



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



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

Third Sunday (B) 24.01.2021

Sat 23 Jan No Mass

Sun 24 Jan No Mass

3rd Sunday

Mon 25 Jan No Mass

Conversion of St Paul

Tue 26 Jan No Mass

Ss Timothy & Titus

Wed 27 Jan No Mass

Thu 28 Jan No Mass

St Thomas Aquinas

Fri 29 Jan No Mass

Sat 30 Jan No Mass

Sun 31 Jan **Live-streamed 10.00 Mass**

4th Sunday (B)

Church closure

St Joseph's Church closed after the Masses on Sunday 17 Jan. 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 on Sunday 10 Jan. but I hope to offer Mass privately there weekly.

Live-streaming of Masses from St Joseph's will begin with the **10.00am Mass on Sunday 31 January**. Details will be available on the website later in the week:

www.stjosephscarterton.uk

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: Phyllis Platt, Alfred & Theresa Bonfield, Esther Peach, Jack Foster, Moira Treacy, Shelagh Hiscock, Allan Hince, Richard Moynihan, Georges de Serionne.

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.

www.reprieve.org.uk

Abdul Latif Nasser has been locked away for almost 19 years without charge or trial. He was cleared for release by six US government agencies in 2016 but he's still in Guantánamo Bay today, waiting to go home to his family in Morocco. REPRIEVE has been successfully working for the release of prisoners like Abdul for 20 years.

Readings

Jonah 3:1–5, 10. 1 Corinthians 7:29–31. Mark 1:14–20

Third Sunday (B) 24.01.2021 [Good News: Good tidings of great joy (Lk 2:10)]

We associate the words above with the message of the Angel to the Bethlehem shepherds. But in parallel we have Jesus' own words in today's Gospel: *Repent and believe in the gospel*. As Dom Henry Wansbrough, editor of the Revised New Jerusalem Bible, comments, *the Greek term 'euangelion' ('gospel') was brought into Christian use by Paul, who was writing his letters long before the gospels were composed. He borrowed it from the Roman Emperor's terminology, in which it meant a piece of good news which would be flashed round the Empire, so that everyone could share it, such as a great victory by the Emperor or the birth of an heir.* The piece of good news is both that God's Messiah, the Christ, has been born in Bethlehem and is now, thirty years on, exercising his mission to change people's way of thinking for ever. 'Come after me and I will make you fishers of people', is the good news specific to the first four disciples of Jesus. To follow Jesus is their greatest good fortune and entails their becoming fishers of people. Line-fishing involves using bait or the promise of a tasty fly for a brown trout perhaps. There has to be an incentive for the fish to bite. The attraction and incentive which every disciple of Christ offers is Jesus Christ, the good news in person. To know him is to love him and to love him is to want to serve him by loving and serving him in others.

But what of the radicality of what Jonah did (first reading)? Despite his disinclination to do so, Jonah preached to the Ninivites that their city was about to be destroyed. They believed in God, did penance and God relented. What of the radicality of the immediate response of Simon and Andrew, James and John, who left their employment at once to follow the call of Jesus? Are we expected to do likewise, give up everything, and follow the call?

I have just heard a podcast about an Anglican woman vicar, Sally Smith, in Stoke-on-Trent, who a few years ago started a work called *Sanctus*, in favour of the large number of asylum seekers who had been resettled in Stoke. One refugee family was moved into a house on an estate with BNP supporters and within hours the house was surrounded by an angry crowd shouting racial abuse, threatening to burn the house down. The local authority declined to move the family, so Sally intervened and brought the family to live in her vicarage. The council was shamed into action. I was immensely proud to learn of Sally's example. Not everyone would have acted as she did nor are they necessarily called to do so. But what we can do is to give everything over to God, to commit ourselves to serving Christ in others as circumstances permit and suggest. We can allow him to begin to take the initiative in our lives.

