



CATHOLIC BANBURY

www.catholicbanbury.org



ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

25 South Bar Street, Banbury. OX16 9AF

ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

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Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. Philip Harrop

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YEAR A	ST JOHN'S	ST JOSEPH'S	INTENTION
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
Monday 23 rd <i>Lent Feria</i>	9.30am Morning Prayer & Benediction		
Tuesday 24 th <i>Lent Feria</i>		9.30am Morning Prayer & Benediction	
Wednesday 25 th <i>Solemnity of The Annunciation of The Lord</i>		9.30am Morning Prayer & Benediction	
Thursday 26 th <i>Lent Feria</i>	6.30pm Vespers & Benediction		
Friday 27 th <i>Lent Feria</i>	6.00pm – 7.00pm Stations of the Cross		
Saturday 28 th <i>Lent Feria</i>	10.00am Mass 10.30am -11am Confessions		Annual Mass for the parish in which I live.
Sunday 29 th March PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD	4.00pm Vigil Mass (Saturday)		Mr WJ & Mrs M McCarthy
	8.30am Mass		Krystyna Mirski RIP
		10.00am Mass	Matthew Gallagher RIP
<i>Red</i>	11.30am Mass		People of the parish

Welcome to Mass. A special welcome to any visitors.

The veiled images and Cross are signs that we have now entered the season of Passiontide, and so the final section of Lent. The 'passion' in Passiontide comes from the Latin word 'passio' meaning 'to suffer' – and so we begin to cast our eyes towards the Cross and our journey to The Great Week or Holy Week that begins next Sunday – Palm Sunday.

Please continue to keep in your prayers those preparing to receive the Easter Sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

There are two lists out today for Holy Thursday.

- The first is for **The Washing of the Feet** – that traditional action that imitates the Lord's example in the Upper Room as he washed the feet of the disciples as an image of service – that our Incarnate Lord left the glory of heaven to take on the form of a servant and to accept death on the Cross. If you would like to share in this if you put your name on the list at the back of church.

- The other list is for The Watch before **The Altar of Repose**. This will take place following the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper. The gospels relate how, following the last supper Jesus and the apostles left for the Mount of Olives and the Garden of Gethsemane. There Jesus asked them to watch and pray as he prepared for his coming Passion. We pray on that night especially for those who suffer, for our world and its needs and problems, and for the Church. We end at Midnight, with Compline at 11.50pm.

The Times for the Sacred Triduum are:

Maundy Thursday:

7pm at St John's, with The Watch until Midnight (St John's)

Good Friday:

9.30am: Office of Readings and Morning Prayer (St John's)

10.15am: Children's Stations of the Cross (St John's)

3.00pm: Liturgy of the Passion (St John's)

7.00pm: Stations of the Cross (St Joseph's)

8.00pm: Maria Desolata (St John's) – Our lady contemplating the past day as she follows the Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday:

9.30am: Office of Readings and Morning Prayer (St John's)

8.30pm: The Easter Vigil (St John's)

Easter Sunday:

8.30am: Holy Mass (at St John's)

10.00am: Holy Mass (St Joseph's)

11.30am: Holy Mass (St John's)

There will also be Stations of the Cross on Holy Wednesday at St Thomas's, Wroxton, at 11.30am.

Good Friday Walk of Witness. This year walkers will gather outside the People's church at 11am. The stops will include St Mary's CofE church, The High Cross, the Town Hall bandstand, Banbury Cross, and concluding at St John's.

An Easter Clean of both our churches will take place in the coming days.

St Joseph's will take place after the 9.30am service of Morning Prayer this coming Thursday (26th March). If you can help, please have a word with Eileen at the meet & greet table in church before the 10am Mass (or ring 07805857804).

St John's will take place on Holy Monday (30th March) after the 9.30am Mass. At St John's there is also a need for extra help in polishing the brasses etc for the Easter Masses.

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.

Music Rehearsals for the Triduum: for singers from both our churches who will like to take part there will be rehearsals in St John's tomorrow (Monday 23rd) and the following Monday at 7pm in church.

Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers. For those taking Holy communion to the sick you will need to be commissioned at the Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. If you could have a word with Fr Philip or Deacon Jim if that isn't possible.

Altar Servers rehearsals for the Sacred Triduum.

Maundy Thursday at 11am

Good Friday at 1pm

Holy Saturday at 11.30am

MARY'S MEALS - The next date for Mary's Meals is Friday 27th March. This date is now at full capacity, please let Karen Craig (07976 591424) know if you are unable to attend.

GIFT AID ENVELOPES (ST JOSEPH'S) - These are available to collect at 10am Mass at St Joseph's.

LUNCH CLUB – April 13th. Held on the 2nd Monday of every month (except August) please contact Marilena 07891 178920 if you wish to attend.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEWS - EASTER RAFFLE – The SVP will be selling tickets after each of the masses this weekend. £1 per ticket with a chance to win one of three fantastic Easter Hampers.

INDIAN EVENING – Saturday 15th May, 7pm – 10pm. Come and enjoy authentic Indian cuisine in the Dupuis Centre. Tickets £25pp and can be purchased through the parish office or by contacting sajusacaria@outlook.com All proceeds from these events will go to your local SVP, supporting those in our community who are in need of some help.

BGN QUIZ NIGHT – Friday 24th April, 7pm. Tickets £7pp and can be purchased from the online school shop via the school website.

MARRIAGE SUPPORT - From relationships that are 'Just in a Rut', needing some refreshment or more serious issues - If you are open to try again – Retrouvaille could be the solution. We have helped thousands of couples get their relationship back on track as they rediscovered hope and trust in the marriage. To find out more: www.retrouvaille.org.uk +44 797 338 0443

This 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:

- 22 Denise Thornton 2014; Kathleen Boscott 2006; Janet Gilligan 2002; Veronica Smith 1999; Giovannina Cardarelli 1999; Walter Holt 1986; Jeanne Sherridan 1985
- 23 Emma Medina 2024; Clementina Sinagra 2017; Ruth Harris 2004; Harold Parker 2003; Gladys Cregan 2001; Edith Houldcroft 1993; Marjorie Clifford 1988;
- 24 Barbara Fowles 2021; Philomena Duffy 2012; Dorothy Wise 2010; Anna-Marie Kovacs 2005; Danny Heath 2002; David Towler 1989
- 25 Antony De Bono 2020; Allyson Sullivan 2018; Marie Baker 2013; Frederick Abrahart 2009; Patricia Kimmance 2003; Teresa Wright 2003; John Gallaher 1995; Samuel McNutt 1992; William Doyle 1987
- 26 Tony Campion 2019; Peter Sharpley 2013; Sylvia D'Amore 2010; Charles Boon 1998; John Keane 1994; Kevin Curran 1989; Florence Springate 1988
- 27 Betty Higgs 2021; Mary O'Mahoney 2014; Margaret Wilson 2009; Michael Kelly 2005; Frances O'Neill 2004
- 28 Michael Knight 2023; Des Mates 2021; Bridie Mansell 2016; Evalina Dillon 2008; Jill Shaw 1999; Gloria Bletchly 1990; Stephen Ryan 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, 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: 15 th March 2026	ST JOHN'S	ST JOSEPH'S
Gift Aid	£ 123.50	£ 37.50
Non-Gift Aid	£ 799.89	£ 217.90
Contactless Card	£ 220.00	£ 30.00
Standing Orders – October	£ 2988.00	£ 789.00

This 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

Give me justice, O God,
and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,
for you, O God, are my strength.

Cf. Ps 42: 1-2**Collect**

By your help, we beseech you, Lord our God,
may we walk eagerly in that same charity
with which, out of love for the world,
your Son handed himself over to death.
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**Ezekiel 37:12-14**

Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm**Ps 130(129):1-2. 3-4. 5-6b. 6c-8. R7bc**

*With the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption. R/.*

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
Lord, hear my voice!

O let your ears be attentive
to the sound of my pleadings. *R/.*

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?

But with you is found forgiveness,
that you may be revered. *R/.*

I long for you, O LORD,
my soul longs for his word.
My soul awaits the Lord
more than watchmen for daybreak. *R/.*

More than watchmen for daybreak,
let Israel hope for the LORD.

For with the LORD there is mercy,
in him is plentiful redemption.

It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities. *R/.*

Second reading**Romans 8:8-11**

Brothers and Sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

Gospel Acclamation**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory**

I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord.

Everyone who believes in me will never die.

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory**Gospel****John 11:1-45**

At that time: A certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. It was Mary, who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent to him, saying, 'Lord, he whom you love is ill.' But when Jesus heard it he said, 'This illness does not lead to death. It is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it.'

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, 'Let us go to Judea again.' The disciples said to him, 'Rabbi, the Jews were just now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?' Jesus answered, 'Are there not twelve hours in the day? If anyone walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him.' After saying these things, he said to them, 'Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awaken him.' The disciples said to him, 'Lord,

if he has fallen asleep, he will recover.' Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, 'Lazarus has died, and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.' So Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, 'Let us also go, that we may die with him.'

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.' Jesus said to her, 'Your brother will rise again.' Martha said to him, 'I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.' Jesus said to her, 'I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?' She said to him, 'Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world.'

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, 'The Teacher is here and is calling for you.' And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus wept. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?'

Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, by this time there will be a smell, for he has been dead four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, 'Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out.' The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him.

Prayer over the Offerings

Hear us, almighty God,
and, having instilled in your servants
the teachings of the Christian faith,
graciously purify them
by the working of this sacrifice.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Everyone who lives and believes in me
will not die for ever, says the Lord.

Prayer after Communion

We pray, almighty God,
that we may always be counted among the members of Christ,
in whose Body and Blood we have communion.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Prayer over the People

Bless, O Lord, your people,
who long for the gift of your mercy,
and grant that what, at your prompting, they desire
they may receive by your generous gift.
Through Christ our Lord.