



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

Fifth Sunday of Lent (B) 21.03.2021

Sat 20 Mar

Sun 21 Mar **Live-streamed 10.00 Mass**

5th Lent Sunday People of the Parish

Mon 22 Mar Beth Kelleher A

Tue 23 Mar Deacon Pat Duffy LD / Nicola Martin A

Wed 24 Mar Kate Gargan A

Thu 25 Mar Fr Michael Crumpton LD

Annunciation of the Lord

Fri 26 Mar Chris Murphy A

Sat 27 Mar

Sun 28 Mar **Live-streamed 10.00 Mass**

Palm Sunday Olive Harcourt A

Live-streaming of Masses from St Joseph's continues on Sundays at **10.00am**. Details on the website: www.stjosephscarterton.uk

PLEASE MUTE YOURSELVES

Pastoral Ministry Please contact me if you or anyone you know is in need of the sacraments. I will gladly come to you.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Maundy Thursday (1 April) Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Joseph's at 7.30pm.

Good Friday (2 April) The Lord's Passion at St Joseph's at 3.00pm.

Easter Sunday 9.00am St Mary's, Bampton;
11.00am St Joseph's.

The Easter liturgies will be live-streamed.

Bookings to Ed Poole please:

ed.poole@kymba.co.uk

07780972766

www.stjosephscarterton.uk

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RC Archdiocese of Birmingham charity
(No 234216)



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, Terry Curtin, Frederick Shaw.

Anniversaries: Elizabeth Wansbrough, Kathleen Kearsey, Olive Harcourt, Chris Murphy, Elizabeth (Beth) Kelleher. Kate Gargan, Dick & Jessie Turner.

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, Stephen, Cynthia Brick, John Titcombe, Isalina de Freitas.

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

Bampton.

We have been invited to St Mary's on Easter Sunday and on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 9.00am. This coincides with Sun 11 April and Sun 25 April.

Readings Jeremiah 31:31-34. Hebrews 5:7-9. John 12:20-30
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Some perplexity surrounded the choice of a scriptural text for my ordination card which read:

*For even though the fig does not blossom,
Nor fruit grow on the vine,
Even though the olive crop fail,
And fields produce no harvest,
Even though flocks vanish from the folds
And stalls stand empty of cattle,*

*Yet I will rejoice in the Lord
And exult in God my saviour.
The Lord my God is my strength.
He makes me leap like the deer,
He guides me to the high places.* Hab 3:17-19

Where were you God? is a question many of us have asked at certain times in our lives and continue to ask. The answer of the Prophet Habakkuk was that his faith would not be rocked by affliction but even when the country experienced extreme want and suffering he would rejoice in the Lord. He has committed himself irrevocably. Such challenging experiences allow faith to grow and mature, although fearful apprehension is understandable.

This is also the situation of the first reading where God ‘plants his law deep within’ his people, ‘writing it on their hearts’. This is fundamentally about God’s commitment to his people rather than theirs to him. Yet he promises there will be no question as to God’s wishes since ‘they will all know me’. The Gospel passage spells out the divine commitment further. Jesus is the grain of wheat which falls to the ground and dies, yielding a rich harvest. He beseeches his followers to do as he has done, to invest themselves totally for his sake and the sake of others.

We kept the feast of St Joseph, our parish patron saint, on Friday 19 March. In December Pope Francis declared a year of St Joseph and wrote a letter called Patris Corde (From the Heart of a Father). He spoke of St Joseph’s ‘creative courage’ in the way he dealt with vast difficulties (think of making a new life in Egypt for several years for example) by trusting consistently in divine providence. ‘If at times God seems not to help us...we are being trusted to plan, to be creative, and to find solutions ourselves.’ When the disciples came to Jesus to request the hungry crowd be sent away, Jesus suggested that they give them something to eat themselves.

‘When I am lifted up from the earth, I shall draw all people to myself’ Jesus promises. He is referring both to his crucifixion and to his resurrection and ascension into heaven. He is inviting us to unite ourselves to him and imitate the example of his love.

Glorious Patriarch Saint Joseph, whose power makes the impossible possible, come to my aid in these times of anguish and difficulty. Take under your protection the serious and troubling situations that I commend to you, that they may have a happy outcome. My beloved father, all my trust is in you. Let it not be said that I invoked you in vain, and since you can do everything with Jesus and Mary, show me that your goodness is as great as your power. Amen.

This Pope Francis tells us is a favourite prayer he has said daily for over forty years. As well as expressing devotion and trust, ‘it even poses a certain challenge to St Joseph’ (!)

