



CATHOLIC BANBURY

www.catholicbanbury.org



St. John the Evangelist

25 South Bar Street, Banbury. OX16 9AF

St. Joseph the Worker

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Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Philip Harrop

Deacons

Rev. Mr. Henry Allen: 01295 780642 Rev. Mr. Jim Brannan: 07737 076660;

Rev. Mr. Bob Hughes: 07766 711984

This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered charity number 234216

YEAR A	ST JOHN'S	ST JOSEPH'S	INTENTION
Sunday 16th August SOLEMNITY OF THE ASSUMPTION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY White	4.00pm Vigil Mass (Saturday)		Angela Manfredi RIP
	8.30am Holy Mass		Andrzej Piccinni
	4.00pm Vesper and Procession	10.00am Holy Mass	People of the Parish
	11.30am Holy Mass		Roza Kikowska
	4.00pm	Vespers and Procession	
Monday 17 th August <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am Holy Mass		Jimmy Connelly RIP
Tuesday 18 th August <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>		9.30am Holy Mass	James Kelly
Wednesday 19 th August <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>		9.30 - 10.30am Morning Prayer Adoration & Benediction	
Thursday 20 th August <i>Memorial of St Bernard</i>	6.30pm Holy Mass		Mary Welch RIP
Friday 21 st August <i>Memorial of St Pius X</i>	9.30am Holy Mass 6.00 – 7.00pm Adoration, Vespers & Benediction with Confessions		Jose Redmund RIP
Saturday 22 nd August <i>Memorial of the Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>	10.00am Holy Mass		Pat Kendrick
Sunday 23rd August TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME Green	4.00pm Vigil Mass (Saturday)		Special Intention
	8.30am Holy Mass		Pro Populo
		10.00am Holy Mass	Mr Dale RIP
	11.30am Holy Mass		Julio Maroto-Crespo

Welcome to Mass on this Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Today we remember how Our Lady, privileged with that unique vocation to be the Mother of God, was also privileged to be the first fruits of the resurrection – that already she shares heaven in body and soul. As today's preface states: 'rightly you would not allow her to see the corruption of the tomb since from her own body she marvellously brought forth your incarnate Son, the Author of all life.' The celebration of Our Lady's Assumption (often called the Dormition or Falling Asleep in the Eastern Church) on the August 15th goes back to the 4th Century.

If you are passing through today, we hope you feel welcome. There are refreshments after the 10am Mass at St Joseph's.

Today - The Assumption Celebration

4pm Evening Prayer and Procession of the Image of Our Lady – followed by Afternoon Tea – sandwiches, cakes, strawberries, prosecco, tea, soft drinks, raffle etc - in the Presbytery Garden (weather permitting!)

LAST CHANCE! Tickets available (for afternoon tea) at Mass today - £5 adults £2 children

Following the 11.30am Mass today - Setting up of tables in the garden. If you can help that will be great. Also to clear up at the end. Should take just a few minutes!

Annual Pilgrimage Mass at Harvington Hall _ Sunday 6th September.

Harvington Hall is a beautiful Elizabethan Manor House in an idyllic setting. Yet its fame and significance come from anything but beautiful and idyllic, as it became a focus of Catholic mission during the penal times of Elizabeth I when it was illegal for Catholic priests to set foot in England from abroad. Harvington is unique in housing seven priest hides that can still be seen today, and is the Shrine to the English Martyrs. Free parking and tours are available.

Mass begins at 3pm (confessions from 1.45pm) and will be offered by Archbishop Miguel Maury Beundia – the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain.

Parish Finances and Building Updates

On the website – www.catholicbanbury.org – you will find (under 'Be up to date' and parish updates) lots of information regarding the parish finances and the work that needs to be done on our buildings. It shows both a summary of the accounts for your perusal, and information and photos springing from the recent report by an architect on the health of our buildings at St John's. St Joseph's has had repairs to the roof in recent months, and so our attention now moves to St John's. Many of the images you will see include elements that we might miss, or are out of sight. Quite a bit of the work had already been highlighted in the previous report of 2020 and not done, so there is much catching up. It would also be good to look at the floor of St John's which needs some attention, as well as the lighting.

Next Baptism Meeting for parents wanting their children to be baptized has been moved to September 8th at 7pm in the Dupuis Centre.

Altar Server Training for young people will be on Saturday 29th August at 9am-9.45am. If you have made your first Holy Communion and would like to learn how to serve Holy Mass, then two of our St Stephen's Guild Silver Medal Holders, Jonathan and Camilla, will be there to teach and guide you how to assist at Mass in this special way. New servers will also be able to serve at the Mass that follows.

For adults who

- want to learn more about the Catholic faith;
- or have a desire to become a Catholic;
- are a baptized Catholic, but haven't made first communion and/or Confirmation.
- a Catholic already, but desire a refresher in the basics of the faith

then it is hoped that we will form a group exploring the faith together. If you could let Fr Philip know if you might be interested in this, or send an email to stjohn.banbury@rcaob.org.uk

There will be an initial information evening on Friday 4th September at 7.15pm in the Dupuis Centre (upstairs)

March for Life UK - Saturday 5th Sept. 2026

This much needed annual demonstration proclaiming the sanctity of human life is a stand against the threats that face it. It is attended not only by Catholics, but other Christians, those of other faiths, and those without a faith and yet recognise the giftedness and sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. There is a coach from St John's to London departing 7.30am. Cost: £15 per adult. Children FREE. There will be lots of morning events for families and children, teens and young adults, at the Emmanuel Centre where the coach will drop us off. There is also the option of Mass at Westminster Cathedral at 10.30am.

The march starts at 1.30pm from The Emmanuel Centre to Parliament Square for speeches. We will depart from London at 5pm, arriving back in Banbury at about 7pm. To reserve a seat email march4Life.banbury@gmail.com. Places will be allocated on a first-come first served basis.

Stop assisted suicide

The assisted suicide Bill, which previously fell due to profound concerns at the end of the last parliamentary session, has been brought back to Parliament by Lauren Edwards MP, and will have its pivotal Second Reading in the House of Commons on Friday 11th September 2026. As Catholics we are called to make a stand against this attack on the dignity of life, for not only does it irrevocably alter the relationship between doctor and patient, but it will place many doctors and healthcare professionals in situations that are morally repugnant. Evidence shows that once this 'Rubicon' has been crossed, the much-vaunted safeguards dramatically slip away. Pope St John Paul warned of what was coming 31 years ago in his letter *Evangelium Vitae* where he spoke of a societal mindset where human life is de-valued, and practices that destroy life (of which abortion and euthanasia are two) are promoted as personal freedoms and rights. Please contact your MP to enlighten them to this important issue. *There is a letter template online that can be used to email your MP* <https://righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote> outlining all the concerns with this private members Bill.

Youth Matters

Some of our young parishioners are off today for a few days to the Summer Camp at Alton Castle. For some of them this has only been possible from the fundraising in the parish which raised £1,194. Attending youth events such as this helps our young people to deepen their faith and become faithful disciples of Christ. Please remember them in your prayers, that they will grow in their faith, and encounter the Lord in ever new and deeper ways.

St Gregory's, Stratford, Icon Day: Thursday 3rd September 1pm-4.30pm.

1pm : Stratford Town Hall with talks by Abbot Jeremias Schroeder (Abbot Primate of the Benedictine Order) and Rowan Williams (former Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury)

4pm: The Guild Chapel for the blessing of icons.

If you wish to attend please register on the website stgregory.sua@rcaob.org.uk or 01789 292439

Padre Pio Prayer Group – next meets Monday 7th September 10am in the Dupuis Centre.

Going into hospital? If you would like the sacrament of the sick before surgery, please have a word with Fr Philip or email the presbytery. The Horton Hospital doesn't have resident chaplains or issue lists of Catholic patients, so if you or family members or friends would like a visit/ the sacraments whilst in hospital please notify the presbytery

Please pray for those who have died recently: Bida Esceuta. Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently Pray also for those whose anniversaries occur this coming week		
16	Michael McNamara 2015; Joan Roche 1998; Neisha Boyle 1988; Edward Baldwin 1988; Ignacy Pyszniak 1985	
17	Mary Carey 2021; Catherine Golden 2012; Isabel Wyatt 2007; Albert Heath 1995; Martha Byrne 1989; Martin Lannigan 1986	
18	Jerrard Misconi 2015; Mary Heath 2014; Catherina Pannozzo 1987	
19	Martin Monaghan 2022; Mary Simon 2010; Catherine Squire 1999; Percy Watts 1990; Alicia Gill 1985	
20	Mary Rose Miller 2012; Edward Darcy 2012; Ross Mary Freeman 2010; Sabrina Walsh 1990; Leonard Mailey 1987; James Taylor 1984	
21	Patricia Pugh 2017; Bert Fell 2015; Palmina Manning 2013; Benito Veriato 2011; Edward Brown 2002	
22	Giulia Pannozzo 2003	
23	Joseph Cashman 2018; Hazel Letherbarrow 2016; Cynthia Fallowfield 2014; Giuseppe Fragola 2014; Colin Smith 2014; John Wilkinson 2001; Anne Bond 1997; Mary McKenna 1996; John Kimberley 1992; John Nolan 1992; William Butler 1987; Doris Rawlings 1986; William Sullivan 1983	
Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. 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, Douglas Bond ,John Breen, Brenda Brennan, Eileen Bristoll, Christopher Browne, Clifford Browne, Sue Davis, Nick Davies, Oliver Davies, Michael Evans, Genevieve Freedman, Alan Fitchett, Barbara Fleming, Carl Gill, Diane Greenwood, Pat Heritage, Anita Higham, Gwen Ingham, Roger Johnson, Michael Jordan, Teresa Kurszewska, Catherine Ley, Iris Jean Lloyd, Liam Malone, Anne Nolan, Harry Rhodes, Nicky Smith, Elaine Steer, Maria Harding, John Breen.		
PARISH FINANCIAL MATTERS		
Weekly Income:	ST JOHN’S	ST JOSEPH’S
Gift Aid	58.00	52.00
Non-Gift Aid	695.28	246.65
Contactless Card	n/a	n/a
Standing orders for May: St John’s £3048		St Joseph’s £784
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 donation, we will receive another 25p		DONA CARD READER  Remember to use our contactless card reader. Donations can also be made by scanning the QR code.
CONFESSION TIMES		
St John’s on Friday, 6.00-7.00 pm and Saturday, 10.30-11.00 am		
Parish Groups and Meetings		
St John’s	Church Cleaning	Monday 10.00am (following Mass)
St John’s Grounds		As announced
St John’s	Legion of Mary	Saturday at 10.45 am (Wall Room, Dupuis Centre)
St Joseph’s	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
St Vincent De Paul Society – Contact and help - 07761 643449		
PARISH OFFICE The office is situated at St John’s Presbytery and can also be contacted by telephone or email using the details above.		
SAFEGUARDING: The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. The Parish Safeguarding Representative for St John’s is Deborah Picking and for St Joseph’s it is 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. Rev 12: 1

A great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon beneath her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

Collect

Almighty ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant, we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory. 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

Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab

God’s temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant was seen within his temple. And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was pregnant and was crying out in birth pains and the agony of giving birth. And another sign appeared in heaven: behold, a great red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on his heads seven diadems. His tail swept down a third of the stars of heaven and cast them to the earth. And the dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it. She gave birth to a male child, one who is to rule all the nations with a rod of iron, but her child was caught up to God and to his throne, and the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God. And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, ‘Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ have come.’

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 45(44):10. 11. 12. 16. R10b

On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

The daughters of kings are those whom you favour.
On your right stands the queen in gold of Ophir. **R:**

Listen, O daughter; pay heed and give ear:
forget your own people and your father’s house. **R:**

So will the king desire your beauty.
He is your lord, pay homage to him. **R:**

They are escorted amid gladness and joy;
they pass within the palace of the king. **R:**

Second reading

1 Corinthians 15:20-27

Brothers and Sisters: Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For ‘God has put all things in subjection under his feet.’

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.

Mary has been taken up into heaven;
the host of angels rejoice.

Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 1:39-56

In those days Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a town in Judah, and she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, ‘Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For behold, when the sound of your greeting came to my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfilment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.’

And Mary said,
‘My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;
for he who is mighty has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.
And his mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.
He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;
he has brought down the mighty from their thrones
and exalted those of humble estate;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he has sent away empty.
He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
as he spoke to our fathers,
to Abraham and to his offspring for ever.’
And Mary remained with her about three months and returned to her home.

Prayer over the Offerings

May this oblation, our tribute of homage, rise up to you, O Lord, and, through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, whom you assumed into heaven, may our hearts, aflame with the fire of love, constantly long for you. Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Lk 1: 48-49

All generations will call me blessed,
for he who is mighty has done great things for me.

Prayer after Communion

Having received the Sacrament of salvation, we ask you to grant, O Lord, that, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom you assumed into heaven, we may be brought to the glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord.

Solemn Blessing

May God, who through the childbearing of the Blessed Virgin Mary willed in his great kindness to redeem the human race, be pleased to enrich you with his blessing.
Amen.

May you know always and everywhere the protection of her, through whom you have been found worthy to receive the author of life.
Amen.

May you, who have devoutly gathered on this day, carry away with you the gifts of spiritual joys and heavenly rewards.
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.