



CATHOLIC BANBURY

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

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



Facebook search:
'Catholic
Banbury'



QR code
for
WhatsApp Parish
Community

YEAR A	ST JOHN'S	ST JOSEPH'S	INTENTION
Sunday 15 th 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
Monday 16 th <i>Lent Feria</i>	9.30am Mass		Ann Dagger RIP
Tuesday 17 th <i>Lent Feria</i>		9.30am Mass	M.E. Connelly
Wednesday 18 th <i>Lent Feria</i>		9.30am Morning Prayer	
Thursday 19 th <i>Lent Feria</i>	9.30am Mass at St. <u>John's School</u> 6.30pm Mass		Holy Souls Ann Dagger RIP
Friday 20 th <i>Lent Feria</i>	6.45am Mass 6.00pm – 7.00pm <i>Stations of the Cross</i>		Deceased Hedgecox Family
Saturday 21 st <i>Lent Feria</i>	10.00am Mass 10.30am -11am Confessions		For Priests & Clergy
Sunday 22 nd March FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT	4.00pm Vigil Mass (Saturday)		Denise Thornton RIP
	8.30am Mass		Jadwiga & Piotr Dabrowski RIP
		10.00am Mass	People of the Parish
<i>Violet</i>	11.30am Mass		Frank Marron RIP

Welcome to Mass on this Fourth Sunday of Lent. Often this day is called Laetare Sunday from the opening antiphon at Mass: Laetare, Jerusalem, et conventum facite, omnes qui diligitis eam. Rejoice, O Jerusalem, and gather round, all you who love her. Traditionally this Sunday reminds us that the Lenten journey is over halfway through, and so it encourages us in our prayerful preparation as we journey towards Easter. **Today is also Mothering Sunday** when we give thanks to God for the gift of our mothers, living or departed. Let us pray for them with thanksgiving in our hearts.

The 40 hours towards the end of this week is a fine preparation for the season of Passiontide to which it leads. Please sign up today and fill in any gaps!

Yesterday saw the visit of the Archbishop to the parish to confirm a good number of our young people. We pray that the gifts of the Holy Spirit will close to the Lord, and enable them to be faithful witnesses to his life, death and resurrection. Thank you to all who were involved in the preparing of them for this sacrament both in the parish and in our schools.

For some time now, a group of adults have been meeting on Friday nights for instruction in the Catholic faith. Some of the group 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 the sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

Baptism, Confirmation, first Eucharist:

Darryl-Louise Crowley and Jolie Derry-Miranda

Confirmation:

Kepa Munitiz, Monika Repelova and Ana Parrado Martin

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

David Stainsby, Richard Lewis, Harriet Nicole Gardiner-Simms and Suzzette 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. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Forty Hours Devotion – Gaze. Listen. Follow

Intention: Vocations to the Priesthood and the Religious Life

Thursday 19th March – the Solemnity of St Joseph

6.30pm Holy Mass and opening of the 40 Hours Devotion

– Preacher: Fr Stephen Day. Parish Priest of St Peter's, Leamington Spa.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins after Mass and through the night

Interspersed with:

8pm: Vespers

11pm: Compline

Adoration continues overnight:

Friday 20th March

6.45am Holy Mass followed by **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** interspersed with:

9.30am: Lauds

6.00pm Vespers

6.15pm: Confessions

8.00pm Family Holy Hour

11.00pm Compline

Adoration continues overnight:

Saturday 21st March

9.00am: Lauds

9.30am: Holy Rosary

10.00am: Holy Mass

10.30am: Confessions

3.30pm: Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and reposition of the Blessed Sacrament.

4.00pm: Vigil Mass of the Fifth Sunday of Lent and the beginning of Passiontide

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.

EXTRAORDINARY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS – we thank those parishioners who take Holy Communion to the sick and housebound, and occasionally give Holy Communion at Mass when necessary. As an extraordinary ministry (one in addition to the ordinary ministers of the eucharist - that is bishops, priests and deacons who are ministers by virtue of their ordination) this ministry is renewed each Holy Thursday at the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. If you take holy communion to the sick, or are open to doing so, please signal your desire to be present to Fr Philip or Deacon Jim or Deacon Bob.

ST. JOHN'S SCHOOL-Dear Parishioners, You are warmly invited to join us for our Whole School Mass during the season of Lent. The Mass will take place on Thursday 19th March at 9:30am in the school hall. It would be a great joy for our pupils and staff to share this special time of prayer and reflection with members of our parish community. We would be delighted if you were able to join us.

LUNCH CLUB – April 13th. Held on the 2nd 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/22nd March. “ Easter Hampers, £1 per ticket and will be drawn the following weekend.

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

ST THOMAS' WROXTON – A total of £484 has been raised from the refreshments served after the 1st Friday of the month masses. Thank you to all who have contributed.

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.

Main Times for the Easter Triduum and Easter:

Holy Thursday

7.00pm: Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper at St John's followed by The Watch until Midnight

Good Friday

10.15am: Children's Stations of the Cross at St John's.

3.00pm: Liturgy of the Passion at St John's

7.00pm: Stations of the Cross at St Joseph's

8.00pm: Stations of the Cross at St John's

Holy Saturday

8.30pm: The Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter

Easter Sunday

8.30am: Mass at St John's

10.00am: Mass at St Joseph's

11.30am: Mass at St John's

MARY'S MEAL'S - £537.05 was raised at the last lunch which will feed 28 children for a year. Thank you for your generosity.

Next Sunday's second collection will be for the Easter flowers to decorate both churches beautifully.

Please pray for the dead ...

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

Particularly Nora Brown.

Pray also for those whose anniversaries occur this coming week:

- 15 Barbara Gasiorowska 2018; Kathleen McCleaf 2013; David Brain 2012; Ernest Bowden 2007; William Lord 1995; Stella Hudson
- 16 Daniel Sheehan 2011; Monica Jones 2006; Waclaw Kudlik 1996
- 17 Onofrio Pannozzo 2009; Beryl Holloway 2005; John Skidmore 1998
- 18 Avril Ewart 2023; Gerald Gormley 2023; Lilian Davies 2021; Caterina Brinknell 2020; Rachele Grossi 1998; Cornelius Shea 1995; Percy King 1989
- 19 Joyce Baxter 2025; Margaret Busby 2006; Ivy Jarvis 1998; Eileen Jackson 1994; Joan Kent 1986
- 20 Florence Curl 2011; Florence Green 2000; Elizabeth Noone 1995; Patrick Cuzack 1993
- 21 Maggie England 2020; Nancy Brennan 2008; William Croly 2006; Ann Bird 2006

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: 8 th March 2026	<u>ST JOHN'S</u>	<u>ST JOSEPH'S</u>
Gift Aid	£ 99.00	£ 37.50
Non-Gift Aid	£ 762.12	£ 224.26
Contactless Card	£ 188.78	£ 30.00
Standing Orders – October	£ 2988.00	£ 789.00
Cathedral maintenance	£ 188.00	£112.66

Next weekend's second collection is for Easter flowers.

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

Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

Collect

O God, who through your Word
reconcile the human race to yourself in a wonderful way,
grant, we pray,
that with prompt devotion and eager faith
the Christian people may hasten
toward the solemn celebrations to come.
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**1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a**

In those days: The LORD said to Samuel, 'Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.'

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, 'Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.' But the LORD said to Samuel, 'Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.' And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, 'The LORD has not chosen these.' Then Samuel said to Jesse, 'Are all your sons here?' And he said, 'There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.' And Samuel said to Jesse, 'Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.' And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, 'Arise, anoint him, for this is he.' Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward.

Responsorial Psalm**Ps 23(22):1-3a. 3b-4. 5. 6. R1*****The LORD is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. R/.***

The LORD is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.
Fresh and green are the pastures
where he gives me repose.
Near restful waters he leads me;
he revives my soul. **R/.**

He guides me along the right path,
for the sake of his name.
Though I should walk in the valley of the shadow of death,
no evil would I fear, for you are with me.
Your crook and your staff will give me comfort. **R/.**

You have prepared a table before me
in the sight of my foes.
My head you have anointed with oil;
my cup is overflowing. **R/.**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life.
In the LORD's own house shall I dwell
for length of days unending. **R/.**

Second reading**Ephesians 5:8-14**

Brothers and Sisters: At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true, and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, 'Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.'

Gospel Acclamation**John 8:12****Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory**

I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory**Gospel****John 9:1-41**

At that time: As Jesus passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbours and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, 'Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?' Some said, 'It is he.' Others said, 'No, but he is like him.' He kept saying, 'I am the man.' So they said to him, 'Then how were your eyes opened?' He answered, 'The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, "Go to Siloam and wash." So I went and washed and received my sight.' They said to him, 'Where is he?' He said, 'I do not know.'

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, 'He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.' Some of the Pharisees said, 'This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.' But others said, 'How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?' And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, 'What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?' He said, 'He is a prophet.'

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, 'Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?' His parents answered, 'We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.' His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, 'He is of age; ask him.'

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, 'Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.' He answered, 'Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.' They said to him, 'What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?' He answered them, 'I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?' And they reviled him, saying, 'You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.' The man answered, 'Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshipper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.' They answered him, 'You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?' And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, 'Do you believe in the Son of Man?' He answered, 'And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?' Jesus said to him, 'You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.' He said, 'Lord, I believe', and he worshipped him. Jesus said, 'For judgement I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.' Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, 'Are we also blind?' Jesus said to them, 'If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, "We see", your guilt remains.'

Prayer over the Offerings

We place before you with joy these offerings,
which bring eternal remedy, O Lord,
praying that we may both faithfully revere them
and present them to you, as is fitting,
for the salvation of all the world.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

The Lord anointed my eyes: I went, I washed,
I saw and I believed in God.

Prayer after Communion

O God, who enlighten everyone who comes into this world,
illuminate our hearts, we pray,
with the splendour of your grace,
that we may always ponder
what is worthy and pleasing to your majesty
and love you in all sincerity.
Through Christ our Lord.

Prayer over the People

Look upon those who call to you, O Lord,
and sustain the weak;
give life by your unfailing light
to those who walk in the shadow of death,
and bring those rescued by your mercy from every evil
to reach the highest good.
Through Christ our Lord.