



# 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 22 <sup>nd</sup> February  FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT	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
Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup>  <i>Lent Feria</i>	9.30am Mass		Ignatius Hince RIP
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>  <i>Lent Feria</i>		9.30am Mass	Tom Mannion RIP
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>  <i>Lent Feria</i>		9.30am Morning Prayer	
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup>  <i>Lent Feria</i>	6.30pm Mass		Crosse, Armitts & Panozzo Families RIP
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup>  <i>Lent Feria</i>	<u>6.45am</u> Mass  6.00pm – 7.00pm <i>Stations of the Cross</i>		Joseph & Caroline Cullen
Saturday 28 <sup>th</sup>  <i>Lent Feria</i>	10.00am Mass  <i>Confessions 10.30am- 11am</i>		Michael Thomason
Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> March  SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT	4.00pm Vigil Mass ( Saturday)		Mr. W.C. & Mrs M. McCarthy RIP
	8.30am Mass		People of the Parish
		10.00am Mass	Robert, Mary & William Linden RIP
<i>Violet</i>	11.30am Mass		Special Intention

**Welcome to Mass on this first Sunday of Lent.** The ancient practices of this holy season – prayer, fasting and almsgiving – are gifts which are to renew our hearts as we prepare to celebrate the paschal mystery. The prefaces of the missal all offer pithy and deep summaries of each season. The second preface of Lent speaks of the fruit of a well observed Lent:

*You have given your children a sacred time  
for the renewing and purifying of their hearts,  
that, freed from disordered affections  
they may so deal with the things of this passing world  
as to hold rather to the things that eternally endure.*

Pope Leo has written a letter to the whole Church inviting us to put the mystery of God back into the centre of our lives. He has highlighted two principal themes to focus on in this holy season: **listening and fasting.**

**Listening:** He encourages us to listen to the voice of God, especially through reading the sacred scriptures – to listen to God as he listens to us. He encourages us to listen out also to the cries of those whose lives are marked by anguish and suffering, and are a challenge to societies, governments and the Church.

**Fasting:** This is an ancient practice that prepares us to receive the word of God. It prompts in us questions about what we truly hunger and thirst for, and the Christian imperative to hunger for righteousness and justice.

The Pope encourages to fast, not only from food or drink, but in a way we might not have thought of before – to fast from words that may offend or hurt our neighbour. He asks us to 'disarm our language, avoiding harsh words and rash judgement, refraining from slander and speaking ill of those who are not present and cannot defend themselves.' Instead, he asks us to cultivate kindness and respect so that words of hatred give way to words of hope and peace.

You can read his letter on the website of the Holy See – [vatican.va](http://vatican.va)

**Fridays in Lent** especially are a weekly moment to contemplate the suffering and death of the Lord. Together there are two opportunities to mark Fridays : 6.45am Holy Mass. 6pm Stations of the Cross.

**Today at St Chad's Cathedral there is the Rite of Election** for adults who are preparing for the Easter sacraments. A number of adults here have been preparing for the sacraments – Baptism, reception into full-communication with the Catholic Church, Confirmation and first Holy Communion. Please remember these candidates in your prayers as they prepare for this special moment in their lives.

**Forty Hours devotion for vocations – Thursday 19th March – Saturday 21st March.** In church you will find a chart with all the times that we will need to be covered and so to accompany our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. There will be times when there will be communal acts of worship – the Mass, the Divine Office and other devotions. But there will be lots of opportunities for silent adoration during both day and night. For those up for the challenge, the silent hours of the night are a time when, with the noise of the world hushed, it is easier for God's voice to be heard in the depths of our hearts.

**Lamps before the Blessed Sacrament during the 40 hours** – if you would like to sponsor a light to burn before the Blessed Sacrament during the 40 hours for a particular intention or for someone, living or departed, please put the name/ intention in an envelope. The suggested donation is £5.

**St John's church cleaning will take place tomorrow (Monday) after the 9.30am Mass.**

Please remember in your prayer Dr Patricia Crosby who died last week. Dr Crosby was, for many years, the medical director of the Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes. Many of those who were on the diocesan pilgrimage over those years will remember her well. She was appointed a Dame of St Sylvester by Pope Benedict in recognition of putting her dedication and skills as a physician at the service of the Church.

## **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 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 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.

**THIS WEEKEND - 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.

**THIS WEEKEND - 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.

**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.

**200 CLUB JANUARY DRAW** – 1<sup>st</sup> prize: No22 - £133.75, second prize: No9 - £80.25, third prize: No 29 - £53.50

**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:*

- 22 Ken King 2021; Betty Sherington 2020; Norma Garrett 2007; Margaret Murphy 1996; Stanislaw Zaworski 1987; Antoni Batt 1985; Joseph Kelly 1985
- 23 Joan Childs 2019; Michael Rennie 2018; Elizabeth Manning 1989
- 24 Thomas Mannion 2024; Dorothy Shea 2018; Amanda Wilkinson 2007; Mae Hampson-Cole 2006; John McMenamin 2001; Charles O'Neill 1997
- 25 James Powell 2007; John Reck 2002; Guiseppe De Meis 1999; Benjamin Amos 1993; Thomas Lawton 1986; Christopher Mangan 1983
- 26 John Cunnane 2022; Ann Rayment 2015; Anne Pickett 2013; Margaret Noll 2011; Stephen Travers 2010; Sir Michael Quinlan 2009; Alicia McElhinney 2009; Vernon Gray 2006; Myfanwy Jones 2000; George Cringle 1999; Rose Marshall 1996; Kenneth Thorpe 1995; Carli Marron 1986
- 27 Pauline Gossage 2022; Denzil Hughes-Onslow 2011; May Molloy 1997; Dorothy Withey 1991
- 28 Pawel Duma 2021; Anne Phillips 2011; Stella Eyre 1991; Giovanni Pannozo 1983; Mary Mordaunt 2024

***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> 15 <sup>th</sup> February 2026	<b><u>ST JOHN'S</u></b>	<b><u>ST JOSEPH'S</u></b>
Gift Aid	£ 00.00	£ 73.00
Non-Gift Aid	£ 000.00	£ 192.68
Contactless Card	£ 301.00	£ 5.00
Standing Orders – October	£ 2988.00	£ 789.00

**Next 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

When he calls on me, I will answer him;  
I will deliver him and give him glory,  
I will grant him length of days.

### Collect

Grant, almighty God,  
through the yearly observances of holy Lent,  
that we may grow in understanding  
of the riches hidden in Christ  
and by worthy conduct pursue their effects.  
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 2:7-9; 3:1-7**

The LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east, and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground the LORD God made to spring up every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food. The tree of life was in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God actually say, "You shall not eat of any tree in the garden"?' And the woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

**Responsorial Psalm Ps 51(50):3-4. 5-6b. 12-13. 14, 17. ☩ cf. 3a**  
**Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned. R/.**

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your merciful love;  
according to your great compassion,  
blot out my transgressions.  
Wash me completely from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin. **R/.**

My transgressions, truly I know them;  
my sin is always before me.  
Against you, you alone, have I sinned;  
what is evil in your sight I have done. **R/.**

Create a pure heart for me, O God;  
renew a steadfast spirit within me.  
Do not cast me away from your presence;  
take not your holy spirit from me. **R/.**

Restore in me the joy of your salvation;  
sustain in me a willing spirit.  
O Lord, open my lips  
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise. **R/.**

### Second reading

**Romans 5:12-19**

Brothers and Sisters: Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned — for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man; much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience

the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.**

Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Glory and praise to you, O Christ.

**Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory.**

### Gospel

**Matthew 4:1-11**

At that time: Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry.

And the tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered, 'It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."' '

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the Temple and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, "He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone."' Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "You shall not put the Lord your God to the test."' '

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.' Then Jesus said to him, 'Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."' Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

### Prayer over the Offerings

Give us the right dispositions, O Lord, we pray,

to make these offerings,

for with them we celebrate the beginning

of this venerable and sacred time.

Through Christ our Lord.

### Communion Antiphon

One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

### Prayer after Communion

Renewed now with heavenly bread,

by which faith is nourished, hope increased,

and charity strengthened,

we pray, O Lord,

that we may learn to hunger for Christ,

the true and living Bread,

and strive to live by every word

which proceeds from your mouth.

Through Christ our Lord.

### Prayer over the People

May bountiful blessing, O Lord, we pray,

come down upon your people,

that hope may grow in tribulation,

virtue be strengthened in temptation,

and eternal redemption be assured.

Through Christ our Lord.