



# CATHOLIC BANBURY

[www.catholicbanbury.org](http://www.catholicbanbury.org)



## 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**

**Deacons:** Rev. Mr. Henry Allen: 01295 780642

Rev. Mr. Jim Brannan: 07737 076660; Rev. Mr. Bob Hughes: 07766 711984

St. Vincent de Paul: 07399 471662



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Banbury'



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for  
**WhatsApp** Parish  
Community

YEAR A	ST JOHN'S	ST JOSEPH'S	INTENTION
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	4.00pm Vigil Mass ( Saturday)		Terry Wheeler RIP
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	8.30am Mass		Wieslaw & Irena Radziwonowicz RIP
		10.00am Mass	Grandparents RIP
<i>Violet</i>	11.30am Mass		Michael Conner
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> <i>Feast of St. Chad</i>	9.30am Mass		Annual Mass for Benefactors
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> <i>Lent Feria</i>		9.30am Mass	Grandparents
Wednesday 4 <sup>h</sup> <i>Lent Feria</i>		9.30am Morning Prayer	
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> <i>Lent Feria</i>	6.30pm Mass		Mother, Father, Brother & Brother
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> <i>Lent Feria</i>	<u>6.45am</u> Mass 6.00pm – 7.00pm <i>Stations of the Cross</i>	12pm Mass at St. Thomas Wroxton	James Patrick O' Briers Agnes O'Riordan
Saturday 7 <sup>th</sup> <i>Lent Feria</i>	10.00am Mass <i>Confessions 10.30am- 11am</i>		Madeline & Leonard White
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	4.00pm Vigil Mass ( Saturday)		Sabina & Kevin Keanney
	8.30am Mass		Holy Souls
		10.00am Mass	Elizabeth Jones
<i>Violet</i>	11.30am Mass		People of the Parish

## Pope Leo's Prayer Intention for March 2026

### For disarmament and peace.

*Let us pray that nations move toward effective disarmament, particularly nuclear disarmament, and that world leaders choose the path of dialogue and diplomacy instead of violence.*

## WELCOME TO MASS ON THIS SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

- Last Sunday – the first of Lent – we followed our Lord into the aridness of the desert where, at the end of his fast of forty days, he was tempted by Satan. Today the scene couldn't be more different, as we are taken, with Jesus, Peter, James and John to the peak of a mountain in Galilee for the Transfiguration. Traditionally the site of the Transfiguration was Mount Tabor. In that moment of glory Peter exclaims 'It is good Lord to be here!', and the Father's voice is heard: 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'

**THE FORTY HOURS DEVOTION** – in prayer for vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life. Thursday March 19th (the Solemnity of St Joseph) following the 6.30pm Mass and go through to the Vigil Mass on Saturday March 21st.

Please sign up at the back of St Joseph's or St John's churches for the times you will be able to come and pray.

You might want to come as family, or with work colleagues, staff from our schools, prayer groups, parish groups – or simply on your own.

The times of silent adoration are interspersed between Masses, the Divine Office (Lauds, Vespers and Compline) and devotions. The 40 hours can be a time of great grace for the parish and, please God, it will bear fruit in vocations.

**LAMPS BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT DURING THE 40 HOURS.** If you would like to sponsor a light to burn before the Blessed Sacrament for a particular person, living or departed, for a family or for a particular intention please put the name(s)/intention in an envelope. The suggested donation is £5. Following the Forty Hours the lamps will be used to burn before the blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle during the following weeks.

**Speaking of vocations**, we will be able to look forward to the First Mass of Deacon Jithin Titto on July 7th in St John's. He will be ordained priest in the cathedral shortly before this. Deacon Jithin is presently serving in the parish of Redditch. Please remember him in your prayers as he prepares for his priestly ordination in the coming months.

**Last Sunday at St Chad's Cathedral there was the Rite of Election presided over by His Grace the Archbishop.** This is for all those who are preparing for the Sacraments of Initiation at Easter. Please remember in your prayers those adults from the parish – some who are preparing for Baptism, Confirmation and First Eucharist, others for reception into full-communication with the Catholic Church, Confirmation and First Eucharist, and those preparing for Confirmation. They will receive these sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

**We will welcome the Archbishop** to St John's to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 14th March at 10am. As this will be a joint Confirmation for both St Joseph's and St John's it will be from the second order of the ritual. The liturgy will be in two parts. The first part is the rite of Confirmation in the context of the Liturgy of the Word, following the conferral of Confirmation the Archbishop will lead the candidates, and all gathered, in a time of prayer and adoration of the blessed Sacrament before solemn Benediction. This forms a prayerful and beautiful conclusion to the Confirmation. The newly-Confirmed will then gather at parish Mass the next day in thanksgiving, when the parish community will be able to pray that the gifts of the Holy Spirit will take root within them, and bring forth plentiful fruits.

We thank those with the parish and its schools who have helped to prepare the candidates for this moment in their lives.

**PATRICIANS** - A friendly discussion group for Catholics. It aims to build knowledge and confidence in talking about our Faith to others. Refreshments provided. Next meeting, Friday 6th March '26. at 7pm, Dupuis Centre. TOPIC: 'The Sacrament of Reconciliation.' with insights from our Catholic family who celebrate the Syromalabar Rite.

**OSCOTT COLLEGE** - FREE Youth Event - **Go with Hope Day.** Saturday 7th March, 10am - 5pm. For Secondary school age Y7-Y13

St Mary's College, Oscott, Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham. **Food:** Packed lunch needed. There will also be a tuck shop on site. A unique opportunity to visit this beautiful College (Seminary) and have a day of faith and fun with other young Catholics from around the Diocese. Excellent speakers and workshops. Mass with Bishop Tim Menezes towards the end of the day at 4pm.

**How to register:** <https://www.tfaforms.com/5209301>

**SUMMER CAMP FUNDRAISER** - It costs £299 to fund a child's place at Summer Camp.

Thank you for your response to the fundraising launch last weekend by the Parish Youth

Leaders. **Donations can be made:** By placing cash in an envelope titled 'Youth Summer Camp'. Please give the envelope into the Parish Office.

Or by Bank Transfer: **St Joseph Youth Group, A/c 16666445, Sort Code: 52-21-31**

All money goes to funding places for our young people who would not otherwise be able to attend Camp. Thank you for your support.

**LUNCH CLUB** – March 9<sup>th</sup>, if you are no longer able to attend please contact Marilena 07891 178920.

**BAPTISM PREPARATION** – For families wishing to arrange a Baptism, there is a monthly preparation class held at 7pm in the Dupuis centre. The sessions are normally held on the first Tuesday of the month. There is no need to book to attend.

**CAFOD Family Fast Day Collection** - This Lent, live out the Gospel call to love your neighbour. By fasting and giving what you save, you join in Christ's compassion and help another family put food on the table. Your donation can help families around the world grow food in difficult conditions – such as on flood-resistant floating gardens or using solar-powered water pumps in times of drought. Collect a CAFOD envelope to bless others with your support, donate online at [cafod.org.uk/envelope](http://cafod.org.uk/envelope) or call 0303 303 3030. Text CAFODLENT to 70085 to donate £10.



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

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

*Particularly David Dyndor & Dorothy Wright.*

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

- 01 Emily Cotter 2014; David Hall 1997; Mario Grzesiak 1992; Anna Lelli 1992; Gina Wareham 1985; Jan Terricki 1985
- 02 Margaret Monaghan 2025; William Hopkins 2004; Noel McGloughlin 2001; Chelsea O'Neill 1992; Thomas Lannigan 1989
- 03 Miranda Berry 2025; Kevin French 2024; Gerald Martin 2015; Robert Linden 1989
- 04 Billy Green 2025; David Munro 2021; Mary Hobbs 2021; Elvira Burak 2017; Alex Fleming 2016; Chrislin Bose 2015; Ben Lay 2007; Grace Dyson 2000; Generoso Crispino 1996; Charles Stubbs 1995; Mary Reck 1987
- 05 Eileen Jordan 2025; abriele Di Cuffa 2004; Margaret Bourne 2004; Francis Marron 2001; Margaret Morris 1999; Elizabeth Peters 1989; John Lafferty 1987; Mary O'Neill 1985
- 06 Maria Marshall 2018; Joseph Wareham 2016; Christine Donovan 2008; Margaret Addison 1993; Cyril Pearson 1983; Mary McManus
- 07 Michael Coleman 2002

***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**

<b>Weekly Income:</b> 22nd February 2026	<b><u>ST JOHN'S</u></b>	<b><u>ST JOSEPH'S</u></b>
Gift Aid	£ 35.00	£ 56.00
Non-Gift Aid	£ 744.16	£ 162.68
Contactless Card	£ 362.00	£ 60.00
Standing Orders – October	£ 2988.00	£ 789.00
St. Vincent de Paul	£ 187.10	

**This weekend's second collection is for CAFOD.**

***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)
<b>St. Joseph's:</b>	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 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday, 6.30 – 8pm for children Yr 6 & 7 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****Cf. Ps 26: 8-9**

Of you my heart has spoken, Seek his face.  
It is your face, O Lord, that I seek;  
hide not your face from me.

**Collect**

O God, who have commanded us  
to listen to your beloved Son,  
be pleased, we pray,  
to nourish us inwardly by your word,  
that, with spiritual sight made pure,  
we may rejoice to behold your 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****Genesis 12:1-4a**

In those days: The LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonours you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him.

**Responsorial Psalm****Ps 33(32):4-5. 18-19. 20, 22. 5b**

***May your merciful love be upon us,  
as we hope in you, O LORD. R/.***

The word of the LORD is upright,  
and all his works to be trusted.

The LORD loves justice and right,  
and his merciful love fills the earth. **R/.**

Yes, the LORD's eyes are on those who fear him,  
who hope in his merciful love,  
to rescue their soul from death,  
to keep them alive in famine. **R/.**

Our soul is waiting for the LORD.

He is our help and our shield.

May your merciful love be upon us,  
as we hope in you, O LORD. **R/.**

**Second reading****2 Timothy 1:8b-10**

Beloved: We share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, who saved us and called us to a holy calling not because of our works, but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory**  
From a bright cloud, the Father's voice was heard;  
This is my beloved Son, listen to him.  
**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

**Gospel****Matthew 17:1-9**

At that time: Jesus took with him Peter and James and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light. And behold, there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. And Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good that we are here. If you wish, I will make three tents here, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah.' He was still speaking when, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.' When the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were terrified. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Rise, and have no fear.' And when they lifted up their eyes, they saw no one, but Jesus only. And as they were coming down the mountain, Jesus commanded them, 'Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead.'

**Prayer over the Offerings**

May this sacrifice, O Lord, we pray,  
cleanse us of our faults  
and sanctify your faithful in body and mind  
for the celebration of the paschal festivities.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Communion Antiphon**

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased;  
listen to him.

**Prayer after Communion**

As we receive these glorious mysteries,  
we make thanksgiving to you, O Lord,  
for allowing us while still on earth  
to be partakers even now of the things of heaven.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Prayer over the People**

Bless your faithful, we pray, O Lord,  
with a blessing that endures for ever,  
and keep them faithful  
to the Gospel of your Only Begotten Son,  
so that they may always desire and at last attain  
that glory whose beauty he showed in his own Body,  
to the amazement of his Apostles.  
Through Christ our Lord.