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

Parish 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

This parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered charity number 234216

YEAR A	*ST JOHN'S*	*ST JOSEPH'S*	*INTENTION*
Sunday 23rd August **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** ***Green***	4.00pm Vigil Mass (Saturday)		Special Intention
	8.30am Holy Mass		Pro Populo
		10.00am Holy Mass	Mr Dale RIP
	11.30am Holy Mass		Julio Maroto-Crespo
Monday 24th August ***Feast of St Bartholomew***	9.30am Holy Mass		Francis McAleer
Tuesday 25th August *Feria in Ordinary Time*		9.30am Holy Mass	Andy Murphy and Family
Wednesday 26th August ***Feast of Blessed Dominic Barberi***		9.30 - 10.30am Morning Prayer Adoration & Benediction	
Thursday 27th August *Memorial of St Monica*	6.30pm Holy Mass		Dr John Coffey RIP
Friday 28th August *Memorial of St Augustine of Hippo*	9.30am Holy Mass *6.00 – 7.00pm Adoration, Vespers & Benediction with Confessions*		Patrick Lim Sr RIP
Saturday 29th August *Memorial of the Passion of St John the Baptist*	10.00am Holy Mass		Nina Malone
Sunday 30th August **TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME** ***Green***	4.00pm Vigil Mass (Saturday)		Ann Widdecombe
	8.30am Holy Mass		People of the Parish
	11.30am Holy Mass	10.00am Holy Mass	Liz O'Brien Eileen Shea

Today is the 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time. In the Gospel we hear about the call of Simon the Apostle to be Peter the rock on which Our Lord will build his Church, and to impart to him the keys of the Kingdom. We keep in our prayers Pope Leo XIV who has received the ownsome responsibility of the Petrine office. May he lead the Church with diligence and care, and strengthen the faith we have been privileged to receive from the Apostles.

Last Sunday's celebration of the Assumption of Our Lady was a very special moment, and the sun shone on the afternoon celebration of Vespers and the Procession. Thanks to the choir who led the singing beautifully, and for Silvia, Ben, Ricardo and Mary who produced such a delicious afternoon tea. £255.00 was raised for parish funds.

Parish Finances and Building Updates

On the website – www.catholicbanbury.org – you will find (under 'Be up to date' and parish updates) lots of information regarding the parish finances and the work that needs to be done on our buildings. It shows both a summary of the accounts for your perusal, and information and photos springing from the recent report by an architect on the health of our buildings at St John's. St Joseph's has had repairs to the roof in recent months, and so our attention now moves to St John's. Many of the images you will see include elements that we might miss, or are out of sight. Quite a bit of the work had already been highlighted in the previous report of 2020 and not done, so there is much catching up. It would also be good to look at the floor of St John's which needs some attention, as well as the lighting.

This Saturday (29th August) there will be an Altar Server Training Session for young people from 9am-9.45am . If you have made your first Holy Communion and would like to learn how to serve Holy Mass, then two of our St Stephen's Guild Silver Medal Holders, Jonathan and Camilla, will be there to teach and guide you how to assist at Mass in this special way. New servers will also be able to serve at the Mass that follows.

Thursday 3rd September Stratford Icon Day: 1pm at Stratford Town Hall for talks by Abbot Jeremias Schroeder (Abbot Primate of the Benedictine Order) and Rowan Williams (former Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury) At 4pm in The Guild Chapel there will be the blessing of icons. If you wish to attend, please register on the website stgregory.sua@rcaob.org.uk or 01789 292439

A Meeting on Friday 4th September for adults who

- want to learn more about the Catholic faith;
- or have a desire to become a Catholic;
- are a baptized Catholic, but haven't made first communion and/or Confirmation.
- a Catholic already, but desire a refresher in the basics of the faith

then it is hoped that we will form a group exploring the faith together. If you could let Fr Philip know if you might be interested in this, or send an email to stjohn.banbury@rcaob.org.uk

This initial information evening will be held at 7.15pm in the Dupuis Centre (upstairs)

Saturday 5th Sept. 2026 - March for Life UK

Tise annual demonstration of the sanctity of human life unites Catholics, other Christians, those of other faiths, and those without a faith and yet recognise the giftedness and sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. There is a coach from St John's to London departing 7.30am. Cost: £15 per adult. Children FREE

There will be lots of morning events for families and children, teens and young adults, at the Emmanuel Centre where the coach will drop us off. There is also the option of Mass at Westminster Cathedral at 10.30am. The march starts at 1.30pm from The Emmanuel Centre to Parliament Square. We will depart from London at 5pm, arriving back in Banbury at about 7pm. To reserve a seat email march4Life.banbury@gmail.com Places will be allocated on a first-come first served basis.

Saturday 5th September The Good Grief Cafe, Bereavement Group resumes on between 10am - 12 noon held in the Dupuis Centre (next to St Johns Church). A safe place to meet others who have suffered and dealing with bereavement - no matter how long ago. Come and join a friendly group for a cuppa and chat.

Sunday 6th September Annual Pilgrimage Mass at Harvington Hall

Harvington Hall, a focus of Catholic mission during the penal times of Elizabeth I, is the Shrine to the English Martyrs. Free parking and tours are available. **Mass begins at 3pm** (confessions from 1.45pm) offered by Archbishop Miguel Maury Beundia – the Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain.

Monday 7th September Padre Pio Prayer Group – next meets 10am in the Dupuis Centre.

Tuesday 8th September Next Baptism Meeting for parents wanting their children to be baptized has been moved to at 7pm in the Dupuis Centre.

Monday 14th September Monday Lunch Club resumes. Please remember to book your place to avoid missing out ! We welcome any newcomers ..... always lots of chat and friendly faces. Meal £6 per person. Raffle & Bingo. For further information contact Marilena on 07891 178920.

St Vincent De Paul Society (SVP) Banbury - if you are interested in joining this friendly group of Volunteers to help support those most vulnerable in our community then please contact the SVP dedicated number 07761 643449 for further details.

Stop assisted suicide

The assisted suicide Bill is returning to Parliament for another go! A pivotal Second Reading will take place in the House of Commons on Friday 11th September. This bill will also change irrevocably the relationship between doctor and patient, and will place many doctors and healthcare professionals in situations that are morally repugnant. Evidence shows that once this 'Rubicon' has been crossed, the much-vaunted safeguards dramatically slip away. Pope St John Paul warned of what was coming 31 years ago in his letter *Evangelium Vitae* where he spoke of a societal mindset where human life is de-valued, and practices that destroy life (of which abortion and euthanasia are two) are promoted as personal freedoms and rights. Please contact your MP. *There is a letter template online that can be used to email your MP https://righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote outlining all the concerns with this private members Bill.*

Parish Administrator
Catholic Parishes of Banbury
St John the Evangelist and St Joseph the Worker

The Catholic Parishes of Banbury are seeking a welcoming, organised and capable Parish Administrator to support the smooth day-to-day running of their busy parish community.

Based at St John's Presbytery, the role will support the Parish Priest, clergy, parishioners, volunteers and visitors across the parishes of St John the Evangelist and St Joseph the Worker.

Duties will include office administration, enquiries and correspondence, parish records and communications, routine finance processes, volunteer co-ordination, and facilities and property administration.

We are looking for someone with strong administrative, communication and IT skills, financial accuracy, discretion, and a calm, friendly manner. The role would suit a self-motivated person who enjoys variety and is comfortable supporting the ethos, values and mission of the Roman Catholic Church.

Key details:

- Location: Parish Office, St John's Presbytery, 25 South Bar Street, Banbury OX16 9AF
- Hours: 28 hours per week, pattern to be agreed
- Contract: Permanent, subject to a six-month probationary period
- Salary: Commensurate with experience, to be confirmed
- DBS: Enhanced DBS clearance required

To apply, please send a covering letter (not more than 300 words) and current CV to Fr Philip Harrop, by email to stjohn.banbury@rcaob.org.uk – subject: administrator.

The Catholic Parishes of Banbury are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and expect all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Closing date for applications: Thursday 17th September 2026

Please pray for those who have died recently: Bida Esceuta and Susan Hayward.

Pray also for those whose anniversaries occur this coming week

23	Joseph Cashman 2018; Hazel Letherbarrow 2016; Cynthia Fallowfield 2014; Giuseppe Fragola 2014; Colin Smith 2014; John Wilkinson 2001; Anne Bond 1997; Mary McKenna 1996; John Kimberley 1992; John Nolan 1992; William Butler 1987; Doris Rawlings 1986; William Sullivan 1983
24	Rosemary Higham – Stevens 2024; Mick Hastings 2021; Bernadette North 2013; Richard George 2011; William Nelson 2003; George Russell 2000; Robert Dilleyston 1996; Antoni Frankiewicz 1984
25	Timothy O'Connor 1999
26	Joan Taylor 2021; Anne McKie 2010; Bridget Shand 2003; Mary Burns 1991; Bertha Widdicombe 1990
27	Peter Mulvaney 2010; Charles Adams 2008; Anthony (John) Vale 2005; Rose Watts 1989
28	Pete Barnes 2020; Maureen Coady 2015; Noreen Skyte 2003; Samuel Tuzzio 1998; Mary Carolan 1996
29	Gladys Emmerson 2008; Elizabeth Beaumont 2005; Rev. Francis Toole 2004; Francis Tobin 1991; Cecilia Miller 1985
30	Don Bell 2015; Donald Bond 2010; Catherine Bowen 2003; Bertha Grant 2002; Eunice Gregory 1992; Josef Bartoszewicz 1986; Gladys Sanford 1985
31	Bridget Byrne 2008; Rocco Pannozzo 2008; Eileen Wardle 2002; Louis Waddoups 1991

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

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, Douglas Bond ,John Breen, Brenda Brennan, Eileen Bristoll, Christopher Browne, Clifford Browne, Sue Davis, Nick Davies, Oliver Davies, Michael Evans, Genevieve Freedman, 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, Nicky Smith, Elaine Steer, Maria Harding, John Breen.

PARISH FINANCIAL MATTERS

Weekly Income:	ST JOHN'S	ST JOSEPH'S
Gift Aid	£ 68.00	£ 34.80
Non-Gift Aid	£603.26	£169.01
Contactless Card	n/a	n/a

Standing orders for May: St John's £3048	St Joseph's £784

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 donation, we will receive another 25p

DONA CARD READER

Remember to use our contactless card reader. Donations can also be made by scanning the QR code.

CONFESSION TIMES

St John's on Friday, 6.00-7.00 pm and Saturday, 10.30-11.00 am

Parish Groups and Meetings

St John's	Church Cleaning	Monday 10.00am (following Mass)
St John's Grounds		As announced
St John's	Legion of Mary	Saturday at 10.45 am (Wall Room, Dupuis Centre)
St Joseph's	Legion of Mary	Wednesday at 6.30 pm
	Youth Group	3rd Saturday, 6.30 – 8pm for children Yr 6 & 7
		3rd Sunday, 6.30-8.30pm, for children Yr 7 & above

St Vincent De Paul Society – Contact and help - 07761 643449

PARISH OFFICE The office is situated at St John's Presbytery and can also be contacted by telephone or email using the details above.

SAFEGUARDING: The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. The Parish Safeguarding Representative for St John's is Deborah Picking and for St Joseph's it is 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

Cf. Ps 85: 1-3

Turn your ear, O Lord, and answer me;
save the servant who trusts in you, my God.
Have mercy on me, O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.

Collect

O God, who cause the minds of the faithful
to unite in a single purpose,
grant your people to love what you command
and to desire what you promise,
that, amid the uncertainties of this world,
our hearts may be fixed on that place
where true gladness is found.
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

Isaiah 22:15, 19-23

Thus says the Lord God of hosts, 'Come, go to this steward, to Shebna, who is over the household, and say to him: "I will thrust you from your office, and you will be pulled down from your station. In that day I will call my servant Eliakim the son of Hilkiah, and I will clothe him with your robe, and will bind your sash on him, and will commit your authority to his hand. And he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem and to the house of Judah. And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. And I will fasten him like a peg in a secure place, and he will become a throne of honour to his father's house." '

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 138(137):1-2a. 2bc, 3. 6, 8bc. Ry 8bc

O Lord, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart;
you have heard the words of my mouth.
In the presence of the angels I praise you.
I bow down towards your holy Temple. Ry

I give thanks to your name
for your merciful love and your faithfulness.
On the day I called, you answered me;
you increased the strength of my soul. Ry

The Lord is high, yet he looks on the lowly,
and the haughty he knows from afar.
O Lord, your merciful love is eternal;
discard not the work of your hands. Ry

Second reading

Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgements and how inscrutable his ways! 'For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his counsellor?' 'Or who has given a gift to him that he might be repaid?' For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be glory for ever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation

Matthew 16:18

Alleluia, alleluia.
You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church,
and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
Alleluia.

Gospel

Matthew 16:13-20

At that time: When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.' Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Prayer over the Offerings

O Lord, who gained for yourself a people by adoption
through the one sacrifice offered once for all,
bestow graciously on us, we pray,
the gifts of unity and peace in your Church.
Through Christ our Lord.

Communion Antiphon

Cf. Ps 103: 13-15

The earth is replete with the fruits of your work, O Lord;
you bring forth bread from the earth
and wine to cheer the heart.

Prayer after Communion

Complete within us, O Lord, we pray,
the healing work of your mercy
and graciously perfect and sustain us,
so that in all things we may please you.
Through Christ our Lord.

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