



CATHOLIC BANBURY

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Community

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 SUNDAY 16th FEBRUARY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Green</i>	4.00pm Vigil Mass		Tom & Lucy Mannion RIP
	8.45am Mass		People of the Parish
		10.00am Mass	Harold Hood & Family
	11.15am Mass		Holy Souls
		5.00pm Confessions 5.30pm Mass	Special Intention
Monday 17 th <i>St. Scholastica</i>		9.30am Mass	Special Intention
Tuesday 18 th <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am Mass		Joseph Boon RIP
Wednesday 19 th <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>		9.30am Mass	Rosario Fernandes RIP
Thursday 20 th <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am Mass		Geniya Birthday Intentions
Friday 21 st <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>	6.00pm – 7.00pm Confession & Holy Hour	9.30am Mass	V. A. Cyriac RIP
Saturday 22 nd <i>Feast of the Chair of St. Peter</i>	10.00am Mass Confession 10.30 – 11am		G.N. Vincent
YEAR C SUNDAY 23rd FEBRUARY SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME <i>Green</i>	4.00pm Vigil Mass		Supriya Almeida RIP
	8.45am Mass		Irena & Waclaw Radziwonowicz RIP
		10.00am Mass	Ignatius Hince RIP
	11.15am Mass		Michael Connor
		5.00pm Confessions 5.30pm Mass	John Mc Carthy Birthday Ints.

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL NEWS

Last Thursday the Parish Council (a group which includes parishioners from St John's, St Joseph's and St Thomas's) met to discuss issues and matters of interest or concern in the parish. In addition to this parish group there is now a deanery pastoral council in which both laity and clergy seek to work together for the mission of the Church in our area. They are to discuss ways in which parishes can begin to work more effectively together. Over recent years, St John's and St Joseph's have been brought together under the same parish priest. We are also now part of a local cluster of parishes – St John's, St Joseph's, Chipping Norton with Charlbury, and Bicester with Hethe. As such we are being encouraged to see what possibilities there are to work together.

For many years....decades...there have been two priests in Banbury - at least! But when Fr Sean moves on he will not be replaced.

For context, in terms of ordinations to the priesthood in this diocese, there is now usually just one a year. This means that there aren't the assistant priests to go to parishes that have been used to having them. Speaking locally, there hasn't been an ordination in Banbury for over forty years! ***So, quite shortly, there will be just three priests covering the north of Oxfordshire.***

Some Deanery Cluster statistics were shared as follows:

	<u>Banbury</u>	<u>Bicester</u>	<u>Chipping Norton</u>
Weddings	5	4	2
Funerals	35	18	8
Baptisms	53	24	8
Hospital Chaplaincy	Yes	No	No
Secondary School	Yes	No	No
Primary School	2	1	1
Mass attendance.	600-700	570	270

As priests of the cluster, we will be finding ways in which we can share areas of common interest – hospital, hospice, High School.

Also, we have been working recently at ways in which catechesis and communion to the sick can be made manageable and effective with the help of the lay-faithful, and we are hoping to have a couple of religious sisters in the parish in the coming months.

As a parish we will need to work out what is possible in terms of Sunday Mass provision as, needless to say, going from two priests to one makes a huge difference to what is possible, and canon law permits a priest, except in exceptional circumstances, to celebrate no more than three Masses on Sundays and Holy Days. Presently we have up to 6 Sunday Masses. Over the coming weeks we will have to think about what (as a parish community) we need, rather than what we might want. *This isn't always an easy exercise!* But we will have to focus our minds on what will give the greatest access to Sunday Mass as possible for all. ***We will also need a pattern of Masses that is sustainable even in the Parish Priest's absence.***

Holy Day Masses – in term time there are usually about 5. This will need to be reconsidered in terms of what is possible.

Weekday Mass – we have been blessed by having Mass more or less each day. With one priest that pattern is not so easy with the priest's day off, breaks, annual retreat, etc. We will need to look at the pattern of midweek Mass, and maybe whether there is a need for one evening Mass during the week for those who work in the daytime.

Over the coming weeks we will need to consider this new terrain for Banbury. For many of you, this will not come as a surprise.

In 2028 we will be celebrating the bicentenary of the Mass returning to Banbury – something that predates all our church buildings. It is quite amazing what those few Catholics of that time achieved with their priest, and we see the fruit of their labours, and of their sacrificial giving, all around us.

There is much life in our parishes. We are blessed with good Mass attendances, a good number of committed young people and young families. We have lots of volunteers who do great work. We have schools who play their part in the nurturing of the faith in the young.

Change is never easy - but there is much to rejoice in as we look to the future!

There will be two open meetings of which all are invited, St. Joseph's at 7pm on the Monday 24th February and St. John's at 7pm on Thursday 27th February.

"SOUP & A SMILE" AT A WARM HUB – Tuesday between 12.30pm and 2.30pm, for anyone who would appreciate a warm and friendly place to spend a couple of hours. Donations welcome. Contact Nicola on 07795 681226.

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING – For those wishing to start serving or have not had any training, Monday 3rd March from 6.30 -7.30pm. Please email the office to say your child would like to attend.

PLAINCHANT DAY – Sat. 8th March, 10.45am. £10 charge to cover costs. Book your place by the 23rd February.

PADRE PIO – Will meet next on Tuesday 25th February.

ST. DAVID'S DAY WALK –. Saturday 1st March, setting off from St. Joseph's church at 10.30am and ending with mass followed by a picnic at Wroxton.

JOSEPH AND THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMCOAT – BGN students will be performing this fantastic show on the 27th, 28th & 29th March. Tickets are available from www.ticketsource.co.uk/blessed-george-napier-school

HIGHCLERE CASTLE (DOWNTON ABBEY) - tickets still available at £62.00 pp to include Coach, entry to House & Gardens and meal on the way back to Banbury, please ensure balance is paid by the end of February 2025.

THE ARCHDIOCESE is recruiting for the following four positions: Operations Director, IT Manager, Finance Manager and Gift Aid Officer. Full details and closing dates can be found at www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/jobs. If you think you *have the skills, please do apply.*

Please pray for the dead ...

*Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently,
Particularly Carmela Appugliefe and Geraldine Peissel
Pray also for those whose anniversaries occur this coming week:*

- 16 May McNulty 2018; James Green 1988; Sarah Wilding 1985
- 17 Freda Wright 2016; Joyce Quinn 2009; Franz Idziaczek 1998; Winifred Fell 1997; Catherine Waddoups 1994
- 18 Patricia Quay 2017; Kevin Nolan 2014; John Hart 1988; Fr. Terrence McDonnell 1987; Frederick Rutland 1985
- 19 Sylvia Hemmings 2017; Eugene O’Neill 2008; Jimmy Sheils 2008; Angel Bertolin-Gil 2004; Ena Forde 1999; Stephanie Lawlor 1999; Mia Sabin 1995; Carmen Maguire 1995; Hazel Meadows 1993; Hamilton Forrest 1986; Margaret Fooks 1986; Halina Watts 2024
- 20 John Harrison 2024; Bridget Mason 2022; Winifred Mawle 1991; David Cunningham 1991
- 21 Frank Tohill 2020; Juliet Akumu 2010; Mary Goudie 2009; Margaret Pidduck 2004; Patrick O’Mahoney 1999; Ellew Muraskas 1998; Rosemarian Broderick 1991
- 22 Ken King 2021; Betty Sherington 2020; Norma Garrett 2007; Margaret Murphy 1996; Stanislaw Zaworski 1987; Antoni Batt 1985; Joseph Kelly 1985

***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, Gwen Ingham, 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: 9th February	<u>ST JOHN’S</u>	<u>ST JOSEPH’S</u>
Gift Aid	£ 113.00	£ 49.00
Non-Gift Aid	£ 576.65	£ 256.71
Contactless Card	£ 285.00	£ 15.00
Standing Orders – December	£ 3363.00	£ 1188.00

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

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**Cf. Ps 30: 3-4**

Be my protector, O God,
 a mighty stronghold to save me.
 For you are my rock, my stronghold!
 Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

Collect

O God, who teach us that you abide
 in hearts that are just and true,
 grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace
 as to become a dwelling 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**Jeremiah 17:5-8**

Thus says the LORD: 'Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the LORD. He is like a shrub in the desert, and shall not see any good come. He shall dwell in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land.

'Blessed is the man who trusts in the LORD, whose trust is the LORD. He is like a tree planted by water, that sends out its roots by the stream, and does not fear when heat comes, for its leaves remain green, and is not anxious in the year of drought, for it does not cease to bear fruit.'

Responsorial Psalm Ps 1:1-2. 3. 4, 6. R Psalm 40(39):5a***Blessed the man who has placed his trust in the LORD. R/.***

Blessed indeed is the man
 who follows not the counsel of the wicked,
 nor stands in the path with sinners,
 nor abides in the company of scorners,
 but whose delight is the law of the LORD,
 and who ponders his law day and night. **R/.**

He is like a tree that is planted
 beside the flowing waters,
 that yields its fruit in due season,
 and whose leaves shall never fade;
 and all that he does shall prosper. **R/.**

Not so are the wicked, not so!
 For they, like winnowed chaff,
 shall be driven away by the wind.
 For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked will perish. **R/.**

Second reading**1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20**

Brothers and Sisters: If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised. And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most

to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Rejoice and leap for joy, says the Lord,
 for behold, your reward is great in heaven.

Alleluia.

Gospel**Luke 6:17, 20-26**

At that time: Jesus came down with the Twelve and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea and Jerusalem and the sea coast of Tyre and Sidon. And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said: 'Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, and revile you, and spurn your name as evil on account of the Son of Man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven; for so their fathers did to the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. Woe to you who are full now, for you shall be hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep. Woe to you, when all people speak well of you, for so their fathers did to the false prophets.'

Prayer over the Offerings

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray,
 cleanse and renew us
 and may it become for those who do your will
 the source of eternal reward.
 Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

They ate and had their fill,
 and what they craved the Lord gave them;
 they were not disappointed in what they craved.

Prayer after Communion

Having fed upon these heavenly delights,
 we pray, O Lord,
 so that we may always long
 for that food by which we truly live.
 Through Christ our Lord.