



# CATHOLIC BANBURY

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## 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

YEAR A	ST JOHN'S	ST JOSEPH'S	INTENTION
Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> February <b>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b>	4.00pm Vigil Mass ( Saturday)		Maureen Hardwick
	8.30am Mass		People of the Parish
		10.00am Mass	Trent Posch RIP
<i>Green</i>	11.30am Mass		Norah Waters
Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>	9.30am Mass		Margaret Collier
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> <i>Feria in Ordinary Time</i>		9.30am Mass	John Cullen
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> <b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	9.30am Mass 6.30pm Mass	12.30pm Mass	Gerhild Osborn RIP Sullivan Family RIP Mary Hope
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> <i>Thursday after Ash Wednesday</i>	6.30pm Mass		Crosse, Armitts & Panozzo Families RIP
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> <i>Friday after Ash Wednesday</i>	6.45am Mass 6.00pm – 7.00pm <i>Adoration &amp; Confessions</i>		Mary Brown RIP
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> <i>Saturday after Ash Wednesday</i>	10.00am Mass <i>Confessions 10.30am- 11am</i>		People of the Parish
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February <b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	4.00pm Vigil Mass ( Saturday)		Terry Wheeler RIP
	8.30am Mass		Wieslaw & Irena Radziwonowicz RIP
		10.00am Mass	Grandparents RIP
<i>Violet</i>	11.30am Mass		Michael Conner

**Welcome to Mass on this Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time.** If you are visiting St John's or St Joseph's today you are most welcome. For those who aren't Catholics, or Catholics unable to come to Holy Communion, you are very welcome to come forward for a blessing. Please indicate this by placing your right hand on your left shoulder.

**For those coming to holy communion and wishing to receive the host in your hand, please consume the sacred host before stepping away.**

**This is the last Sunday in which the liturgical colour is green,** as this Wednesday we begin the holy season of Lent.

The main purpose of Lent is to prepare ourselves for celebration of Easter and the Paschal Mystery.

For those adults preparing for the Easter Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist, Lent is to be an especially precious time as they prepare to receive the grace of the sacraments. For some adults this will mean all three sacraments. Others are preparing to be received into full-communication with the Catholic Church with Confirmation and Holy Communion, and others are preparing to be Confirmed. Please pray for these members of our parish in their journey to Easter.

For those others of us, Lent will prepare us to recall our own baptism when we renew our baptismal promises during the celebration of Easter, and so Lent is to be a season when we do penance so that the grace of our baptism will be renewed and strengthened.

**Ash Wednesday is, by ancient custom, a day of fasting and abstinence.** Also, the Church reminds us that we should all approach the Sacrament of Penance during this season, so that with purified hearts we may participate worthily and well in the Paschal Mysteries.

The three ancient practices of Lent are prayer, fasting and almsgiving – and we are encouraged to do them all.

If our prayer life has a got a bit stale it is a good time to ask the Holy Spirit to draw us closer to the Father and to spend time with him. Maybe attend a extra Mass in the week or come to Stations of the Cross. There will also be the Forty Hours towards the end of Lent.

**The Fridays of Lent,** when we recall the Passion of the Lord, there is not only Stations of the Cross but there is the early Mass at 6.45am followed by breakfast.

**But before we get to Lent – It's Mardi Gras or Shrove Tuesday or Pancake Tuesday. There will be pancakes served in the Dupuis Centre for 11am-1.30pm. It's half term – so bring the kids down! £2 per serving.**

**Please also remember in your prayers** the First Communion and Confirmation candidates as they prepare for this special moment in their life.

**It will be a great joy to welcome in the season of Lent the Archbishop of Birmingham** who will be coming to Banbury to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on a Saturday morning - March 14th. As this will be a joint Confirmation for both St Joseph's and St John's parishes 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 of adoration of the Blessed Sacrament before solemn Benediction. This forms a beautiful and prayerful conclusion to the Confirmation. Fr Philip was delighted last week to hear the choir at St John's school practising the music for adoration – and singing it so beautifully!

## **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.***

**ST VINCENT DE PAUL** - Members of the Banbury St Vincent De Paul Society (SVP) will be talking briefly after each Mass this weekend. They will give an update on the work they have been doing in their first year of working in the local community and in particular asking or new members to join them to help them continue the work they do. The 2<sup>nd</sup> collection will be for this cause.

**ST DAVID'S DAY WALK** - Saturday 28th Feb, 9.45am for 10am prompt departure.

Distance: 5.6 miles in total. A gentle walk from St Joseph's, Banbury to St Thomas' in Wroxton and return to St Joseph's after lunch. Picnic lunch in Wroxton Village Hall.

Sponsored walk to raise money for young people from our Parish to attend a Catholic Summer Camp at Alton Castle in August. All parishioners are most welcome to join us for fellowship & gentle exercise!

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

Thank you for the 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.

**MONTHLY YOUTH MEETINGS** Junior Group - Y6 to Y8 - Saturday 21st Feb. Time: 6.30pm - 8.30pm St Joseph's Hall.

Senior Group - Y9 to Y13 - Sunday 22nd Feb. Time: 6.30pm - 8.30pm, St Joseph's Hall.

**MONTHLY FAMILY AND YOUTH ADORATION** - Sunday 22nd Feb. Time: 6pm-6.30pm

St Joseph's Church. Prayerful worship & times of restful silence led by musician Christian Fitzgerald.

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

**MARY'S MEALS** – 27<sup>th</sup> Feb is now fully booked, if you are no longer able to attend, please contact Karen on 07976 591424. This month we will be serving delicious homemade soup and cheese scones.

**BUDDY HOLLY THEATRE TRIP - TRAVEL DETAILS** -

Those booked to attend the Theatre Trip to see Buddy Holly on the 7<sup>th</sup> March please can we meet OUTSIDE of St Johns Church at 4.15pm prompt ready to leave at 4.30pm. We will return around 9.30pm. Any questions, please call MARILENA on 07891 178920.

**CEILIDH DANCE at BGN SCHOOL** on Friday 27th Feb from 7.30pm until 10pm. Fundraising for our Diocesan pilgrimage to Lourdes where pupils support our parishioners and for the Friends of BGN. Book at: [www.ticketsource.com/blessed-george-napier-school](http://www.ticketsource.com/blessed-george-napier-school) or scan the QR code.



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

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

*Particularly Dorothy Wright*

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

- 15 Winifred O'Connor 2022; Donald Beak 2013; Joseph Cook 2007; Filomena Cypkus 2004; Robert Martin 1986
- 16 May McNulty 2018; James Green 1988; Sarah Wilding 1985
- 17 Freda Wright 2016; Joyce Quinn 2009; Franz Idziaczek 1998; Winifred Fell 1997; Catherine Waddoups 1994
- 18 Patricia Quay 2017; Kevin Nolan 2014; John Hart 1988; Fr. Terrence McDonnell 1987; Frederick Rutland 1985
- 19 Sylvia Hemmings 2017; Eugene O'Neill 2008; Jimmy Sheils 2008; Angel Bertolin-Gil 2004; Ena Forde 1999; Stephanie Lawlor 1999; Mia Sabin 1995; Carmen Maguire 1995; Hazel Meadows 1993; Hamilton Forrest 1986; Margaret Fooks 1986; Halina Watts 2024
- 20 John Harrison 2024; Bridget Mason 2022; Winifred Mawle 1991; David Cunningham 1991
- 21 Frank Tohill 2020; Juliet Akumu 2010; Mary Goudie 2009; Margaret Pidduck 2004; Patrick O'Mahoney 1999; Ellew Muraskas 1998; Rosemarian Broderick 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**

<b>Weekly Income:</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	<b><u>ST JOHN'S</u></b>	<b><u>ST JOSEPH'S</u></b>
Gift Aid	£ 75.00	£ 55.00
Non-Gift Aid	£ 677.23	£ 140.13
Contactless Card	£ 195.00	£ 45.00
Standing Orders – October	£ 2988.00	£ 789.00

**This weekend's second collection is for the St. Vincent de Paul Society.**

***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**

Be my protector, O God,  
a mighty stronghold to save me.  
For you are my rock, my stronghold!  
Lead me, guide me, for the sake of your name.

### **Collect**

O God, who teach us that you abide  
in hearts that are just and true,  
grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace  
as to become a dwelling pleasing to you.  
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**

**Sirach 15:15-20**

If you desire, you will keep the commandments, and to act faithfully  
is a matter of choice. He has placed before you fire and water:  
stretch out your hand for whichever you wish. Life and death are  
in front of people, and whichever one chooses will be given to him.  
For great is the wisdom of the Lord; he is mighty in power and sees  
everything; his eyes are on those who fear him, and he knows a  
person's every deed. He has not commanded anyone to be ungodly,  
and he has not given anyone permission to sin.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 119(118):1-2. 4-5. 17-18. 33-34. 21b**

***Blessed are those who walk in the law of the LORD! R/.***

Blessed are those whose way is blameless,  
who walk in the law of the LORD!  
Blessed are those who keep his decrees!  
With all their hearts they seek him. **R/.**

You have laid down your precepts  
to be carefully kept.

May my ways be firm  
in keeping your statutes. **R/.**

Deal bountifully with your servant,  
that I may live and keep your word.  
Open my eyes, that I may see  
the wonders of your law. **R/.**

LORD, teach me the way of your statutes,  
and I will keep them to the end.  
Grant me insight that I may keep your law,  
and observe it wholeheartedly. **R/.**

### **Second reading**

**1 Corinthians 2:6-10**

Brothers and Sisters: Among the mature we do impart wisdom,  
although it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age,  
who are doomed to pass away. But we impart a secret and hidden  
wisdom of God, which God decreed before the ages for our glory.  
None of the rulers of this age understood this, for if they had, they  
would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

‘What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the heart of man imagined,  
what God has prepared for those who love him’ —

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the  
Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,  
you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.  
Alleluia.

### **Gospel**

**Matthew 5:17-37**

At that time: Jesus said to his disciples, ‘Do not think that I have  
come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish  
them but to fulfil them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and  
earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until  
all is accomplished. Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of

these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be  
called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and  
teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I  
tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and  
Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

‘You have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall not  
murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgement.” But I  
say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable  
to judgement; whoever insults his brother will be liable to the  
council; and whoever says, “You fool!” will be liable to the hell of  
fire. So if you are offering your gift at the altar and there remember  
that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there  
before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and  
then come and offer your gift. Come to terms quickly with your  
accuser while you are going with him to court, lest your accuser  
hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the guard, and you be  
put in prison. Truly, I say to you, you will never get out until you  
have paid the last penny.

‘You have heard that it was said, “You shall not commit adultery.”  
But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful  
intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your  
right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. For it is  
better that you lose one of your members than that your whole  
body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin,  
cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your  
members than that your whole body go into hell.

‘It was also said, “Whoever divorces his wife, let him give her a  
certificate of divorce.” But I say to you that everyone who divorces  
his wife, except on the ground of sexual immorality, makes her  
commit adultery, and whoever marries a divorced woman commits  
adultery.

‘Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, “You shall  
not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have  
sworn.” But I say to you: Do not take an oath at all, either by heaven,  
for it is the throne of God, or by the earth, for it is his footstool, or  
by Jerusalem, for it is the city of the great King. And do not take an  
oath by your head, for you cannot make one hair white or black. Let  
what you say be simply “Yes” or “No”; anything more than this  
comes from evil.’

### **Prayer over the Offerings**

May this oblation, O Lord, we pray,  
cleanse and renew us  
and may it become for those who do your will  
the source of eternal reward.  
Through Christ our Lord.

### **Communion Antiphon**

They ate and had their fill,  
and what they craved the Lord gave them;  
they were not disappointed in what they craved.

### **Prayer after Communion**

Having fed upon these heavenly delights,  
we pray, O Lord,  
so that we may always long  
for that food by which we truly live.  
Through Christ our Lord.