



St Joseph's Catholic Church
Arkell Avenue, Carterton, OXON OX18 3BS



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RC Archdiocese of Birmingham charity
(No 234216)

Easter

The church is closed and there are no public Masses until further notice. I will continue to offer private Mass daily for all the people.

Information on parish website

www.stjosephscarterton.uk. I am available to be contacted by email or telephone (email preferred): 01993-842463

andrewjamesfoster1956@ntlworld.com and the following email and telephone number of John Brennan is a 'clearing house' for requests for help of all kinds: 07725 732981

john.brennan621@btinternet.com Finally, **priests are no longer able to visit hospitals:** tell me BEFORE ADMISSION if possible and I will administer sacraments at home.

Parish Debt In the month to 3 April 2020 the overdraft decreased by £2616.89 to **£167,980.05** (from £170,596.94). Thank you for your generosity.

***Live streaming of Mass.** To watch Mass from Corpus Christi, Headington, Oxford, visit: www.mcnmedia.tv/cameras/county/oxfordshire Scroll down past the adverts to 'live streaming' and click the Headington picture.

***Memorial garden.** Access during hours of daylight. Can be visited and used for prayer.

Please pray for the **four Birmingham candidates for priestly ordination** on Sat 18 July: Clive Dytor, Sean Gough, Benedict Skipper and Alexander Taylor.

Please pray for those who have died: Kevin

Southwood, Anne Rooney, Esme Lyons, Janet Mansell, Mateo Bantug, Allan Tomkins, Phil Hocknell, Bridget Valentine, Rodney Forder, Joe Lambe, Pauline Leverett, Olive Harcourt, Christopher Murphy, Joan Clements.

Anniversaries: Dick & Jessie Turner, Irene Murphy, Jim Fleming, Ernest Walters, Isabela & Andrew Pinto, William & Doris Statham.

Please pray for the sick, housebound and those in the armed forces suffering mentally and physically from the effects of war: Angela Overton, Kate Gargan, Pat Hay, Anne Gillick, Wendy Murray, Catherine Robinson, Peter Garfoot, Peter Doran, Lukasz Konieczny, Brendan Reynolds, Marie Whelan, Brendan Farrow, Phil Rice, Loretta Walcott, Natalia Romanek, John Middleton, Pat Haddock, Mario Bugeja, Justin Family, Dom Michael Phillips, Kathleen Fagan, Jen Thomas, Bernadette Lewis, Ann Heaton, Monica Owen, Marie Drew.

And yet ours were the sufferings he bore, ours the sorrows he carried. But we, we thought of him as someone punished, struck by God and brought low. Yet he was pierced through for our faults, crushed for our sins. On him lies a punishment that brings us peace, and through his wounds we are healed. Isaiah 53:4-5 (from the Liturgy of the Word for The Lord's Passion on Good Friday).

'In the life of the Christian the cross of Christ should mean a continual act of faith and hopeful endurance. ...we must ask ourselves constantly whether we are really prepared to assume the signs of Christ's death...or whether...we still flee from the cross of Christ....Where then do I find my cross today?...people talk about love of the cross but simply do not recognise as such the cross that they are meant to accept...[the person] protests against a thousand things in life and will not accept them, will not come to terms with them...thinks that he cannot bear them...That is why we often fail to recognise where the real cross of Christ is now in our life. But perhaps we may ask God for the grace to persevere for the few hours of our life under the cross of Christ...until we too can return our poor souls into the hands of God: crucified and thus liberated for eternal life.' Karl Rahner, Meditations on Priestly Life, London: Sheed and Ward, 1974, p237

Lent is about getting closer to Our Lord Jesus. On Wednesday 26 February, Ash Wednesday, few of us would have foreseen the stringent precautionary measures under which we have been existing since 23 March. Whatever our lenten resolutions, present conditions have made this Lent exceptional and an opportunity of getting closer to and identifying with Jesus. We may not endure Our Lord's anguish and pain, but being deprived of our freedom of movement and above all freedom to meet family and friends is a massive sacrifice. I suggest that it is (potentially) for everyone at this time what Rahner calls 'the real cross of Christ now in our life'. Let us recognise it and not reject it. Sacrifice becomes good when borne out of love for someone. Excuse the apparently facile comment that the cross makes a positive (+) out of a negative (-), since Jesus bore suffering and crucifixion out of love. The above quotation from the prophet Isaiah makes that point clearly: Jesus carried our sorrows, was pierced through for our faults. He bears anguish and pain on our behalf because he loves us. He not only identifies himself with us, but he empties himself and brings us peace and healing. He endures very separation from his beloved Father in order definitively to gain sanctuary for us, a safe place in the Father's heart.

We praise and honour you, Lord Jesus, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Jesus Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.