



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



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RC Archdiocese of Birmingham charity
(No 234216)

**No public Masses, but church open as below.
No use of Bampton on Sundays in November**

33rd Sunday (A) 15.11.2020

Sat 14 Nov 6.00pm Private Prayer
Sun 15 Nov 9.00am P. Prayer
33rd Sunday 10.15am P. Prayer
Mon 16 Nov 10.00am P. Prayer
St Edmund of Abingdon
Tue 17 Nov 6.30pm P. Prayer
St Hugh of Lincoln
Wed 18 Nov 10.00am P. Prayer
Thu 19 Nov 10.00am (Burford) P. Prayer
6.30pm P. Prayer
Fri 20 Nov 6.00pm (Burford) P. Prayer
Sat 21 Nov 10.00am until 6.00pm P. Prayer
Presentation of Mary
Sun 22 Nov 9.00am P. Prayer
Christ the King 10.15am P. Prayer

We pray for all unborn children diagnosed with disabilities, we pray for protection for them and their mothers from the pressures of society to have an abortion, and that they would instead experience overwhelming support by all who surround them.

November Lockdown

Masses in the parish have been suspended again after Wed 4 November. Church is open for private prayer at the times when there would ordinarily be Mass and some others. **Please pray daily at 6.00pm for all suffering directly and indirectly, especially those in care homes and their families and for an end to the pandemic. On Sat 21 November the church will be open 10am till 6.30pm to this end.**

Hamper We will provide a hamper and deliver to the client we had last year. We are going ahead this year, but are doing so on behalf of the parish due to Covid restrictions. Donations towards the cost welcome.

Red Mission Boxes raised £589. Thank you.

Please pray for those who have died: Phil Hocknell, Bridget Valentine, Rodney Forder, Joe Lambe, Pauline Leverett, Olive Harcourt, Christopher Murphy, Joan Clements, Monica Owen, Kate Gargan, Anne Jennings, Angela Overton, Marie Drew, John Robinson, John Joseph O'Neill, Michael Jackson, Rose Lane, Mary Hannah, Robert Eszenyi, David Gotelier, Sue Hand.
Anniversaries: Shelagh Hiscock, Alberto Fella, Peter McQuillan, Alexandra Outram, Marie-Claude Terry, Christopher Doran, Helen & Lawrence Rosario, Gwen Sawyer.

Please pray for the sick, housebound and those in the armed forces suffering mentally and physically from the effects of war: Pat Hay, Anne Gillick, Wendy Murray, Catherine Robinson, Peter Garfoot, Peter Doran, Lukasz Konieczny, Brendan Reynolds, Marie Whelan, Brendan Farrow, Dominic Martin, Phil Rice, Natalia Romanek, John Middleton, Pat Haddock, Mario Bugeja, Justin Family, Dom Michael Phillips, Kathleen Fagan, Jen Thomas, Ann Heaton, Celia McCauley, Elaine Barry, Miriam James, Rodrigo Bantug.

"Light up the town with a message of hope"

The idea is to make a lantern and display it in your window during the **first weekend in December** when the town lights would have been switched on and say a prayer for our community.

We have 10 simple lantern making kits available from Fr Andrew (email or call him). If we run out of kits there is no reason why people can't put something together themselves and join in.

Bank details for Standing Orders

Natwest, 23 High Street, Witney, OX28 6HW
Account: St Joseph's Catholic Church
Account No: 43009530 Sort code: 60 24 60

Sue Hand died at home on Tuesday. Please pray for her, for Pat and their children Chris and Becky. The parish and school remember Sue with affection for her love and service over many years. The date of the funeral has not yet been announced. It is hoped that Pat will return home in the next few days from time spent at the JR Hospital and a care home in Oxford.

Extract from Statement from the President and the Vice-President of the Bishops' Conference on the National Lockdown.

At this difficult moment, we ask that, as a Catholic community, we make full use of our churches as places of individual prayer and sources of solace and help. We must sustain each other in our patterns of prayer, joining a national shared moment of prayer each day at 6pm, and observing the Vigil of Christ the King (21st November) as a day of prayer for the ending of this pandemic. And we encourage you all in your practical service and support of each other and those around you in need. This pathway of prayer and service is the royal road we are to take as a gracious witness in our society today.

Cardinal Vincent Nichols President. Archbishop Malcolm McMahon OP Vice-President

Readings for 33rd Sunday (A) 15.11.2020

Proverbs 31:10-13.19-20.30-31

First Letter to Thessalonians 5:1-6

Matthew 25:14-30

What does God want of us? The prophet Micah answers: *to do what is right, to love loyally and to walk humbly with your God.* You could sum this up by 'faithfulness'. The three servants in the Gospel were enjoined to be faithful with the property entrusted to them. The word *talent* is a fiscal term. A talent was worth about £650 in modern money. The three servants are given different sums of money or perhaps equivalent property in proportion to their ability. Two servants use it well by trading with it and doubling it in value.

What property are we entrusted with? God entrusts us with **all** he has and is, in fact with the very means of salvation, for ourselves and others. He entrusts us with his mercy for the world. We are made co-responsible for our own salvation and that of others. We must revere what we have been given and seek to be faithful in its use. The three servants are called to account. Even though the first two have used their talents to make more and be *good and faithful servants*, they are to return the whole sum to the owner. By working with our particular gifts we transform ourselves and our environment. The resources entrusted to us consist not only in material goods but also in our creativity: we create something beautiful for God. We cannot take anything material with us when called to account: there's no way to smuggle anything into heaven. Even though the pay may be peanuts, the pension provision is out of this world! But we ourselves have been changed by our cooperation with grace and mercy. What we have on trust is not our own, but ours to use in wise stewardship on behalf of others. If you look ahead to the last part of this chapter, which we hear next Sunday, it is probable that being there for others was uppermost in St Matthew's mind.

We enjoy fellowship with the Lord, a fellowship leading to a share in his glory, but one which on earth is at the price of endurance and suffering. Investing the talents is a witness to the power of his resurrection. Above all it is through constant faith and faithfulness that we do God's work and attain his aim. What is pleasing to the Lord is loving others in charity, fulfilling his commands, and increasing the gift of faith we have been given.

A woman of today is unlikely to be *busy with wool or flax or setting her hand to the distaff* as the perfect wife of the first reading. But it is a beautiful description and by working this woman is able not only to provide for her own dependents but also to *hold out her hand to the poor and*

open her arms to the needy. Those who can use their talents are enabled to create something new and beautiful for God. CAFOD and other agencies have used partnership projects, by which CAFOD has invested training and money in local people of the developing world, in precisely this way. They have enabled men and women to start their own businesses and to attain economic independence. They have been *given a share in what their hands have worked for.*

The Lord's gift of the Spirit can be squandered by corruption or irresponsible behaviour. But it can also be squandered by just not sharing or distributing the life of grace we have been given. We pray to be faithful in using what we have been given on trust, so that acknowledging God's gifts, we can collaborate with the redemption of all people.

