



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

[www.stjosephscarterton.uk](http://www.stjosephscarterton.uk)  
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RC Archdiocese of Birmingham charity  
(No 234216)



## Fourth Sunday Advent (B) 20.12.2020

Sat 19 Dec 6.00pm Lis Banham GE / Fr John Ellis A  
Sun 20 Dec 9.00am Dave Thomas GE  
4<sup>th</sup> Advent Sunday (B) 10.15am Rodney Forder A  
Mon 21 Dec 10.00am Mary Scholfield A  
Tue 22 Dec 6.30pm John & Ivy Tilling A  
Wed 23 Dec 10.00am People of Russia  
Thu 24 Dec 3.00pm All the families of the world  
6.00pm People of the Parish  
Fri 25 Dec 9.00am (Bampton) St Mary's Parish  
Christmas 10.30am Mary & Gerry McKeever RIP  
Sat 26 Dec 6.00pm Elaine Barry GE  
St Stephen, first martyr  
Sun 27 Dec 9.00am (Bampton) Phil Rice GE  
Holy Family 10.15am Olive Harcourt & Marie Drew RIP

### 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**

The **assisted suicide** lobby have launched a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It is vital that it is clear to the Government that the public want them to continue to hold strong **against** this pressure from assisted suicide campaigners and **reject** their demands. Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which enables you to email your MP. It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting the link below:  
<https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>

**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:** Rose Rafferty, Alison Foster, James McDonnell, Jeanette Fitzpatrick, Mary Scholfield, Joan Blake, Marjorie de Wolfe, May & Hubert Fowler.  
**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, Annette Steele.

**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

**Aluminium and metal cans**  
There remains a substantial parish debt of about £160,000 to pay off. **Drinking a can or two of beer over Christmas can help us: YES it can (get it?)** We can sell the alu tins if you collect them: we need sackfuls. **All** metal tins can be turned to good use!

# St Joseph's Parish - Carterton

## 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 Forth Sunday of Advent (B)

**2 Sam 7:1-5. 8-12. 14. 16**

**Romans 16:25-27**

**Luke 1:26-38**

Why did God become a human being? St Anselm, an Archbishop of Canterbury, wrote a book with this title in the last years of the 11<sup>th</sup> century. His arguments are convincing. We know it is about sin, the original sin of disobedience of our first parents. This sin, which created such a rift between us and our creator, has to be made good, to be atoned for. Anselm says that we the culprits should make satisfaction for it, but human beings are unable to do so. Only God can rectify the sin which is such an obstacle between us and him. Since only mankind ought to make satisfaction and only God can do so, this work must be achieved by a God-man, whom we know as Jesus Christ.

But is the redemption of humanity necessary? Anselm argues that it is, since if we remain unredeemed, God's purpose for humanity will be frustrated, which for an omnipotent being (God) is impossible. Therefore he concludes a God-man is necessary for the redemption of humanity.

The incarnation of the Son of God is a greater miracle than the virgin birth of Mary, but since the Gospel speaks of the latter, we turn to her question as to how it is possible to become pregnant without intercourse. About six months earlier, Zechariah was serving as a priest in the temple when he received a visit from the same Archangel Gabriel, with similar news. He was to become father to John the Baptist. He, too, asked a question, and was punished for it by

losing the gift of speech, not the kind of sign he was looking for. He was asking for proof and proof he got. Mary was not asking for proof but understanding: what would she have to do? She trusted what the angel was saying, whereas Zechariah exhibited a too healthy scepticism. She believed but sought understanding: in fact hers is the model of theology itself: faith seeking understanding. And guess who thought that model up? Our friend St Anselm. Gabriel's answer goes into more detail but is not a total answer, because explaining how she as a virgin should become pregnant is beyond human understanding.

Gabriel's explanation elicited Mary's consent: let what you have said happen to me. But we need to remember that she had been prepared for her act of faith by the grace of her immaculate conception. A very clever Scottish theologian, the Franciscan Duns Scotus, posited the manner in which this took place, since according an extraordinary grace normally must involve the free will of the person involved and when Mary was preserved from original sin from the first moment of her conception in her own mother's womb, she was obviously unable to consent freely. Duns Scotus advanced the idea that it was in virtue of Mary assenting to become mother of the redeemer that she was in advance accorded the grace of the immaculate conception. Since God without exerting any pressure, knew that she would say yes freely.

We are allowed to ask questions of our faith, even challenging ones. But it is only right to ask them prayerfully. I trust you Lord, but please help me to understand this or that, or if not understand at least accept it.

