



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



[www.stjosephscarterton.uk](http://www.stjosephscarterton.uk)  
Andrew Foster, PP Tel 01993-842463  
[andrewjamesfoster1956@ntlworld.com](mailto:andrewjamesfoster1956@ntlworld.com)  
RC Archdiocese of Birmingham charity  
(No 234216)

## Second Sunday Advent (B) 29.11.2020

Sat 5 Dec 6.00pm Justin Family / Nkechi GE  
St Birinus

Sun 6 Dec 9.00am Sue Hand LD

2<sup>nd</sup> Advent Sunday (B) 10.15am Sue Hand LD

Mon 7 Dec No Mass

St Ambrose

Tue 8 Dec 6.30pm Celia Fairbrother GE

**Immaculate Conception**

Wed 9 Dec 10.00am Jim & Mary Fleming A

Thu 10 Dec 6.30pm Richard / Bernard C. GE

Fri 11 Dec 6.00pm (Burford) Elaine Barry GE

Sat 12 Dec 6.00pm Natalia Romanek GE

Sun 13 Dec 9.00am Ann Lenaghan A

Third Advent Sunday Jean Bell LD

10.15am Bernard Curtin GE

### Available in church

\*Sower, diocesan magazine

\*Walk with Me booklets / calendars for Advent

\*Catholic Diaries 2021 (take if you will use)

### Christmas Masses (Please BOOK)

Thu 24 Dec 3.00 and 6.00pm

Fri 25 Dec 9.00 (Bampton) and 10.30am

**Booking is essential.** Please contact Ed Poole  
on [ed.poole@kymba.co.uk](mailto:ed.poole@kymba.co.uk) or 07780972766

**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:** Evan James, John Devine, Venus Sahyoun, Fr Cyril Barlow.

**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, Pat Hand, Elaine Barry, Rodrigo Bantug, John Pollock, Bernard Curtin, Richard, Nkechi, Celia Fairbrother.

### Parish 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

**Advent Confessions: Sat 19 December  
10.30 – 11.30am.**

**Holy Mass at St Mary's, Bampton (9.00am)**

Sun 13 Dec

Fri 25 Dec

Sun 27 Dec

# CHRISTMAS SERVICES – 2020

**ALL CHRISTMAS SERVICES REQUIRE TO BE PRE-BOOKED**

**To Book Please Contact: -**

Ed Poole ed.poole@kymba.co.uk or Mb 07780972766

**Christmas Eve** (Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> Dec)

3:00 pm Children's Vigil Mass at St Joseph's

*Primarily for families with children under 12 years of age, please book*

6:00 pm Family Vigil Mass at St Joseph's

*All parishioners are welcome, please book*

**Christmas Day** (Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Dec)

9:00 am Christmas Day Mass - at St Mary's Bampton

*All parishioners are welcome, please book*

10:30 am Christmas Day Mass – at St Joseph's

*All parishioners are welcome, please book*

**Boxing Day** (Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> Dec)

6:00 pm Vigil Mass - at St Joseph's

*All parishioners are welcome, please book*

**Holy Family Sunday** (27<sup>th</sup> Dec)

9:00 am Mass - at St Mary's Bampton

*All parishioners are welcome, please book*

10:15 am Mass – at St Joseph's

*All parishioners are welcome, please book*

## Readings

**Isaiah 40: 1-5.9-11**

**2 Peter 3:8-14**

**Mark 1:1-8**

## Second Sunday of Advent (B) 06.12.2020

Consolation is the cry of this second Sunday in Advent. Do not fear, since the one who is to prepare the way, John the Baptist, the voice crying in the wilderness, has come. It is the beginning of the Good News for each of us.

We are waiting for *a new heaven and new earth, where justice will be at home* and must be engaged in realising this project. God continues to act in our own time: *he is like a shepherd feeding his flock, gathering lambs in his arms, holding them against his breast and leading to their rest the mother ewes.* We serve God by being that good shepherd ourselves, a good Mum or Dad, son or daughter, grandparent, friend and neighbour.

Jesus **is** the Good News in person. He is the long-expected one, the gracious comforter. Jesus' coming is true to Isaiah's prophecy: God is faithful to his word and promise even if it has taken hundreds of years to be fully realised. Preparing the way refers also to the call back to Palestine, the promised land at the time of Isaiah, from Babylonian exile. If God is always preparing the way for each of us in every age, then we pray not to be an obstacle to others. The people received John's baptism as a sign that they were willing to change. A Christian is called to be ready to change too, difficult as that may be.

The experience of wilderness, something that John the Baptist actively sought out and invited others to join him in, reminds us of unfulfilled needs: thirst not only for what quenches us physically but also spiritually. The dryness helps us to realise that we need spiritual moisture. The moisture for *all Judaea and all the people of Jerusalem* [who] *made their way to John* was the disposition of repentance they adopted and the washing of baptism in the river Jordan symbolising their desire, their thirst for forgiveness of sin. When deprived of what we take for granted, it can help us assent to what God is offering. The desert helps us experience our emptiness and God's fullness.

Wilderness helps us next to be willing to surrender what limits our life in God. When we experience an absence of a centre to our being, we are enabled to make space for God's real presence. Holy Communion is the most important aspect of God's presence on earth. Now that we can finally get back to Mass after a month's enforced absence and deprivation of God's special presence, may that experience of receiving Our Lord again in Holy Communion be something truly special.

