



# CATHOLIC BANBURY

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Catholic  
Banbury



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Parish  
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](mailto: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 B	<b>4.00 pm Vigil Mass</b>		Mary & Gary Dennett – In thanksgiving
<b>Sunday, 7<sup>th</sup> January</b>  <b>EPIPHANY OF THE LORD</b>  <i>White</i>		<b>8.30 am Mass</b> <i>at St Thomas, Wroxton</i>	People of the Parish
	<b>8.45 am Mass</b>		Helen Foley Ints.
		<b>10.00 am Mass</b>	Allen Family
	<b>11.15 am Mass</b>	<i>5.00 pm Confessions</i> <b>5.30 pm Mass</b>	Donna McGuchen RIP Rose Forey RIP
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January</b>  <b>Feast of the Baptism of the Lord</b>		<b>9.30 am Mass</b>	Dermot McBride RIP
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup>  <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>	<b>9.30 am Mass</b>		Cicily Varghese RIP
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup>  <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>		<b>9.30 am Mass</b>  <i>10.00 am Exposition</i>	Kathleen Mannion RIP
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup>  <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>	<b>9.30 am Mass</b>		Julie Donaldson RIP
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>  <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>	<i>Confessions &amp; Holy Hour</i> <i>6.00 pm</i>	<b>9.30 am Mass</b>	Holy Souls and deceased members of Friends of Suffering Souls
Saturday 13 <sup>th</sup>  <i>Our Lady on Saturday</i>	<b>10.00 am Mass</b>  <i>Confessions</i> <i>10.30-11.00 am</i>		Charles Donaldson RIP
Year B	<b>4.00 pm Vigil Mass</b>		Bernard Winkler RIP
<b>Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> January</b>  <i>Peace Day</i>  <b>SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>  <i>Green</i>	<b>8.45 am Mass</b>		Janusz Bala RIP
		<b>10.00 am Mass</b>	Billy O'Connor RIP
	<b>11.15 am Mass</b>		Louise Sullivan RIP
	<i>1.30 pm</i> <i>Syro-Malabar Mass</i>	<i>5.00 pm Confessions</i> <b>5.30 pm Mass</b>	People of the Parish



**THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD** - Christmas decorations have been disappearing fast as people tire of them – maybe because some have been up since the middle of November! So, for many, it seems that Christmas is done and dusted! But we, as the Christian faithful, are still in the midst of the Christmas celebration. Today we commemorate the visit of those variously called the Magi, the Three Kings or Wise Men who offer their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to the infant Lord. For many Catholic and Orthodox people in different parts of the world, it is today's feast - more so than Christmas Day - that is kept with the greatest solemnity, and is often the day for the giving and receiving of gifts.

On Christmas night the new-born Saviour was shown first to the people of Israel in the person of the shepherds. Now, with the visit of the Magi from the East, the Christ-child is shown to those outside the confines of Israel or the Jewish faith – the Gentiles – of which most Christians are part. The Epiphany could then be called the *Christmas of the Gentiles*.

This 'showing' or 'epiphany' to the gentiles in the person of the Magi prefigures the preaching of Christ's death and resurrection of St Paul - for his mission was to preach the gospel to the pagan nations and be *the Apostle to the Gentiles*.

**THE BLESSING OF CHALK** - It has long been a tradition that chalk is blessed at Epiphany Mass, and that we take a piece home with us to invoke a blessing on our homes for the New Year that has begun. You use the blessed chalk to write above the doorway of your home: **20+C+M+B+24**

As you do so, another says the following prayer, invoking God's blessing:

**The three wise men**

(C) Caspar

(M) Melchior and

(B) Balthasar

**followed the star to God's Son who became man**

**(20) Two thousand and**

**(24) twenty-four years ago.**

**+ May Christ**

**+ bless our home**

**+ and remain with us throughout the New Year.**

**+Amen.**

We then say the following prayer:

**Lord God of heaven and earth, you revealed your Only Begotten Son to every nation by the guidance of a star. Fill us with the light of Christ, that our concern and care for others may reflect your love. Bless this household with health, goodness of heart, and the keeping of your commandments. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be.**

**YOUTH GROUP** - Next meeting is on Sun 21 Jan at 6.30-8.30pm at St Joseph's Church. For Yr.7 and above. The Youth Ministry serves the youth of our parish empowering them to grow & live out their God-given purpose. We look forward to journeying in faith with them again this year & we thank God for all the blessings that He will bestow upon the lives of our young people in 2024.

**MARY'S MEALS** – The next lunch is at St Joseph's on Fri 26 Jan. Please contact Sue on 07929 776994 to confirm your attendance.

**BAPTISM COURSES** - The next course will be on Tues 6 Feb, 7.00-9.00pm in the Brabazon Room, Dupuis Centre. Please contact the office with your details to register your attendance.

**LUNCH CLUB** – Please note that there will **not** be lunch club in January. The next lunch is on Mon 12 Feb at 12.30pm in the Dupuis Centre. Please contact Marilena to confirm your attendance.

**ST JOHN'S QUIZ NIGHT** – Fri 23 Feb, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Tickets now available from Marilena. Always a great night; bring your own nibbles & drinks. Ticket price £5 per person, maximum team numbers 8 max. Raffle.

**ARCHBISHOP'S VISITATION** - The Archbishop will be visiting the St John's and St Joseph's as part of the Diocesan Visitation of the parishes of this deanery.

He will be here on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> of January – just three weeks away. He will be preaching at all the Masses that weekend. This will mean, on Sunday morning, flying between both churches! So, to help him speak more leisurely with parishioners, there will be a **Bring and Share Lunch in the Dupuis Centre beginning at 12.30pm**. There is a sign-up sheet at the back of St John's and St Joseph's. Please add your name & numbers attending, and whether you are willing to bring a dish; please mark if your dish is savoury or sweet.

**CAFOD** are looking for people to join them in their mission. Could you help in our parish, inspiring our church to help build a better world or by visiting our local schools? Or raise a voice and campaign for justice or perhaps speak for CAFOD throughout the area? Could you support local volunteers or share your admin or people skills to help CAFOD keep costs low? Training and support is provided. See [cafod.org.uk/Volunteer](http://cafod.org.uk/Volunteer) for more information.

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

*Of your charity, pray for the repose of the souls of those who have died recently, particularly Nuala Bond & Raymunda De Los Reyes. Pray also for those whose anniversaries occur this coming week:*

- 07 Michael O'Sullivan 2005; Una Jones 1997; Charles McLaughlin 1986
- 08 Louise Kempley 2016; Dennis Cassidy 2012; Margaret Wallace 2003; Paula Walsh 1998; Reginald Buttler 1993; Winifred Jakeman
- 09 Angela Burch 2018; Peter Langan 2013; Julie Donaldson 2012; John Wilson 2004; Alice French 2000; Michael Madigan 1999; Sarah-Ann O'Neill 1993; Samuel Smith 1988
- 10 Hermione Courage 2009; Peter Strong 2007; Ann Sharpe 2006
- 11 Catherine Bimson 2019; Shirley Westbury 2017; Barbara Mitchell 2015; Ersilia Iannotta 2012; Dorothy Freemantle 1995; Christopher White 1988
- 12 Christopher Griffin 2004; John Webb 2002; Jessie Hemmings 1999; Catherine Forrest 1984
- 13 Patrick McLaughlin 2023; John Ake 2018; Hannah Marshall 2011; Lillian Herbert 2003; Thomas Whitman 1990; Peter Leahy 1989

***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, Gilbert Allen, Deacon Henry Allen, Matt Allman, Edward Andrews, Audrey Anthistle, Cora Barnard, Douglas Bond, Brenda Brennan, Eileen Bristoll, Christopher Browne, Clifford Browne, Ann Dagger, Mary Dant, Oliver Davies, Michael Evans, Alan Fitchett, Barbara Fleming, Carl Gill, Diane Greenwood, Pat Heritage, Deacon Bob Hughes, Roger Johnson, Eileen & Michael Jordan, Teresa Kurszewska, Catherine Ley, Iris Jean Lloyd, Liam Malone, Tom Mannion, Christine Napier, Anne Nolan, Costanza Pannozzo, Trish Rossenrode, Eileen Shea, Nicky Smith, Elaine Steer, Lalla Stevens.*

**PARISH FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**Weekly Income:**

	<u>31 December</u>	<u>ST JOHN'S</u>	<u>ST JOSEPH'S</u>
Gift Aid:		£ 36.00	£ 86.00
Non-Gift Aid:		£ 502.35	£ 458.11
Contactless Card:		£ 194.00	-----
QR code		-----	-----

***Thank you for all your support.***

**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 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 <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 9.30am - 2.30pm]

Parish Secretary: *Anne Mold.* Email: pc.stjohn.banbury@rcaob.org.uk  
 Bookkeeper: *Catherine Dukes.* Email: pt.stjohn.banbury@rcaob.org.uk  
 Pastoral & Property: *Nicola Mollard.* Email: sg.stjohn.banbury@rcaob.org.uk  
 Social Secretary: *Marilena Kearns.* Email: mjkearns@hotmail.co.uk. Mob: 07891178920

**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](mailto:safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk) if you have any concern.

**Entrance Antiphon**

Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come;  
and kingship is in his grasp, and power and dominion.

**Collect**

O God, who on this day revealed your Only Begotten Son to the nations by the guidance of a star,  
grant in your mercy, that we, who know you already by faith, may be brought to behold the beauty of your sublime 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****Isaiah 60:1-6**

Arise, shine out, Jerusalem, for your light has come,  
the glory of the Lord is rising on you,  
though night still covers the earth  
and darkness the peoples.

Above you the Lord now rises  
and above you his glory appears.  
The nations come to your light  
and kings to your dawning brightness.  
Lift up your eyes and look round:  
all are assembling and coming towards you,  
your sons from far away  
and your daughters being tenderly carried.  
At this sight you will grow radiant,  
your heart throbbing and full;  
since the riches of the sea will flow to you,  
the wealth of the nations come to you;  
camels in throngs will cover you,  
and dromedaries of Midian and Ephah;  
everyone in Sheba will come,  
bringing gold and incense  
and singing the praise of the Lord.

**Responsorial Psalm****Psalm 71(72):1-2,7-8,10-13*****All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord. R./***

O God, give your judgement to the king,  
to a king's son your justice,  
that he may judge your people in justice  
and your poor in right judgement. **R./**

In his days justice shall flourish  
and peace till the moon fails.  
He shall rule from sea to sea,  
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **R./**

The kings of Tarshish and the sea coasts  
shall pay him tribute.

The kings of Sheba and Seba  
shall bring him gifts.

Before him all kings shall fall prostrate,  
all nations shall serve him. **R./**

For he shall save the poor when they cry  
and the needy who are helpless.

He will have pity on the weak  
and save the lives of the poor. **R./**

**Second reading****Ephesians 3:2-3,5-6**

You have probably heard how I have been entrusted by God with the grace he meant for you, and that it was by a revelation that I was given the knowledge of the mystery. This mystery that has now been revealed through the Spirit to his holy apostles and prophets was unknown to any men in past generations; it means that pagans now share the same inheritance, that they are parts of the same body, and that the same promise has been made to them, in Jesus Christ, through the gospel.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia!

We saw his star as it rose  
and have come to do the Lord homage.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel****Matthew 2:1-12**

After Jesus had been born at Bethlehem in Judaea during the reign of King Herod, some wise men came to Jerusalem from the east. 'Where is the infant king of the Jews?' they asked. 'We saw his star as it rose and have come to do him homage.' When King Herod heard this he was perturbed, and so was the whole of Jerusalem. He called together all the chief priests and the scribes of the people, and enquired of them where the Christ was to be born. 'At Bethlehem in Judaea,' they told him 'for this is what the prophet wrote:  
*And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,  
you are by no means least among the leaders of Judah,  
for out of you will come a leader  
who will shepherd my people Israel.'*

Then Herod summoned the wise men to see him privately. He asked them the exact date on which the star had appeared, and sent them on to Bethlehem. 'Go and find out all about the child,' he said 'and when you have found him, let me know, so that I too may go and do him homage.' Having listened to what the king had to say, they set out. And there in front of them was the star they had seen rising; it went forward, and halted over the place where the child was. The sight of the star filled them with delight, and going into the house they saw the child with his mother Mary, and falling to their knees they did him homage. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts of gold and frankincense and myrrh. But they were warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, and returned to their own country by a different way.

**Prayer over the Offerings**

Look with favour, Lord, we pray, on these gifts of your Church, in which are offered now not gold or frankincense or myrrh, but he who by them is proclaimed, sacrificed and received, Jesus Christ. Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

**Communion Antiphon**

We have seen his star in the East,  
and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

**Prayer after Communion**

Go before us with heavenly light, O Lord,  
always and everywhere,  
that we may perceive with clear sight  
and revere with true affection  
the mystery in which you have willed us to participate.  
Through Christ our Lord.