



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

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Community

YEAR A	ST JOHN'S	ST JOSEPH'S	INTENTION
Sunday 1 st February FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	4.00pm Vigil Mass (Saturday)		Stefan in Thanksgiving
	8.30am Mass		Gwen Ingham Birthday Ints.
		10.00am Mass	People of the Parish
<i>Green</i>	11.30am Mass		Thanksgiving for Jesus Youth in the UK
Monday 2 nd <i>Feast of the Presentation of the Lord</i>	<u>6.30pm Mass</u>		Michael Whelan RIP
Tuesday 3 rd <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>		9.30am Mass	John Marshall RIP
Wednesday 4 th <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>		<i>9.30am Morning Prayer and Benediction</i>	~~~~~
Thursday 5 th <i>Memorial of St. Agatha</i>	6.30pm Mass	11am Funeral Mass	Shirley Baker RIP Deceased Hedgecox Family
Friday 6 th <i>Memorial of St. Paul Miki & Companions</i>	9.30am Mass 6.00pm – 7.00pm <i>Adoration & Confessions</i>	<u>12 Noon St. Thomas' Wroxton</u>	Kathleen Anne & Keith Williams 55 th Wedding Anniversary Agnes O'Riordan
Saturday 7 th <i>Memorial of St. John Bosco</i>	10.00am Mass <i>Confessions 10.30am- 11am</i>		Special Intention
Sunday 8 th February FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	4.00pm Vigil Mass (Saturday)		Anne Mulroy RIP
	8.30am Mass		Anna & Augustyn Bala RIP
		10.00am Mass	Kevin Quinn RIP
<i>Green</i>	11.30am Mass		People of the Parish

We gather at Holy Mass on this fourth Sunday of the liturgical year. A special welcome to anyone who is visiting the parish today to join us in worship. For those who are not Catholics, when it comes to the time of Holy Communion, you are very welcome to come forward for a blessing. If you just place your right hand on your left shoulder then the priest or deacon will know to give you a blessing.

Tomorrow is the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord or Candlemas. Candlemas was, in the old calendar, considered the last day of Christmastide. It was after Candlemas that the Christmas greenery that had decorated homes and churches was taken down, and for some still is!

Candlemas commemorates the visit to the Temple at Jerusalem of Mary and Joseph with the infant Jesus forty days after his birth at Bethlehem. We hear how Mary and Joseph encountered Simeon and Anna who had been waiting for the coming of the Messiah. You can read about it in St Luke's gospel (2:22-40). The ceremony in the Temple involved both the presentation of the child in thanksgiving, the offering of sacrifice, and the purification of the mother (Leviticus 10).

In St Luke's account Simeon gives praise to God in what we know as the canticle *Nunc Dimittis*, in which he speaks of Christ being 'the light to enlighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel' and so the feast has always been associated with light and the blessing of candles. Hence the Mass begins with the blessing of candles and a procession as we sing Simeon's song. Mass will be at 6.30pm.

Following Candlemas, the Crib will be removed for another year as the Church turns her focus towards Lent and the celebration of the Paschal Mystery. It will also be the last chance to make a Crib offering which this year will be going to Aid to the Church in Need – a charity which comes to the aid of Christian communities suffering from persecution.

Tuesday is the feast of St Blaise, and there will be the traditional blessing of throats after the 9.30am Mass at St Joseph's.

The Quarant 'Ore – the Forty Hours Devotion in March.

This devotion, originating in Italy in the 1550's and popularised by St Philip Neri and commended to the whole Church by Pope Clement VIII, will be coming to Banbury!

The devotion is in honour of the 40 hours between Christ's death and resurrection when his body lay in the tomb, and so, in the season of Lent is a beautiful way of preparing for the celebration of the Paschal Mystery.

The Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at the close of Mass at St John's on the Solemnity of St Joseph on Thursday 19th March and, apart from the time of Mass on Friday morning and Saturday morning, will be exposed continually, day and night, for adoration. This forms part of our Deanery month of prayer for vocations to the Priesthood and the Religious Life appointed for March. We hope that parishioners from around the deanery will come along and join us.

Each day there will be Mass, the Divine Office, the Holy Rosary, as well as periods of silent adoration. On the evening of Friday March 20th there will also be a time when priests are present to hear confessions in place of the usual Lenten penitential service, as well as a Holy Hour for young people following this at 8pm. What we will need is for parishioners to commit themselves to watching for an hour so that the Lord is accompanied throughout this time. A board will go up in the coming weeks for those who can commit to times and days.

LOURDES DIOCESAN PILGRIMAGE – Bookings are now open for those who would like to be a pilgrim with the diocese on this annual pilgrimage from Monday 25th to Saturday 30 May under the leadership of the Archbishop. After answering the call of Our Lady, pilgrims find that they receive many graces at the Shrine. Pilgrims are invited to make initial enquiries about the pilgrimage via the Lourdes Administrator, Kath White on admin.lourdes@rcaob.org.uk or call 0121 230 6288.

Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for February 2026

For children with incurable diseases

Let us pray that children suffering from incurable diseases and their families receive the necessary medical care and support, never losing strength and hope.

When Pope Francis visited the Holy Land in 2014, he used a Popemobile. Throughout the conflict he kept in close contact with his priests working in Gaza, often speaking on a daily basis to them. In the final months before his death, Pope Francis asked that the Popemobile he used on that visit be transformed into a mobile clinic for children in Gaza who are injured, malnourished or don't have access to healthcare.

PADRE PIO PRAYER GROUP - Monday 2nd Feb at 10am, Dupuis Centre. Prayer & fellowship. All most welcome.

PATRICIANS: Friday 6th Feb, at 7pm. Dupuis Centre. A friendly discussion group for Catholics. Refreshments provided. TOPIC: Understanding The True Role of Our Lady. Ref. 'Mater Populi Fidelis'.

PARISH COMMUNITY EVENT - St David's Day Country Walk. **Saturday 28th Feb**, From St Joseph's, Banbury to St Thomas' in Wroxton and return to St Joseph's after lunch. **Time: 9.45am for 10am prompt departure.** Distance: 5.6 miles in total. Picnic lunch in Wroxton Village Hall. Sponsored walk to raise money for young people from our Parish to attend Summer Camp at Alton Castle in August. This annual event brings our Parish Community together and raises money for our youth at the same time.

All parishioners are most welcome to join us for fellowship, friendship & gentle exercise!

SHEPHERDS' PAUSE – ALL ARE WELCOME - St. John's and St. Joseph's Catholic Primary Schools warmly invite parishioners to *Shepherds' Pause*. This relaxed gathering offers a chance to pause and connect, with our chaplaincy teams providing warm drinks, sweet treats, and activities such as arts and crafts and story time. It's a lovely opportunity to chat, build relationships, and strengthen our parish community. **Dates, times, and locations: 3rd March, 2.00pm** – St. John's School, **21st April, 2.00pm** – St. Joseph's School, **2nd June, 2.00pm** – St. John's Catholic Primary School, **7th July, 2.00pm** – St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School. If you would like to join us, please contact the school offices so that we know how many cups and chairs to have ready!

LUNCH CLUB - Next date Monday, 9th February. Please book your place if you have not already done so with Marilena 07891 178920.

GOOD GRIEF CAFÉ - Our bereavement group will meet next Saturday 7th Feb between 10am and 12 noon in the Dupuis Centre.

COFFEE AFTER MASS 8.30am mass at St. John's every Sunday. Unfortunately we have only had 2 people volunteer for this. Until there are a few more offers of help we will be unable to resume. Please contact Nicola in the parish office if you could spare an hour once a month or so.

Please pray for the dead ...

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

Particularly Shirley Baker and Benedetto Di Bratto

Pray also for those whose anniversaries occur this coming week:

- 01 Marguerite Bambrough 2023; Henryk Jaształ 2015; Hugh Cranston 2004
02 Miranda Berry 2025; Arthur Waddoups 2015; Paolo Monaco 2007; Peter Southam 2006; Constance Hardy 2006; Anne Aitken 1999; Michael Whelan 1997; Thomas McManus 1996; Reginald Manning 1990
03 Esteban Pascal-N 2020; Andy Lyons 2017; Evelyn Lynes 2015; Deri Robson-Dixe 1996
04 Mick O'Driscoll 2022; Anne Mulroy 2022; Carmela Webster 2020; Julie Cronin 2014; Ruth Bonner 2003; William Humphries 2000; William Kent 1999; Kathleen O'Sullivan 1994
05 Fred Humphries 2015; Brendan McLoughlin 2003; Maurice Cregan 2001; Peter Quinn 1993; Thomas Connor 1989; Florence Brain 1987
06 John Kelly 2020; Marley Wallace 2005; James Nolan 2001; Antonis Solka 1997; Noel Carson 1997; Cecile Adam 1991; Harriet (Nellie) Cronin 1987
07 John Downey 2008; Catherine Stratton 2007; Irene Wallett 2006; Keith Hopkins 2006; Teresa Marti-Moncous 2001; Kathleen Wagstaff 1996; Elizabeth Manning 1994; Ruth D'Arcy 1993; Guiseppe Crognale 1992; Piotr Zadziorski 1991

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, Sue Davis, Nick Davies, Oliver Davies, Michael Evans, 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, Eileen Shea, Nicky Smith, Elaine Steer, Dorothy Wright.

PARISH FINANCIAL MATTERS

Weekly Income: 25 th January 2026	<u>ST JOHN'S</u>	<u>ST JOSEPH'S</u>
Gift Aid	£ 89.00	£ 213.00
Non-Gift Aid	£ 726.67	£ 171.25
Contactless Card	£ 166.00	£ 30.00
Standing Orders – October	£ 2988.00	£ 789.00

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)
St. Joseph's:	Adoration	Wednesday at 9.30am – 10.30am
	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

Save us, O Lord our God!
 And gather us from the nations,
 to give thanks to your holy name,
 and make it our glory to praise you.

Collect

Grant us, Lord our God,
 that we may honour you with all our mind,
 and love everyone in truth of heart.
 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**Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13**

Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the LORD.

I will leave in your midst a people humble and lowly. They shall seek refuge in the name of the LORD, those who are left in Israel; they shall do no injustice and speak no lies, nor shall there be found in their mouth a deceitful tongue. For they shall graze and lie down, and none shall make them afraid.

Responsorial Psalm**Ps 146(145):6c-7. 8-9a. 9b-10. ☩ Matthew 5:3**

***Blessed are the poor in spirit;
 for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. R/.***

It is the LORD who preserves fidelity for ever,
 who does justice to those who are oppressed.

It is he who gives bread to the hungry,
 the LORD who sets prisoners free. **R/.**

The LORD who opens the eyes of the blind,
 the LORD who raises up those who are bowed down.

It is the LORD who loves the just,
 the LORD who protects the stranger. **R/.**

The LORD upholds the orphan and the widow,
 but thwarts the path of the wicked.

The LORD will reign for ever,
 your God, O Sion, from age to age. **R/.**

Second reading**1 Corinthians 1:26-31**

Consider your calling, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise according to worldly standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption; so that, as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.'

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
 Rejoice and be glad,
 for your reward is great in heaven.
 Alleluia.

Gospel**Matthew 5:1-12a**

At that time: Seeing the crowds, Jesus went up on the mountain, and when he sat down, his disciples came to him. And he opened his mouth and taught them, saying: 'Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven.'

Prayer over the Offerings

O Lord, we bring to your altar
 these offerings of our service:
 be pleased to receive them, we pray,
 and transform them
 into the Sacrament of our redemption.
 Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Let your face shine on your servant.
 Save me in your merciful love.
 O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

Prayer after Communion

Nourished by these redeeming gifts,
 we pray, O Lord,
 that through this help to eternal salvation
 true faith may ever increase.
 Through Christ our Lord.