



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

[www.stjosephscarterton.uk](http://www.stjosephscarterton.uk)

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RC Archdiocese of Birmingham charity

(No 234216)



## Third Sunday Advent (B) 13.12.2020

Sat 12 Dec 6.00pm Natalia Romanek GE  
 Sun 13 Dec 9.00am Ann Lenaghan A/ Jean Bell LD  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Advent Sunday (B) 10.15am Bernard Curtin GE  
 Mon 14 Dec 10.00am Pauline Knowles  
 St John of the Cross  
 Tue 15 Dec 6.30pm Pollock Family GE  
 Wed 16 Dec 9.45am CLASS MASS Fr John Dewis  
 Thu 17 Dec 6.30pm Fr Cyril Barlow A  
 Fri 18 Dec 6.00pm (Burford) Nick O'Keefe GE  
 Sat 19 Dec 6.00pm Fr John Ellis A  
 Sun 20 Dec 9.00am Kathleen Fagan GE  
 Fourth Advent Sunday  
 10.15am Elaine Barry GE

## 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**

**Thanks for hamper donations amounting to more than £100. No more donations please.**

## Advent Confessions:

**Sat 19 December 10.30 – 11.30am.**

## CHRISTMAS SERVICES – 2020

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

**To Book Please Contact: -**

Ed Poole [ed.poole@kymba.co.uk](mailto: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

**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

**Holy Mass at St Mary's, Bampton (9.00am)**  
**Sun 13 Dec, Fri 25 Dec, Sun 27 Dec**

## 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 61: 1-2.10-11**

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-24**

**John 1:6-8.19-28**

## Third Sunday of Advent (B) 13.12.2020

It is 250 years since the birth of the great English poet, William Wordsworth. One of his best-known short poems is the sonnet which begins "Surprised by joy – impatient as the wind" telling of wanting to share a joy with his daughter, Catherine, who had died aged only three, but he had momentarily forgotten that she was no longer there. CS Lewis used the title of Wordsworth's poem for a partial autobiography up to age thirty-three, Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life. The book's last two chapters cover the end of his search as he makes the leap from atheism to theism and then from theism to Christianity and, as a result, he realizes that Joy is like a "signpost" to those lost in the woods, pointing the way.

Today is Gaudete Sunday when we are invited to be filled with the joy at the imminent nativity of Our Lord. The Gospel of John reads: *If you remain in my word, you are truly my disciples; you will come to know the truth, and the truth will set you free.* An essential aspect of freedom is Christian joy. Nothing draws hearts to Christian faith like joy. We need in a natural and unforced way to show that we are happy to be Christians.

Yes, being a Christian is a struggle at times, but our struggle is not about ourselves: it's a pointing to Jesus who is the good news. Our struggle in the world is not a frantic effort to make it a better place. We will fail: it will destroy our equanimity and raise our blood pressure. Idealism is permissible, but we cannot do it all. Pointing to Jesus is enough and takes the pressure off. John the Baptist did what he had to do, and pointed **away** from himself.

No need to preach much. St Francis knew that and I need to learn from him. You cannot force anyone into your Jesus camp. We should set people free to meet the Saviour, since it is **HE** who sets us free. Our way is to demonstrate that the way of Jesus – siding with the poor and the broken hearted – is in fact the way of happiness and leads to joy. Faith is not miserable but joyful. When we set about trying to make the world a better place, we must do so with a lightness of heart. We cannot do it ourselves. God does it. You point the way, like John the Baptist did when he met Jesus. Unless the Lord builds the house, the builder labours in vain; unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchman keeps vigil in vain. Mary sang her Magnificat, the responsorial psalm today, to celebrate not her generous Yes to God, but God's generous Yes to her and to all of us. We all need people who will cheer and cherish us with a kindly word, a joke or a loving hug. Elizabeth would have been apprehensive about having a child late on in life. Mary's visit in the last trimester of pregnancy must have cheered her immensely. Even her unborn child leapt for joy.

We will remove mountains more effectively if we know we depend on God than if we are convinced we have got it all to do ourselves. Gaudete! Rejoice in the Lord always: the Lord is near.

