



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

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



Second Sunday (B) 17.01.2021

Sat 16 Jan 6.00pm Elaine Barry GE
Sun 17 Jan 9.00am People of the Parish
2nd Sunday 10.15am Dermot Long GE

Mon 18 Jan No Mass
Tue 19 Jan No Mass

St Wulstan

Wed 20 Jan No Mass
Thu 21 Jan No Mass

St Agnes

Fri 22 Jan No Mass
Sat 23 Jan No Mass

St Nicholas Owen

Sun 24 Jan No Mass

3rd Sunday (B)

Church closure

I have decided regretfully to close St Joseph's Church after the Masses this weekend (16/17 Jan). Please God it will be possible soon to live stream Masses from St Joseph's and this will be advertised on our website. But participation in live-streamed liturgies is not the same as being able to receive Holy Communion. May the deteriorating pandemic situation soon improve such that we can open the church again. (I will continue to offer Mass privately in the church for the time being, and will be pleased to remember any Mass intentions. Burford RC Church was closed after Mass last Sunday 10 Jan. but I hope to offer Mass privately there weekly).

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 18-25

January Please pray for unity and all our Christian brothers and sisters in Carterton.

Please pray for those who have died: 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, Graham Copping, Romy Sadler-Tomkins, Jim & Lily Rooney.

Anniversaries: Fr Charles Ross, Bill and Margaret Canning, Elizabeth Kennedy, Phyllis Platt, Alfred & Theresa Bonfield.

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, Richard, Nkechi, Celia Fairbrother, Annette Steele, Pauline Allen.

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 / scrap metal

We can sell alu tins (and non-alu tins) if you collect them. **All** metal tins (and smaller pieces of scrap) can be turned to good use, but please separate them into alu and non-alu to save us doing so!

Readings

I Sam 3:3-10.19

I Cor 6:13-15.17-20

John 1:35-42

Second Sunday (B) 17.01.2021

It is difficult to conceive of a more profound question than Jesus' "what do you want?" The project of one's whole life could be summarised in one's reply. What do **I** want? A good friend and neighbour from my home village of Nettlebed, (now a professor of English literature in a French university), was once, when much younger, caught unawares standing in a queue to be served at the village shop by exactly this question. "What would you like, Adrian?" "Well I would like to be a poet" he replied. "No, what do you want to **buy**?" came an impatient voice standing behind him.

The words of this question are the first words that Jesus speaks, he who is the incarnate word of God. They are also some of his last words: whom do you seek? when he is confronted in the Garden of Gethsemane. They are the means that Jesus uses to help people know what their deepest, truest hopes and longings are. To gauge how important this process is, I think of the testimony of a priest friend who had done missionary work in Siberia and Kazakhstan, which I listened to yesterday on a Swiss podcast. 70 years of atheistic communism had succeeded in numbing these deep-seated human yearnings to the extent that people, he said, needed to be helped to rediscover them. People sometimes need help to know what is really important. What do I want? What do we want for ourselves, for our world, from our God? Is it wealth and material goods? Is it power and position? Is it the freedom to do just as we want? Or is it 'God's mercy? Jesus reveals and brings about God's mercy and promotes the full dignity of human life as created in the image of God, as redeemed by the Lamb of God.

John stared and pointed to Jesus: *Look, there is the lamb of God.* The two disciples, John and Andrew, followed Jesus and, asked what they want, reply with a question *where do you live?* Invited to come and see they remain with Jesus and become his disciples. The Greek verb *menein* (to remain, stay or dwell) is used both for the disciples' first question and for the end result. Where do you abide? They choose to abide with Christ for always, to abide with the one who is the teacher and the giver of the deepest meaning and goals of human life. Where Jesus lives, dwells and stays becomes where they live too.

What do I want?