



# 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](mailto: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



QR code  
for  
**WhatsApp** Parish  
Community

| DAY  | ST JOHN'S  | ST JOSEPH'S                               | INTENTION                       |
|--|--|---|---------------------------------|
| <b>YEAR C</b><br><b>SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> JANUARY</b><br><b>THIRD SUNDAY IN</b><br><b>ORDINARY TIME</b><br><br><b>Green</b>             | 4.00pm Vigil Mass                                      |   | Catherine O' Sullivan RIP       |
|  | 8.45am Mass  |   | Stefania Blonska RIP            |
|  |  | 10.00am Mass                              | People of the Parish            |
|  | 11.15am Mass   |   | James Torney RIP                |
|  |  | 5.00pm Confessions<br>5.30pm Mass         | Tracey & Richard Ruare & Family |
| Monday 27 <sup>th</sup><br><i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>   |  | 9.30am Mass                               | Bridie & Josephine Boyle        |
| Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup><br><i>St. Thomas Aquinas</i>  | 9.30am Mass  |   | Kathleen Linnane Intentions     |
| Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup><br><i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>  |  | 9.30am Mass                               | Joseph Camilleri RIP            |
| Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup><br><i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>   | 9.30am Mass<br><b>No Mass at<br/>St. John's school</b> |   | John Kenneth Bussey RIP         |
| Friday 31 <sup>st</sup><br><i>St. John Bosco</i>   | 6.00pm – 7.00pm<br>Confession & Holy Hour              | 9.30am Mass                               | Donald Higham RIP               |
| Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup><br><b>Conversion of St. Paul</b>  | 10.00am Mass<br>Confession 10.30 – 11am                |   | Ryan, Nilisha, Rachel & Rhea    |
| <b>YEAR C</b><br><br><b>SUNDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY</b><br><b>FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION</b><br><b>OF THE LORD</b><br><br><b>White</b> | 4.00pm Vigil Mass                                      |   | Vanessa Sawyers RIP             |
|  |  | 8.30am Mass<br><b>St. Thomas' Wroxton</b> | Victoria O' Connor              |
|  | 8.45am Mass  |   | Jismaria Titto                  |
|  |  | 10.00am Mass                              | Mariusz Walio in Thanksgiving   |
|  | 11.15am Mass   |   | John Hackett RIP                |
|  | 5.00pm Confessions<br>5.30pm Mass                      |   | Ruth Aris                       |

**WELCOME TO HOLY MASS**, and a special welcome to anyone visiting the parish today.

Today is the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time and is also called Sunday of the Word of God.

In this Jubilee Year of the Church, Pilgrims of Hope the theme for this year comes from Psalm 119 – 'I hope in your word.' Most of us will have hopes of one sort or another. But for the Christian 'hope' isn't optimism – for hope is a person. Jesus Christ. St Paul in his letter to Timothy (I Timothy 1:1) speaks of 'Christ Jesus our hope.' One of the ways we receive the Word of God, that God speaks to us, is through the scriptures. When we sit to listen to God's word at Holy Mass we are placing ourselves in a posture to encourage listening. We hear God's word both from the Old Testament and then the Epistles – the psalm forming a bridge between them.

For the Holy Gospel we stand. The Letter to the Hebrews opens with these words: 'Long ago, at many times and in many ways God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son.' In the Holy Gospel we often hear the words of Christ himself – God in Christ physically present in our world. We stand in reverence, the book is incensed, and candles often accompany it – because Christ speaks to us. We have recently adopted a new translation of the scriptures to help us in our understanding. The original writers of the scriptures were inspired by the Holy Spirit to enable us to hear God's word. Do make prayerfully reading the scriptures a part of your rule of life and prayer.

Next Sunday is the beautiful feast of **The Presentation of the Lord or Candlemas**. It recalls the visit of Mary and Joseph to the Temple with a 40 day old Jesus. They are greeted by Simeon and Anna, and Simeon describes Jesus as 'a light to enlighten the Gentiles, and for the glory of your people Israel.' At sung Masses (4pm, 8.45am, 10am, 11.15am) there will be the Candlemas ceremonies and procession at the beginning of Mass. The Crib will be removed after today's feast. Any Crib offerings will go to Aid to the Church in Need which supports Catholics and other Christians who are suffering from persecution in different parts of the world.

**PLAINCHANT DAY** -St John's on Saturday March 8th 10.45am until after the 4pm Vigil Mass. It will be an opportunity to learn and sing both English and Latin plainchant that has enriched the worship of the Catholic Church for over a thousand years. A few of you have already signalled your attendance at this. If you do intend to come along, please place £10 in an envelope marked Plainchant Day with your name and contact number, and then we will have an accurate idea of resources we will need for the day. Either post it in the presbytery, or hand it to one of the clergy.

**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 months 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. If you would like to know more. Please speak to Fr Sean.

**"SOUP & A SMILE" AT A WARM HUB** – Tuesday 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.

**SINGING AT THE 8.45AM AND 11.15AM MASSES** - It was great to see a few extra people responding to the appeal for singers for these Masses – and we had a good rehearsal on Monday evening for next Sunday's feast. If there are others of you who would wish to play a part in this important ministry in the parish then have a word with Sarah or Elizabeth after Mass today in the choir loft.

**PARISH LENT CAMINO PILGRIMAGE** – Ahead of the pilgrimage there will be several chances to join training walks and to celebrate Holy Mass together. It was great to see so many of you for our first walk yesterday. The remaining dates are 8<sup>th</sup> Feb and 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb. Details of meeting points will follow.

**MARY'S MEALS** – Fri 31<sup>st</sup> Jan. This month's lunch is now full.

**ST. DAVID'S DAY WALK** – A beautiful countryside walk to St. Thomas' church in Wroxton. Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> March, setting off from St. Joseph's church at 10.30am. All are most welcome. There will be a mass at St. Thomas' followed by a picnic in Wroxton village hall. Funds raised will go towards helping our young people attend the summer camp at Alton castle.

#### **THANKSGIVING MASS FOR MARRIAGE - REGISTER NOW**

Are you celebrating a significant wedding anniversary in 2025? Are you engaged to be married this year? Or would you simply like to give thanks to God for your marriage, and ask for His ongoing blessings?

If so, we would like to invite you to attend this year's Thanksgiving Mass for Marriage.

To be held on **Saturday 3 May**, 12noon, at St Chad's Cathedral. Celebrated by Bishop Richard Walker.

[www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/event/thanksgiving-mass-for-marriage](http://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/event/thanksgiving-mass-for-marriage)

*Please register by Sunday 13 April.*

**ST. JOHN'S QUIZ NIGHT** Friday 7<sup>th</sup> 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)** Wednesday 16th April. 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. contact Marilena 07891 178920 / [mjkearns@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mjkearns@hotmail.co.uk)

**THANK YOU** to the Knanyan Jacobite community for their generous donation of £1180 which will be put towards the roof repairs at St. Joseph's church.

**Please pray for the dead ...**

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

*Pray also for those whose anniversaries occur this coming week:*

- 26 Ralph Crispino 2020; Mary Kilpatrick 2008; Susan D'Ascendis 2004; Vincente Redon 1995; Edward Wilson 1992;  
John Coursey 1992; Josephine Marketis 1990
- 27 Helen Hunter 2015; Patrick Chard 1994; Stanley Withey 1992
- 28 Tony Lafferty 2019; Maria Draper 2013; Irene Nadin 2007; Matthew Young 1996; Giovannina Di Cuffa 1993;  
Louise Skinner 1986
- 29 Dora Gray 2008; Joseph Tuzzio 2005; Francesco La Capria 1994; Ivy Osbourne 1993; Sam Humphris 1989;  
Patrick McLoughlin 1989; Ian Boffin 1983
- 30 Betty Woodward 2017; Joseph Camilleri 2015; Collette Barrett 1986
- 31 Jim Kelly 2023; Christopher Piotrowski 2023; Joan Smith 2020; Cilla Soan 2009; Michael Holly 2001; Joseph Hoyle 1988; Henry  
Elliot 1987; Daniel McGhan 1987; Gladys Kinvig 1986; James Western 1985
- 01 Marguerite Bambrough 2023; Henryk Jaształ 2015; Hugh Cranston 2004

***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**

| <b>Weekly Income: 19<sup>th</sup> January</b> | <b><u>ST JOHN'S</u></b> | <b><u>ST JOSEPH'S</u></b> |
|---|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gift Aid                                      | £ -----                 | £ 54.50                   |
| Non-Gift Aid                                  | £ -----                 | £ 221.09                  |
| Contactless Card                              | £ 119.00                | £ 45.00                   |
| Standing Orders – November                    | £2103.00                | £ 911.00                  |

***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**

|                      |                |   |
|----------------------|----------------|---|
| <b>St. John's:</b>   | 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)   |
| <b>St. Joseph's:</b> | 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 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 6.30 – 8pm for children Yr 6 & 7<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:pt.stjohn.banbury@rcaob.org.uk)  
Pastoral & Property: *Nicola Mollard.* Email: [sg.stjohn.banbury@rcaob.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:sg.stjohn.banbury@rcaob.org.uk) or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/ [safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

**Entrance Antiphon**

O sing a new song to the Lord;  
sing to the Lord, all the earth.  
In his presence are majesty and splendour,  
strength and honour in his holy place.

**Collect**

Almighty ever-living God,  
direct our actions according to your good pleasure,  
that in the name of your beloved Son  
we may abound in good works.  
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****Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10**

In those days: Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could understand what they heard, on the first day of the seventh month. And he read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand. And the ears of all the people were attentive to the Book of the Law.

And Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden platform that they had made for the purpose. And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was above all the people, and as he opened it, all the people stood. And Ezra blessed the LORD, the great God, and all the people answered, 'Amen, Amen,' lifting up their hands. And they bowed their heads and worshipped the LORD with their faces to the ground. Ezra and the Levites read from the book, from the Law of God, clearly, and they gave the meaning, so that the people understood the reading.

And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the LORD your God; do not mourn or weep.' For all the people wept as they heard the words of the Law. Then he said to them, 'Go on your way. Eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions to anyone who has nothing ready, for this day is holy to our Lord. And do not be grieved, for the joy of the LORD is your strength.'

**Responsorial Psalm****Ps 19(18):8. 9. 10. 15. R John 6:63c****Your words, O Lord, are spirit and life. R/.**

The law of the LORD is perfect;  
it revives the soul.

The decrees of the LORD are steadfast;  
they give wisdom to the simple. **R/.**

The precepts of the LORD are right;  
they gladden the heart.

The command of the LORD is clear;  
it gives light to the eyes. **R/.**

The fear of the LORD is pure,  
abiding for ever.

The judgements of the LORD are true;  
they are, all of them, just. **R/.**

May the spoken words of my mouth,  
the thoughts of my heart,  
win favour in your sight, O LORD,  
my rock and my redeemer! **R/.**

**Second reading****1 Corinthians 12:12-30**

Brothers and Sisters: Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in one Spirit we were all baptised into one body — Jews or Greeks, slaves or free — and all were made to drink of one Spirit.

For the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot should say, 'Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear

should say, 'Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body', that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

The eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you', nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you.' On the contrary, the parts of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and on those parts of the body that we think less honourable we bestow the greater honour, and our unpresentable parts are treated with greater modesty, which our more presentable parts do not require. But God has so composed the body, giving greater honour to the part that lacked it, that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together.

Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the Church first Apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Lord has sent me to proclaim good news to the poor;  
to proclaim liberty to the captives.

Alleluia.

**Gospel****Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21**

Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

At that time: Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country. And he taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all.

And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll, and found the place where it was written, 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. And he began to say to them, 'Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Accept our offerings, O Lord, we pray,  
and in sanctifying them  
grant that they may profit us for salvation.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Communion Antiphon**

Look toward the Lord and be radiant;  
let your faces not be abashed.

**Prayer after Communion**

Grant, we pray, almighty God,  
that, receiving the grace  
by which you bring us to new life,  
we may always glory in your gift.  
Through Christ our Lord.