the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia to issue a proclamation and to have it publicly displayed throughout his kingdom: "Thus speaks Cyrus king of Persia, "The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth; he has ordered me to build him a Temple in Jerusalem, in Judah. Whoever there is among you of all his people, may his God be with him! Let him go up."

The word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

## O Let my tongue cleave to my mouth if I remember you not. (4)

### Responsorial Psalm

**Second Reading** "You have been saved through grace" Eph. 2:4-10

God loved us with so much love that he was generous with his mercy: when we were dead through our sins, he brought us to life with Christ – it is through grace that you have been saved – and raised us up with him and gave us a place with him in heaven, in Christ Jesus.

This was to show for all ages to come, through his goodness towards us in Christ Jesus, how infinitely rich he is in grace. Because it is by grace that you have been saved, through faith; not by anything of your own, but by a gift from God; not by anything that you have done, so that nobody can claim the credit. We are God's work of art, created in Christ Jesus to live the good life as from the beginning he had meant us to live it.

The word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

### Gospel Acclamation

**Praise to you, O Christ!** God loved the world so much that he gave his only son; everyone who believes in him has eternal life. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

**Gospel** "God sent his Son so that through him the world might be saved" John 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus: The Son of Man must be lifted up as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him. Yes, God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not be lost but may have eternal life. For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but so that through him the world might be saved. No one who believes in him will be condemned; but whoever refuses to believe is condemned already, because he has refused to believe in the name of God's only Son. On these grounds is sentence pronounced: that though the light has come into the world men have shown they prefer darkness to the light because their deeds were evil. And indeed, everybody who does wrong hates the light and avoids it, for fear his actions should be exposed; but the man who lives by the truth comes out into the light, so that it may be plainly seen that what he does is done in God.'

The Gospel of the Lord

**All : Praise to you , Lord Jesus Christ.**

## THE HOLY SEASON OF LENT

**Priest:** In the name of the Father .....

**People:** **Amen**

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**People** **And with your spirit.**

### Penitential Act

**Everyone:** I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

After the first and second readings

**Reader** The Word of the Lord

**People** **Thanks be to God**

### Gospel acclamation

**Reader** Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.....

... (a few words)

**People** **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Before the Gospel reading

**Priest/Deacon:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And with your spirit.**

**Priest/Deacon:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to..

**People:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the Gospel reading

**Priest:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People** **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

### Creed - The Nicene Creed

**Everyone:** I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

### Bidding Prayers

**All: Hear our Prayer**



### THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

**Priest:** Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**People:** **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

### The Eucharistic Prayer

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And with your spirit.**

**Priest:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them up to the Lord.**

**Priest:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People** **It is right and just.**

**Everyone:** **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Memorial Acclamation

**Priest:** **The mystery of faith.**

**People:** ONE OF THESE:

A *We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.*

B *When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.*

C *Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.*

### Doxology

**Priest:** Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

**People** **Amen**

**Priest:** At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say: **Our Father....**

**Priest::** Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every ....

**People:** **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

### Sign of Peace

**Priest:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People** **And with your spirit.**

**Priest/Deacon:** Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

To each other: Peace be with you

### Lamb of God

**People:** **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. (2)**  
**Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.**

**Priest:** Behold the Lamb of God, .....

**People:** **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Concluding Rites

**Priest:** The Lord be with you.

**People** **And with your spirit**

**Priest:** May almighty God.....

**All: Amen**

**Priest/Deacon:** Go & announce the Gospel of the Lord