



CATHOLIC BANBURY

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ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

25 South Bar Street, Banbury. OX16 9AF

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

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QR code
for
WhatsApp Parish
Community

DAY	ST JOHN'S	ST JOSEPH'S	INTENTION
YEAR C SUNDAY 5 TH JANUARY EPIPHANY OF THE LORD <i>White</i>	4.00pm Vigil Mass		Rita King
		8.30am Mass at St Thomas', Wroxton	Deceased members of the Doherty Family
	8.45am Mass		Michael, Bridget & Molly Quinn
		10.00am Mass	Mary Donohue RIP
	11.15am Mass		People of the Parish
		5.00pm Confessions 5.30pm Mass	Rita Bellawwe RIP
Monday 6 th <i>Christmas Feria</i>		9.30am Mass	Maura Gallagher RIP
Tuesday 7 th <i>Christmas Feria</i>	9.30am Mass		K.J. Joseph RIP
Wednesday 8 th <i>Christmas Feria</i>		9.30am Mass	Jozsef Mak RIP
Thursday 9 th <i>Christmas Feria</i>	9.30am Mass		Nora O' Connor RIP
Friday 10 th <i>Christmas Feria</i>	12.00pm Funeral Service <i>Confession & Adoration 6pm</i>	9.30am Mass	Gladwyn Bentleman RIP Conceicao Rennie
Saturday 11 th <i>Christmas Feria</i>	10.00am Mass <i>Confession 10.30 – 11am</i>		Isaac & Family
YEAR C SUNDAY 12 TH JANUARY FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD <i>White</i>	4.00pm Vigil Mass		Yoel D' Costa
	8.45am Mass		Robert Light RIP
		10.00am Mass	Carol Cooper RIP
	11.15am Mass		Liju Joseph
		5.00pm Confessions 5.30pm Mass	Victoria O' Connor

WELCOME TO MASS ON THE SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD.

In the Western Church the liturgy of today's feast, when the Wise Men from the east visit the newborn Lord, hasn't quite the high profile as it has in the Eastern Church, where the Feast of the Epiphany is the apex of all that we celebrate at this time, and in many places is celebrated with ceremonies and feasting which surpass even Christmas – although in countries such as Spain the Epiphany still retains its importance. These is even more the case culturally where Christmas seemed to have kicked in about six weeks ago and lasts, if it's lucky, to Boxing Day!

However, Epiphany is important - for it is the Christmas of the Gentiles! For the Magi, the Wise Men, are those from outside the confinements of the people of Israel who were led by the light of faith to find the Saviour born for the whole world.

Pope Benedict once reflected on these mysterious characters from the East in their journey following the star to discover Christ: They were, he said:

'above all, men of courage, the courage and humility born of faith. Courage was needed to grasp the meaning of the star as a sign to set out, to go forth – towards the unknown, the uncertain, on paths filled with hidden dangers. We can imagine that their decision was met with derision: the scorn of those realists who could only mock the reveries of such men. Anyone who took off on the basis of such uncertain promises, risking everything, could only appear ridiculous. But for these men, inwardly seized by God, the way which he pointed out was more important than what other people thought. For them, seeking the truth meant more than the taunts of the world, so apparently clever.'

'The Wise Men followed the star, and thus came to Jesus, to the great Light which enlightens everyone coming into this world (cf. Jn 1:9). As pilgrims of faith, the Wise Men themselves became stars shining in the firmament of history and they show us the way. The saints are God's true constellations, which light up the nights of this world, serving as our guides. Saint Paul, in his Letter to the Philippians, told his faithful that they must shine like stars in the world (cf. 2:15).'

The Christmas Season continues this week with the season of the Epiphany. The liturgical season of `Christmas ends next Sunday with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord.

Monday Lunch Club will be held on Monday 13th January. Please book your place with Marilena as numbers are limited.

St John's QUIZ NIGHT will be held on Friday 7th February. Tickets are now available at £6.00 per person teams of 8 max. Please contact Marilena asap to reserve your tickets.

THE EPIPHANY BLESSING OF CHALK.

It has long been a tradition that chalk is blessed at Epiphany Mass, and that we take a piece home with us to invoke a blessing on our homes for the New Year that has begun.

We use the blessed chalk to write above the doorway of your home:

20+C+M+B+25

As we do so another says the following prayer invoking God's blessing

The three wise men

(C) Caspar

(M) Melchior, and

(B) Balthasar, followed the star to God's Son who became man

(20) Two thousand and

(25) twenty-five years ago.

+May Christ

+bless our home

+and remain with us throughout the New Year.

+Amen

We then pray: Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be.

The head of the household concludes with this prayer

Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your Only Begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern and care for others may reflect your love. Bless this household with health, goodness of heart, and the keeping of your commandments. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be.

Highclere Castle (Downton Abbey) we have a trip arranged for Wednesday 16th April to visit Highclere Castle. Entrance to house and Gardens, Coach and two course meal on return journey is £65.00 pp. If you wish to book your place, a £20 deposit is required and full payment by 1st March 2025. Limited places available. Further details from Marilena 07891 178920 / mjkearns@hotmail.co.uk

Gospel Sharing Group meets on Thursdays at 5pm. We pray over the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday. If you would like to know more. Please speak to Fr Sean.

Fr Philip and Fr Sean thank you for your kind gifts, Christmas greetings and the Christmas Offering.
May God bless you all!

Please pray for the dead ...

*Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently,
Particularly Conceicao Rennie and Adham Chahin.
Pray also for those whose anniversaries occur this coming week:*

- 05 Terence O'Connor 2015; Henry Tustian 2005; Kate Heath 1996; Alice Egan 1994; Patrick McElhinney 1984
- 06 Sheila Lawrence 2019; Edith Sharpe 1993; Lawrence Gaffney 1990; Robert Saich 1989
- 07 Lalla Stevens 2024; Gwendoline Newton 2024; Michael O'Sullivan 2005; Una Jones 1997; Charles McLaughlin 1986
- 08 Louise Kempley 2016; Dennis Cassidy 2012; Margaret Wallace 2003; Paula Walsh 1998; Reginald Buttler 1993; Winifred Jakeman
- 09 Angela Burch 2018; Peter Langan 2013; Julie Donaldson 2012; John Wilson 2004; Alice French 2000; Michael Madigan 1999; Sarah-Ann O'Neill 1993; Samuel Smith 1988
- 10 Hermione Courage 2009; Peter Strong 2007; Ann Sharpe 2006
- 11 Catherine Bimson 2019; Shirley Westbury 2017; Barbara Mitchell 2015; Ersilia Iannotta 2012; Dorothy Freemantle 1995; Christopher White 1988

***Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.***

Please pray for the sick of our Parishes ...

Julie Aikenhead, Vicky Aikenhead, Deacon Henry Allen, Edward Andrews, Audrey Anthistle, Ruth Aris, Cora Barnard, Peter Barton, Marianne Balazs, Douglas Bond, Brenda Brennan, Eileen Bristoll, Christopher Browne, Clifford Browne, Ann Dagger, Nick Davies, Oliver Davies, Michael Evans, Alan Fitchett, Barbara Fleming, Carl Gill, Diane Greenwood, Pat Heritage, Roger Johnson, Eileen & Michael Jordan, Teresa Kurszewska, Catherine Ley, Iris Jean Lloyd, Liam Malone, Anne Nolan, Harry Rhodes, Eileen Shea, Nicky Smith, Elaine Steer.

PARISH FINANCIAL MATTERS

Weekly Income:	<u>ST JOHN'S</u>	<u>ST JOSEPH'S</u>
Gift Aid	£	£
Non-Gift Aid	£	£
Contactless Card	£	£
Standing Orders –		

Thank you for all your support.

GIFT AID – If you pay tax on your income, please consider completing a Gift Aid form and the church can claim the tax you have paid. It does not cost you anything extra. For every £1 donated, we will receive another 25p

GENERAL TIMES FOR SACRAMENTS AND OTHER CELEBRATIONS

St. John's:	Reconciliation	Friday, 6.00-7.00 pm; Saturday, 10.30-11.00 am
	Adoration	Friday at 6.00-7.00 pm
	Baptisms	Sunday from 12.30 pm
	Weddings	A minimum of six months' notice is required
	Legion of Mary	Saturday at 10.45 am (Wall Room, Dupuis Centre)
	Gospel Sharing	Thursdays 5.00pm (Presbytery)
St. Joseph's:	Adoration	Wednesday at 10.00-11.00 am
	Baptisms	Sunday at 11.30 am
	Weddings	A minimum of six months' notice is required
	Legion of Mary	Wednesday at 6.30 pm
	Youth Group	3 rd Saturday, 6.30 – 8pm for children Yr 6 & 7 3 rd Sunday, 6.30-8.30pm, for children Yr 7 & above.

DONA CARD READER:

Remember to use our contactless card reader for all your donations. Donations can also be made by scanning the QR code.



PARISH OFFICE [The office is situated at St John's Presbytery; office hours Tuesday – Thursday, 9.00am – 3.00pm]

Bookkeeper: *Catherine Dukes.* Email: pt.stjohn.banbury@rcaob.org.uk
Pastoral & Property: *Nicola Mollard.* Email: sg.stjohn.banbury@rcaob.org.uk

SAFEGUARDING: The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative for St John's is Nicola Mollard; for St Joseph's, Eileen Bristoll. They can be contacted at: sg.stjohn.banbury@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concern.

Entrance Antiphon

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

First reading**Isaiah 60:1-6**

Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.
For behold, darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the LORD will arise upon you,
and his glory will be seen upon you.
And nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your rising.
Lift up your eyes all round, and see;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from afar,
and your daughters shall be carried on the hip.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and exult,
because the abundance of the sea shall be turned to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall bring good news, the praises of the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm**Ps 72(71)**

All the nations on earth shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice,
and your poor in right judgement. *R/.*

In his days justice shall flourish,
and great peace till the moon is no more.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the River to the bounds of the earth. *R/.*

The kings of Tarshish and the islands
shall pay him tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba
shall bring him gifts.

Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,
all nations shall serve him. *R/.*

For he shall rescue the needy when they cry,
the poor who have no one to help.
He will have pity on the weak and the needy,
and save the lives of the needy. *R/.*

Second reading**Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6**

Brothers and sisters: I assume that you have heard of the stewardship of God's grace that was given to me for you, how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy Apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

We saw his star when it rose
and have come to worship the Lord.

Alleluia.

Gospel**Matthew 2:1-12**

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.' When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him; and assembling all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea, for so it is written by the prophet:

"And you, O Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." '

Then Herod summoned the wise men secretly and ascertained from them what time the star had appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child, and when you have found him, bring me word, that I too may come and worship him.' After listening to the king, they went on their way. And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy. And going into the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh. And being warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they departed to their own country by another way.

Communion Antiphon

We have seen his star in the East,
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

Solemn Blessing

May God, who has called you
out of darkness into his wonderful light,
pour out in kindness his blessing upon you
and make your hearts firm
in faith, hope and charity.

Amen.

And since in all confidence you follow Christ,
who today appeared in the world
as a light shining in darkness,
may God make you, too,
a light for your brothers and sisters.

Amen.

And so when your pilgrimage is ended,
may you come to him
whom the Magi sought as they followed the star
and whom they found with great joy,
the Light from Light, who is Christ the Lord.

Amen.

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever.

Amen.