



CATHOLIC BANBURY

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ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

25 South Bar Street, Banbury. OX16 9AF

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

Edmunds Road, Banbury. OX16 0PP

Telephone: 01295 262073

General Office Email: stjohn.banbury@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Philip Harrop

Assistant Priest: Rev. Fr. Sean Gough

Deacons: Rev. Mr. Henry Allen: 01295 780642

Rev. Mr. Jim Brannan: 07737 076660

Rev. Mr. Bob Hughes: 07766 711984

DAY	ST JOHN'S	ST JOSEPH'S	INTENTION
YEAR C	4.00pm Vigil Mass		Yoel D' Costa
SUNDAY 12 th JANUARY FEAST OF THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD White	8.45am Mass		Robert Light RIP
		10.00am Mass	Carole Cooper RIP
	11.15am Mass		Liju Joseph
		5.00pm Confessions 5.30pm Mass	Victoria O' Connor
Monday 13 th <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>		9.30am Mass	Victoria O' Connor
Tuesday 14 th <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am Mass		Burn Family
Wednesday 15 th <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>		9.30am Mass	Edeltrudes Fernandes RIP
Thursday 16 th <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am Mass 10.30am School Mass		Deceased members of the Wright Family Marcella Cheater RIP
Friday 17 th <i>St. Anthony</i>	6.00pm – 7.00pm Confession & Holy Hour	9.30am Mass	Bernard Winkler RIP
Saturday 18 th <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>	10.00am Mass Confession 10.30 – 11am		Norma Kearns RIP
YEAR C	4.00pm Vigil Mass		Moira Mc Guckin
SUNDAY 19 th JANUARY SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Green	8.45am Mass		Donald Gillam RIP
		10.00am Mass	Patsy Harber RIP
	11.15am Mass		K.J. Joseph RIP
		5.00pm Confessions 5.30pm Mass	People of the Parish

WELCOME TO MASS, and a special welcome to any visitors at Mass today. Today is the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the liturgical end of the Christmas Season. The Baptism of the Lord is one of the 'epiphanies' - that the voice of the Father lifts the veil from over Jesus so that we may hear and see who he truly is: 'This is my Son, the beloved'.

Most of the sights and sounds of Christmas disappeared pretty rapidly after the day itself. Although the Christmas trees in church will be removed after today – they are fairly dried out now – the Crib will remain in place until Candlemas on February 2nd as a reminder of the Feast we have celebrated.

Fr. Philip and Fr. Sean wish to thank you for all your kind Christmas cards, gifts and the Christmas Offering. The Christmas Offering is an important part of a priest's income, and so supports them in their ministry, so thank you for your generosity.

ADVANCE NOTICE – PLAINCHANT DAY Fr. Guy Nichols of the Birmingham Oratory will be coming to St. John's to lead a day singing plainchant or plainsong on Saturday 8th March. He has done similar days in a number of parishes of the diocese, and it will be good to welcome him here. Plainchant is the ancient chant of the Church used to lift the words of the Mass and the Divine Office. It might be a surprise to many, but the Second Vatican Council encouraged Catholics to be familiar with it and 'that it should have pride of place in liturgical services.' Indeed, there has been a renewed interest in this part of our tradition amongst younger Catholics, and is a beautiful part of our heritage. This day is not one for experts – in fact total beginners are very welcome – and it should be a fun day as well as instructive, with chants both in English and Latin. You do not need to read music – and plainchant notation is different anyway! The day will begin after the 10am Mass (about 10.45am) and, with a break for lunch, will conclude with the 4pm Vigil Mass - where no doubt some of what has been learned will be used in the celebration of Mass.

There will be a participant's fee of £10 to cover costs. If you wish to attend, please email the parish office so we have a good idea of printing needs.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM is usually celebrated on Sundays after Mass as it is the sacrament of the resurrection. Catholic parents are obliged to see that their infants are baptized, and the Church encourages parents to have them baptized within the first few weeks of their birth if possible. If you wish your child to be baptized, there is a preparation meeting on the first Tuesday of the month in the Dupuis Centre. If you wish to attend this, please email the office so that we know who will be coming.

GOSPEL SHARING GROUP meets on Thursdays at 6pm. We pray over the Gospel reading for the coming Sunday. I you would like to know more. Please speak to Fr Sean.

"SOUP & A SMILE" AT A WARM HUB – Starting on Tuesday 21st January between 12.30pm and 2.00pm, and then running every Tuesday during these colder weeks in the Dupuis Centre. Run by St. Vincent De Paul Society volunteers for anyone who would appreciate a warm and friendly place to spend a couple of hours. Donations welcome. Contact Nicola on 07795 681226.

1) Songs of thankfulness and praise,
Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,
Manifested by the star
To the sages from afar;
Branch of royal David's stem
In thy birth at Bethlehem;
Praises be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

2) Manifest at Jordan's stream,
Prophet, Priest, and King supreme.
And at Cana, wedding guest,
In thy Godhead manifest;
Manifest in pow'r divine,
Changing water into wine;
Praises be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

3) Manifest in making whole
Palsied limbs and fainting soul;
Manifest in valiant fight,
Quelling all the devil's might;
Manifest in gracious will,
Ever bringing good from ill;
Praises be to thee addressed,
God in flesh made manifest.

4) Manifest in making whole
Palsied limbs and feinting soul,
manifest in valiant fight,
quelling all the devil's might,
manifest in gracious will,
ever bringing good from ill;
anthems be to thee addressed,
God in man made manifest

PARISH LENT CAMINO PILGRIMAGE – Ahead of the pilgrimage there will be several chances to join training walks and to celebrate Holy Mass together. The dates are 25th Jan, 8th Feb and 22nd Feb. The first walk will meet at 8.30am at St. Thomas' church in Wroxton.

BOOKING NOW OPEN FOR THIS YEAR'S DIOCESAN LOURDES PILGRIMAGE - You are most welcome to join us this Jubilee Year as we journey to Lourdes in May. The pilgrimage runs from Saturday 24 - Friday 30 May 2025 with the theme: "With Mary, Pilgrims of Hope". If you would like to travel to Lourdes but in need of assistance we can help. Assisted pilgrims have the support of doctors, nurses, carers and hospitaliers throughout their time on pilgrimage. You will participate fully in the pilgrimage and experience the love of God through the care, love and friendship of volunteers.

Please contact the Lourdes Pilgrimage Office to discuss assistance requirements: 0121 230 6288 or admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk

As well as applications from assisted pilgrims we're also keen to hear from doctors, nurses and carers eager to volunteer their time and experience Lourdes. If Our Lady is calling you please answer and give to others. We look forward to hearing from you. Find out more here: <https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/lourdes-pilgrimage>

MONDAY LUNCH CLUB will be held on Monday 13th January.

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. Bring your own refreshments. There will be a raffle on the night. Please contact Marilena asap to reserve your tickets.

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

Please pray for the dead ...

*Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently,
Particularly Adham Chahin.*

Pray also for those whose anniversaries occur this coming week:

- 12 Christopher Griffin 2004; John Webb 2002; Jessie Hemmings 1999; Catherine Forrest 1984
- 13 Patrick McLaughlin 2023; John Ake 2018; Hannah Marshall 2011; Lillian Herbert 2003; Thomas Whitman 1990; Peter Leahy 1989
- 14 William Jacob 2016; Patrick Donovan 2012; Mary Ryman 2011; Francis Humphries 2002; Thomas Houston 1993
- 15 Sheila Thornton 2017; Eilish Houlihan 2015; Mary Lowe 2003; Irene Smith 1994; Joseph Turczinski 1985
- 16 Bernard Winkler 2021; Joan Broadhead 2017; Maria Kudlik 2007; Alf Jones 2002; Agnes Maxwell 2000; Wilfred Waddoups 1986
- 17 Jennifer Upton 2023; Victor Brooks 2019; John Hellyar 2017; Daniel Sheehan 2008; Jack Goodway 1992; Lionel Pratt 1992; Lawrence Thornton 1987
- 18 Charlotte Rawlings 2001; Gerald Kelly 1987

***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:	ST JOHN'S		ST JOSEPH'S	
	29/12	05/01/25	29/12	05/01/25
Gift Aid	£145.00	£ 91.00	£ 65.00	£100.00
Non-Gift Aid	£501.70	£451.06	£209.50	£257.71
Contactless Card	£102.00	£227.00	£140.00	£ 5.00
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 6.00pm (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

After the Lord was baptized, the heavens were opened,
and the Spirit descended upon him like a dove,
and the voice of the Father thundered:
This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God,
who, when Christ had been baptized in the River Jordan
and as the Holy Spirit descended upon him,
solemnly declared him your beloved Son,
grant that your children by adoption,
reborn of water and the Holy Spirit,
may always be well pleasing to you.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

First reading**Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11**

Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.
Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her
that her warfare is ended,
that her iniquity is pardoned,
that she has received from the LORD's hand
double for all her sins.

A voice cries:

'In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD;
make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

Every valley shall be lifted up,
and every mountain and hill be made low;
the uneven ground shall become level,
and the rough places a plain.

And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed,
and all flesh shall see it together,
for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.'

Go on up to a high mountain,
O Sion, herald of good news;
lift up your voice with strength,
O Jerusalem, herald of good news;
lift it up, fear not;

say to the cities of Judah,
'Behold your God!'

Behold, the Lord GOD comes with might,
and his arm rules for him;

behold, his reward is with him,
and his recompense before him.

He will tend his flock like a shepherd;
he will gather the lambs in his arms;
he will carry them in his bosom,
and gently lead those that are with young.

Responsorial Psalm Ps 104(103):1b-2. 3-4. 24-25. 27-28. 29-30. R1**Bless the LORD, O my soul!****My God, how great you are! R/.**

O LORD my God, how great you are,
clothed in majesty and honour,
wrapped in light as with a robe!

You stretch out the heavens like a tent. **R/.**

On the waters you lay the foundation for your dwelling.

You make the clouds your chariot;
you ride on the wings of the wind.

You make the winds your messengers,
flame and fire your servants. **R/.**

How many are your works, O LORD!
In wisdom you have made them all.

The earth is full of your creatures.

Vast and wide is the span of the sea,

with its creeping things past counting,
living things great and small. **R/.**

All of these look to you
to give them their food in due season.

You give it, they gather it up;
you open wide your hand, they are well filled. **R/.**

You hide your face, they are dismayed;

you take away their breath, they die,
returning to the dust from which they came.

You send forth your spirit, and they are created,
and you renew the face of the earth **R/.**

Second reading**Titus 2:11-14; 3:4-7**

Beloved: The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness, and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Saviour appeared, he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Gospel Acclamation**Cf. Luke 3:16**

Alleluia, alleluia.

He who is mightier than I is coming, said John.

He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Alleluia.

Gospel**Luke 3:15-16, 21-22**

At that time: As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Christ, John answered them all, saying, 'I baptise you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.'

Now when all the people were baptised by John the Baptist and when Jesus also had been baptised and was praying, the heavens were opened, and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, 'You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.'

Prayer over the Offerings

Accept, O Lord, the offerings

we have brought to honour the revealing of your beloved Son,

so that the oblation of your faithful

may be transformed into the sacrifice of him

who willed in his compassion

to wash away the sins of the world.

Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Communion Antiphon

Behold the One of whom John said:

I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.

Prayer after Communion

Nourished with these sacred gifts,

we humbly entreat your mercy, O Lord,

that, faithfully listening to your Only Begotten Son,
we may be your children in name and in truth.

Through Christ our Lord.