



# 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

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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

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Community

YEAR A	ST JOHN'S	ST JOSEPH'S	INTENTION
Sunday 8 <sup>th</sup> March  THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT	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
Monday 9 <sup>th</sup>  <i>Lent Feria</i>	9.30am Mass		Hermione Thomas
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup>  <i>Lent Feria</i>		9.30am Mass	Jozef Mak RIP
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup>  <i>Lent Feria</i>		9.30am Morning Prayer	
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup>  <i>Lent Feria</i>	6.30pm Mass		Jean & Terry Costello
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup>  <i>Lent Feria</i>	<u>6.45am Mass</u>  6.00pm – 7.00pm <i>Stations of the Cross</i>		Carlos Rey & Vincent James Letrondo
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup>  <i>Lent Feria</i>	<u>10.00am Sacrament of Confirmation</u>		
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> March  FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT	4.00pm Vigil Mass ( Saturday)		Sherin Thanksgiving
	8.30am Mass		John Smith RIP
		10.00am Mass	People of the Parish
<i>Rose/Violet</i>	11.30am Mass		Caroline, Madeline & John White

## WELCOME TO MASS ON THIS THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT -

This Sunday was often known as Oculi Sunday which comes from today's entrance antiphon at Mass that comes from Psalm 24: Oculi mei semper ad Dominum - My eyes are always on the Lord. This is, in a profound way, the objective of Lent – to free us from many of the things which distract us from what is truly important, and to fix our gaze on the Lord.

For the next three Sundays we move away from St <sup>Matthew's</sup> Gospel, and we dip into the gospel of St John. These gospel readings – this Sunday is the Woman of Samaria at the well; next Sunday the cure of the man born blind; and finally the raising of Lazarus. All are related to the sacraments of initiation – the Easter sacraments – and above all Baptism.

**For some time now, a group of adults** have been meeting on Friday nights for instruction in the Catholic faith. Some of these adults have discerned that the Lord is calling them into the Church at this moment in their lives, or to complete their Christian initiation. Over these coming days we should be especially conscious of them in our prayers that this second part of Lent will be very fruitful as they prepare for this special moment in their lives.

### **Baptism, Confirmation, first Eucharist:**

Darryl-Louise Crowley  
Jolie Derry-Miranda

### **Confirmation:**

Kepa Munitiz  
Monika Repelova  
Ana Parrado Martin

### **Reception into full-communication with the Catholic Church, Confirmation and First Eucharist:**

David Stainsby  
Richard Lewis  
Harriet Nicole Gardiner-Simms  
Suzette Watson

*Heavenly Father, pour out your spirit upon those receiving the sacraments this Easter. May they be renewed in faith and live as children of the light.*

*Help them to live out their baptismal promises, and to walk with our crucified and risen Lord all the days of their lives.*

**THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION** - We welcome to St John's His Grace the Archbishop as he comes to confer the sacrament of Confirmation on some of our young people this coming Saturday at 10am.

As this will be a joint Confirmation for both St Joseph's and St John's, and including not only those in our parish schools but also the group prepared on Thursday evenings, 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 and, following the conferral of Confirmation, the Archbishop will then lead the candidates, and all gathered, in a time of prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before giving 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.

**SERVERS REHEARSAL FOR THE CONFIRMATION: NEXT SATURDAY AT 9AM.**

**MUSIC FOR THE SACRED TRIDUUM.** The Triduum (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday Liturgy and the Easter Vigil) will be a joint celebration for both churches, and will be at St John's as it is the largest of the two. For singers from both churches who wish to take part there will be rehearsals at St John's on Monday 16th, 23rd and 30th March at 7pm.

**The funeral service** of David Dyndor will take place at Banbury Crematorium on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March at 10am.

## 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.*

**INTERNATIONAL WOMANS DAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH, PRAYER**  
*Lord God, creator and sustainer, we thank you for the gift of womanhood.*

*On this day, we pray for all woman facing inequality and injustice.*

*Empower them with Your strength and grace, that they may know their worth and dignity as your daughters. Guided by the example of Mary, may they bring peace, hope and love to our world.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**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, then 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.

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

Thank you for your support. **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>, now full. Held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of every month ( except August) please contact Marilena 07891 178920 if you wish to attend.

**SVP EASTER RAFFLE** – The SVP will selling tickets after each of the masses on the weekend of the 21st/22<sup>nd</sup> March. “ Easter Hampers, £1 per ticket and will be drawn the following weekend.

**THE NEXT SVP MEETING** will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm in the Dupuis Centre. If you are interested in seeing what we do, please come along.

**ST JOSEPH'S AND ST JOHN'S ARE PART OF THE WARWICK AND BANBURY DEANERY.** During the year the priests and deacons of the deanery usually meet monthly to talk over issues of common concern, and of the diocese. There is also a deanery pastoral forum which meets a few times a year, and includes both lay members, religious and clergy, and to discuss issues within the deanery and deanery initiatives. There is a deanery website, and the address below has news of what is going on across the deanery. <https://banburyandwarwick->

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

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

*Particularly Nora Burns, David Dyndor & Dorothy Wright.*

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

- 08 Anne Cullin 1999; Dennis Tarbuck 1995
- 09 Fergus Noone 2015; Mary Waddoups 2006; Bridget Lafferty 1990; Leslie Moreby 1987
- 10 Diana Aylward 2024; Charles McAleese 2018; Roberta Baskerville 1992; Benjamin Bailey 1987; Owen Gaffrey 1984;
- 11 Margaret Hughes 2020; Terence O’Flynn 2013; Vincent Mark 2011; Alfred Martin 2005; Enea Pannozzo 2004; Joseph Hillier 1991; Patrick Deegan 1986; Alfred Scales 1984
- 12 Barbara Flower 2010; Alba Fragola 2009; Monica Goodwin 1991
- 13 Reginald Voice 2016; Charles Manderma 2002; John Arnold 2001; Gwen Gillett 1994; Bridget O’Mahoney 1984
- 14 Patrick Sullivan 2016; Esme Ake 2007; Joyce Greatbatch 1998; Dorothy Gibson 1988; Mieczyskawa Batt 1987; Leslie Kent 1983

***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.*

**PARISH FINANCIAL MATTERS**

**Weekly Income:** 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026

	<u>ST JOHN’S</u>	<u>ST JOSEPH’S</u>
Gift Aid	£ 149.00	£ 59.00
Non-Gift Aid	£ 887.81	£ 184.91
Contactless Card	£ 279.50	£ 45.00
Standing Orders – October	£ 2988.00	£ 789.00

**This weekend’s second collection is for Cathedral Maintenance.**

***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 24: 15-16**

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 17:3-7**

In those days: The people thirsted for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' And the LORD said to Moses, 'Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.' And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarrelling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

**Responsorial Psalm****Ps 95(94):1-2. 6-7b. 7c-9. ☩7c, 8a**

***O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts.'* R/.**

Come, let us ring out our joy to the LORD;  
hail the rock who saves us.  
Let us come into his presence, giving thanks;  
let us hail him with a song of praise. **R/.**

O come; let us bow and bend low.  
Let us kneel before the LORD who made us,  
for he is our God, and we the people,  
the people of his pasture, the flock of his hand. **R/.**

O that today you would listen to his voice!  
'Harden not your hearts as at Meribah,  
as on that day at Massah in the desert  
when your forebears put me to the test;  
when they tried me, though they saw my work.' **R/.**

**Second reading****Romans 5:1-2, 5-8**

Brothers and Sisters: Since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**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****John 4:5-42**

At that time: Jesus came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?' (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and

he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come here.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshipped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming — he who is called Christ. When he comes, he will tell us all things.' Jesus said to her, 'I who speak to you am he.'

Just then his disciples came back. They marvelled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you seek?' or, 'Why are you talking with her?' So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, 'Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?' They went out of the town and were coming to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, saying, 'Rabbi, eat.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Has anyone brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, "There are yet four months, then comes the harvest"? Look, I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see that the fields are white for harvest. Already the one who reaps is receiving wages and gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me all that I ever did.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Saviour of the world.'

**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**

For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord,  
the water I shall give will become in him  
a spring welling up to eternal life.

**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.