



# CATHOLIC BANBURY

[www.catholicbanbury.org](http://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](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



Facebook search:  
'Catholic  
Banbury'



QR code  
for  
**WhatsApp** Parish  
Community

YEAR A	ST JOHN'S	ST JOSEPH'S	INTENTION
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March <b>PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD</b>	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		Sr. Thérèse O' Neill RIP
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup>  <i>Holy Week</i>	9.30am Mass 6.30pm Mass  7pm Confessions		George Guest RIP Anne Morris RIP
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup>  <i>Holy Week</i>	6.30pm Mass 8.00pm Maria Desolata	9.30am Mass 10.00am Confessions	Special Intention – Deidre Evans Lukasz & Ilowa Sala
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April  <i>Holy Week</i>	9.00am Mass  6.30pm Mass	11.30am Stations of The Cross at St. Thomas' Wroxton	Agnes O' Riordan Edith & Maurise Lillis 70 <sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup>  <i>Holy Week</i>	7.00pm Mass of The Lord's Supper Followed by The Watch until Midnight		Chris White RIP
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup>  <i>Good Friday</i>	9.30am Office of Readings & MP 10.15am Children's Stations of The Cross 3.00pm Liturgy of The Passion 8.00pm Maria Desolata Stations of The Cross	7.00pm Stations of The Cross	
Saturday 4 <sup>th</sup>  <i>Holy Saturday</i>	9.30am Office of Readings & Morning Prayer		
Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> April  <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b>	8.30pm Easter Vigil ( Saturday)		Jim Mulroy RIP
	8.30am Mass		Edward Nosal RIP
		10.00am Mass	People of the Parish
<i>White</i>	11.30am Mass		David Stawsby

**Welcome to Mass as we begin the holiest week of the Church's year.**

**A special welcome to any visitors who will be joining us over these sacred days.**

**It was good to see so many turning out for adoration during the Forty Hours. – and people making the effort to come to church in the silent hours of the night too! It was a great way of preparing for this Week of Weeks!**

**The Mass today is officially called Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord.** This title encapsulates the two themes that flow through today's Mass. At the beginning of Mass, with its blessing of palm branches and procession, we remember the Lord's triumphant entry into the city of Jerusalem. There is an air of excitement and celebration as Jesus enters the holy city. The Mass then takes us to contemplate the Passion of the Lord, and we hear the proclamation of the Passion according to St Matthew.

**During Holy Week** there are two Masses on each of the first three days of this week to enable all those who wish to go to Mass each day of Holy Week to do so. Please note that the Mass on Wednesday is at 9.00am as the Chrism Mass at the Cathedral is at 11.30am.

*Please make every effort to be part of the celebrations of the Sacred Triduum and so follow our Lord on his journey to the Cross and on to the resurrection.*

**Please remember in your prayers** those who are preparing for the Easter sacraments at the Easter Vigil this Saturday night, and anointed with the Chrism consecrated by the Archbishop at Wednesday's Chrism Mass.

**There are two lists out for Holy Thursday - if they aren't already full.**

- 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 the 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 put your foot forward 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. It is good if a good number of the faithful watch with the Lord. 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).

**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.

**Confessions:** Many of you will have already availed yourself of the opportunity of going confession in part fulfilment of your Easter duties. Good Friday and Holy Saturday are a bit busy – but Confessions will be heard this Monday at 10am and Tuesday at 7pm.

**Children's Stations of the Cross** will be on Good Friday at 10.15am. This will be followed by a Hot Cross bun in the Dupuis Centre.

**Please remember in your prayers Sister Thérèse O'Neill**, our parish Sister from 2014 -2023. Sr. Thérèse was a great support to many in the parish, visiting the sick, housebound and lonely. She was loved by all and worked tirelessly during covid to ensure the vulnerable weren't forgotten. She was missed very much when ill health forced her to return to Selly Park, the Mother House of the Sisters of Charity of St Paul and so ending her service in Banbury. We pray that The Lord may grant her rest and peace, and the reward of a good and faithful servant.

**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.

**Maria Desolata** will take place at 8.00pm at St John's on Good Friday. This is an old Good Friday evening devotion where Our Lady looks back over the day. As such, it begins at the fourteenth station at the tomb of Jesus. From there, Our Lady looks back over the events of the day, and the journey her Son has made and so, in effect, the stations are done in reverse.

**St John's cleaning for Easter 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. Any new people are very welcome to come and join the fun!

**Music Rehearsals for the Triduum:** for singers from both our churches who will like to take part, the last of the rehearsals will take place tomorrow (Holy 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 this Thursday at 7pm. If you could have a word with Fr Philip or Deacon Jim if that isn't possible.

**Thanks to those parishioners** who arranged breakfast after the early morning Friday Mass. It was much appreciated!

**Altar Servers rehearsals for the Sacred Triduum.**

Maundy Thursday at 11am

Good Friday at 1pm

Holy Saturday at 11.30am

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

**PATRICIANS** - A friendly discussion group for all Catholics, aimed at building knowledge and confidence in talking about our Faith with others. Refreshments provided. Next Meeting: Friday 17th April 7pm. TOPIC: The Divine Mercy Revelations. The Intentions of Jesus revealed to St. Faustina.

**INDIAN EVENING** – Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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 VACANCY** – The school are currently recruiting for a Student Engagement Lead and an Asst. subject leader of Religious Education ( Maternity Cover) For more information, please see noticeboard.

**200 CLUB WINNERS** – 1<sup>st</sup> prize, No 109 - £132.50. 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize, No 98 - £79.50. 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize, No 30 -£53.

**POLISH BLESSING OF FOOD** – Holy Saturday at St. Joseph's church at 12.00pm.

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

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

*Particularly Sr. Thérèse O’Neill & Nora Brown.*

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

- 29 Muriel Cannon 2017; Kathleen Gellie 2005; Joseph Smith 1999; Michael Oxlade 1985; John O’Sullivan 1985
- 30 Patrick Lydon 2022; Marcella O’Connor 2003
- 31 Edna Preece 1997; James Busby 1983
- 01 Jim Mulroy 2022; Gerald Eaglestone 2012; May Paynton 2008; Denis Finn 2008; Phyllis Hill 2003; Stanislaw Cwenar 1996; Geoffrey Lammin 1996
- 02 Domingos Fernandes 2009; Anthony Sharpe 2004; Mervyn Gardner 1997; Katherine Hickey 1997; Annette Hall 1994; Morris Busby 1989; Tony Doolan
- 03 Christopher White 2023; Robert Bowman 2017; Michael Sheehan 2009; Kathleen Blencowe 2002; Bridget Johnson 1996; Reginald O’Dell 1989
- 04 Shirley Geritz 2011; Major Ernest Kinsey 1986; Stanley Harrison 1984

***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**

<b>Weekly Income:</b> 22nd March 2026	<u><b>ST JOHN’S</b></u>	<u><b>ST JOSEPH’S</b></u>
Gift Aid	£ 109.00	£ 210.00
Non-Gift Aid	£ 784.78	£ 198.50
Contactless Card	£ 80.00	£ 58.00
Standing Orders – January	£ 3014.00	£ 789.00
Easter Flowers	£ 276.55	£ 140.56

***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.

**Gospel****Matthew 21:1-11**

When Jesus and his disciples drew near to Jerusalem and came to Bethphage, to the Mount of Olives, then Jesus sent two disciples, saying to them, 'Go into the village in front of you, and immediately you will find a donkey tied, and a colt with her. Untie them and bring them to me. If anyone says anything to you, you shall say, "The Lord needs them", and he will send them at once.' This took place to fulfil what was spoken by the prophet, saying, Say to the daughter of Sion, "Behold, your king is coming to you, humble, and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a beast of burden." '

The disciples went and did as Jesus had directed them. They brought the donkey and the colt and put on them their cloaks, and he sat on them. Most of the crowd spread their cloaks on the road, and others cut branches from the trees and spread them on the road. And the crowds that went before him and that followed him were shouting, 'Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest!' And when he entered Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred up, saying, 'Who is this?' And the crowds said, 'This is the prophet Jesus, from Nazareth of Galilee.'

**Entrance Antiphon**

Six days before the Passover, when the Lord came into the city of Jerusalem, the children ran to meet him; in their hands they carried palm branches and with a loud voice cried out:

***Hosanna in the highest!  
Blessed are you, who have come in your abundant mercy! R/.***

O gates, lift high your heads;  
grow higher, ancient doors.  
Let him enter, the king of glory!  
Who is this king of glory?  
He, the Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

**Collect**

Almighty ever-living God,  
who as an example of humility for the human race to follow caused our Saviour to take flesh and submit to the Cross, graciously grant that we may heed his lesson of patient suffering and so merit a share in his Resurrection.  
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
God, for ever and ever.

**First reading****Isaiah 50:4-7**

The Lord GOD has given me  
the tongue of those who are taught,  
that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary.  
Morning by morning he awakens;  
he awakens my ear  
to hear as those who are taught.  
The Lord GOD has opened my ear,  
and I was not rebellious;  
I turned not backwards.  
I gave my back to those who strike,  
and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard;  
I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting.  
But the Lord GOD helps me;  
therefore I have not been disgraced;  
therefore I have set my face like a flint,  
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

**Responsorial Psalm****Ps 22(21):8-9. 17-18a. 19-20. 23-24. R2a**

***My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? R/.***

All who see me deride me;  
they curl their lips, they toss their heads:  
'He trusted in the LORD, let him save him;  
let him release him, for in him he delights.' **R/.**

For dogs have surrounded me;  
a band of the wicked besets me.  
They tear holes in my hands and my feet;  
I can count every one of my bones. **R/.**

They divide my clothing among them,  
they cast lots for my robe.  
But you, O LORD, do not stay afar off;  
my strength, make haste to help me! **R/.**

I will tell of your name to my kin,  
and praise you in the midst of the assembly;  
'You who fear the LORD, give him praise;  
all descendants of Jacob, give him glory;  
revere him, all you descendants of Israel.' **R/.**

**Second reading****Philippians 2:6-11**

Christ Jesus, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Gospel Acclamation**

Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.  
Christ became for us obedient to the point of death,  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore God has highly exalted him  
and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.  
Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.

**Gospel****Matthew 26:14-27:66****The Passion of our Lord Jesus Christ.****Prayer over the Offerings**

Through the Passion of your Only Begotten Son, O Lord,  
may our reconciliation with you be near at hand,  
so that, though we do not merit it by our own deeds,  
yet by this sacrifice made once for all,  
we may feel already the effects of your mercy.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Communion Antiphon**

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it,  
your will be done.

**Prayer after Communion**

Nourished with these sacred gifts,  
we humbly beseech you, O Lord,  
that, just as through the death of your Son  
you have brought us to hope for what we believe,  
so by his Resurrection  
you may lead us to where you call.  
Through Christ our Lord.

**Prayer over the People**

Look, we pray, O Lord, on this your family,  
for whom our Lord Jesus Christ  
did not hesitate to be delivered into the hands of the wicked  
and submit to the agony of the Cross.  
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.