



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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Telephone: 01295 262073

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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
YEAR C	4.00pm Vigil Mass		William Ellis RIP
SUNDAY 23 rd MARCH	8.45am Mass		Denise Thornton RIP
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT		10.00am Mass	Fr. Bill Wilton
	11.15am Mass		Emma Medina RIP
<i>Violet</i>		5.00pm Confessions 5.30pm Mass	People of the Parish
Monday 24 th <i>Lent Feria</i>		9.30am Mass	Special Intentions
Tuesday 25 th <i>Solemnity of the Annunciation of The Lord</i>	<u>*8.00am Mass*</u>		Breda Byrne RIP
Wednesday 26 th <i>Lent Feria</i>		9.30am Rosary & Benediction	
Thursday 27 th <i>Lent Feria</i>	9.30am Mass		Dorothy Wright
Friday 28 th <i>Lent Feria</i>	6.45am Mass 6.00pm Stations of the Cross & Confession	9.30am Mass	No Intention Achamma Joseph RIP
Saturday 29 th <i>Lent Feria</i>	10.00am Mass with Confirmation Confession 10.30 – 11am		Holy Souls
YEAR C	4.00pm Vigil Mass		James Mulroy RIP
SUNDAY 30 TH MARCH	8.45am Mass		People of the Parish
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT		10.00am Mass	Cathie & Frank Alexander
	11.15am Mass		Kevin Nolan RIP
<i>Rose/Violet</i>		4.45pm Stations of the Cross Confessions 5.30pm Mass	No Intention

WELCOME TO MASS, and for those visiting the parish today it is good to have you with us. Today is the Third Sunday of Lent.

Today's Gospel gives us an image not of Divine vengeance – but of Divine patience – giving time for us to repent and turn to him – a patience that we ourselves would find unreasonable. It is a patience that longs for us to turn to God. The call to conversion and repentance is the call of Lent, that through prayer, fasting and almsgiving, our hearts may be reformed in the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS are a beautiful way to contemplate the gritty reality of what God's love for us meant. There will be Stations this evening in St Joseph's at 4.45pm, and at St John's on Fridays at 6pm.

THE PARISH LENT PENITENTIAL SERVICE will be on Friday 11th April at 7pm. There will also be an opportunity at the Immaculate Conception, Bicester, on Monday 7th April. As usual – and we are very fortunate – a number of priests will give their time to come and help us prepare for the Feast of Easter by fulfilling this part of our Easter duties. It can be surprising how some Catholics have lost this important sacrament from being a part of their lives.

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR PARISH
- As we look forward to the future, one of the urgent needs we have are for catechists to help the relatively large number of children we have to prepare for First Holy Communion. Alison Templer has been leading the programme for some time, and a couple of parishioners have shown an interest in helping. We could do with more! How we will structure the first communion programme in the future, and how often, and when they will meet, will be decided by who we have to work with. Most of the children who are put forward for the sacraments are not in Catholic schools. If appropriate, there are training opportunities available. The most important thing is a desire to pass on the faith that we ourselves have received.

If you are a parent, you might well be disappointed if you wanted your child to prepare for Holy Communion - but it wasn't possible as there weren't the catechists able to help to prepare them.

Could this be you? Is God calling you? Please speak to Alison or Fr Philip, or email the office, if you are interested or want to know more.

INVITATION FROM THE DIOCESAN VOCATIONS OFFICE

Are you a young man in School Years 9 - 13 (ages 13 to 17), who wants to explore a vocation to the Catholic priesthood? Why not come to St Mary's College, Oscott in Birmingham for a chance to meet Fr Craig Szmids (the Vocation Director) and spend time in discussion and prayer with others who are thinking about a vocation to the priesthood?

The day will include a tour of Oscott and an opportunity to speak with seminarians, joining them for the celebration of Holy Mass and lunch.

The first meeting is on Saturday 5 April 2025, 10.30am - 4pm. To find out more please contact Deacon Owen Gresty on 0121 321 5135 or email deacon.owen@vocations.org.uk *The event is free of charge but booking is essential.*

PRAYING FOR POPE FRANCIS

As the Holy Father remains in hospital with double pneumonia, we keep him close in prayer.

*Almighty and Eternal God,
you are the everlasting health of
those who believe in you.*

*Hear our prayers for your sick servant Francis
for whom we implore the aid of your tender mercy,
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Our Lady of Lourdes, Health of the Sick, pray for him.

WEBELIEVE, 25TH-28TH JULY 2025, a festival of Catholic Life celebrating the Jubilee Year of Hope, with parishes and families in mind. Four days of music, keynotes, conversation & worship, in the beautiful surroundings of **St Mary's College, Oscott**, Sutton Coldfield. Featuring Dr Gianna Emanuela Molla (daughter of St Gianna Molla), Fr Paul Murray, Mgr Michael Nazir-Ali, AnMari, Fr Toby Lees & many more. Pilgrim-attendees can choose to come for the whole weekend (camping, staying locally or coming from home) at an adult Early Bird rate of £70, or for a day for £40. Early Bird Tickets available now at www.webelievefestival.com

PATRICIANS - Friday 28th March at 7pm in The Dupuis Centre. Topic is The Role of St. Joseph . All Catholics are welcome to this friendly discussion group aimed at improving confidence in talking about our Faith with others . Refreshments provided.

MONDAY LUNCH CLUB – The next lunch will be held on Monday 14th April.

GUILD OF ST. STEPHEN – Sunday 30th March. For all new Altar Servers, they will make their commitment to St. Stephen at their usual mass.

HIGHCLERE TRIP 16TH MARCH - Those that are booked on this trip (now full) please can you meet at the church for 9am on the 16th April ready for a 9.15am departure to Highclere. If you have not yet given your meal choice, please do so asap. We should arrive back to St John's around 8.30pm after our meal at Wroxton. Please make a note of my number should you need me anytime during the trip 07891178920.

PADRE PIO – Will meet next on the 29th April after morning mass. Then 27th May.

BOOK TOKENS – Our parish primary schools are hoping for donations of book tokens which will be then given to children to reward them for good behaviour or hard work. The book tokens can be left in the offertory collection bags in a clearly marked envelope. Thank you for your support.

BLESSED GEORGE NAPIER SCHOOL VACANCY – The school are currently recruiting for a part – time Administrator. For further information please contact our HR Department: hr@bgn.oxon.sch.uk or call us on 01295 264216.

Please pray for the dead ...

*Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently,
Particularly Ann Dagger, Eileen Jordan & Margaret Monaghan.
Pray also for those whose anniversaries occur this coming week:*

- 23 Emma Medina 2024; Clementina Sinagra 2017; Ruth Harris 2004; Harold Parker 2003; Gladys Cregan 2001; Edith Houldcroft 1993; Marjorie Clifford 1988;
- 24 Barbara Fowles 2021; Philomena Duffy 2012; Dorothy Wise 2010; Anna-Marie Kovacs 2005; Danny Heath 2002; David Towler 1989
- 25 Antony De Bono 2020; Allyson Sullivan 2018; Marie Baker 2013; Frederick Abrahart 2009; Patricia Kimmance 2003; Teresa Wright 2003; John Gallaher 1995; Samuel McNutt 1992; William Doyle 1987
- 26 Tony Campion 2019; Peter Sharpley 2013; Sylvia D'Amore 2010; Charles Boon 1998; John Keane 1994; Kevin Curran 1989; Florence Springate 1988
- 27 Betty Higgs 2021; Mary O'Mahoney 2014; Margaret Wilson 2009; Michael Kelly 2005; Frances O'Neill 2004
- 28 Michael Knight 2023; Des Mates 2021; Bridie Mansell 2016; Evalina Dillon 2008; Jill Shaw 1999; Gloria Bletchly 1990; Stephen Ryan 1989
- 29 Muriel Cannon 2017; Kathleen Gellie 2005; Joseph Smith 1999; Michael Oxlade 1985; John O'Sullivan 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, Bridie O'Connell, Harry Rhodes, Eileen Shea, Nicky Smith, Elaine Steer.

PARISH FINANCIAL MATTERS

Weekly Income: 16th March	<u>ST JOHN'S</u>	<u>ST JOSEPH'S</u>
Gift Aid	£ 113.23	£ 74.00
Non-Gift Aid	£ 590.78	£ 276.40
Contactless Card	£ 194.00	£ 60.00
January Standing Orders	£ 3113.00	£ 921.00

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

My eyes are always on the Lord,
for he rescues my feet from the snare.
Turn to me and have mercy on me,
for I am alone and poor.

Collect

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness,
who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving
have shown us a remedy for sin,
look graciously on this confession of our lowliness,
that we, who are bowed down by our conscience,
may always be lifted up by your mercy.
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**Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15**

In those days: Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said, 'I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.' When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' Then he said, 'Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' And he said, 'I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said, 'I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey.'

Then Moses said to God, 'If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, "The God of your fathers has sent me to you", and they ask me, "What is his name?" what shall I say to them?' God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM.' And he said, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "I AM has sent me to you."' God also said to Moses, 'Say this to the people of Israel: "The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you." This is my name for ever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.'

Responsorial Psalm**Ps 103(102):1-2. 3-4. 6-7. 8, 11. R8a*****The LORD is compassionate and gracious. R/.***

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all within me, his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and never forget all his benefits. **R/.**

It is the Lord who forgives all your sins,
who heals every one of your ills,
who redeems your life from the grave,
who crowns you with mercy and compassion. **R/.**

The LORD does deeds of justice,
gives full justice to all who are oppressed.

He made known his ways to Moses,
and his deeds to the children of Israel. **R/.**

The LORD is compassionate and gracious,
slow to anger and rich in mercy.

For as the heavens are high above the earth,
so strong his mercy for those who fear him. **R/.**

Second reading**1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12**

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptised into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same

spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall.

Gospel Acclamation

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Repent, says the Lord,

for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God.

Gospel**Luke 13:1-9**

There were some present at that very time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, 'Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered in this way? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.'

And he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vine dresser, "Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?" And he answered him, "Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig round it and put on manure. Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down."'

Prayer over the Offerings

Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings,
and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins,
may take care to forgive our neighbour.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

The sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for her young:
by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,
for ever singing your praise.

Prayer after Communion

As we receive the pledge
of things yet hidden in heaven
and are nourished while still on earth
with the Bread that comes from on high,
we humbly entreat you, O Lord,
that what is being brought about in us in mystery
may come to true completion.
Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer over the People

Direct, O Lord, we pray, the hearts of your faithful,
and in your kindness grant your servants this grace:
that, abiding in the love of you and their neighbour,
they may fulfil the whole of your commands.
Through Christ our Lord.