



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



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RC Archdiocese of Birmingham charity
(No 234216)

Fourteenth Sunday (B) 04.07.2021

Sat 3 July 6.00pm Mass at Burford John Ellis
St Thomas

Sun 4 July 9.00am (Carterton) People of the Parish

14th Sunday (B) 10.15am Mgr Louis McRaye

Mon 5 July

Bl George Nichols, Richard Yaxley, Thos. Belson, H. Pritchard

Tue 6 July 6.30pm Frs Leo Joppé, Vincent Armishaw A

Wed 7 July 9.45am Fr John Dewis RIP

Thu 8 July 6.00pm Fr Gerry Breen RIP

Fri 9 July 1.30pm Funeral Dominic L-Martin

6.00pm (Burford) Brian Doolan RIP

Sat 10 July 6.00pm Mass (Burford)

Sun 11 July 9.00am (Bampton) Holy Souls

15th Sunday (B) 10.15am Isalina de Freitas LD

N.B. Live-streaming of 10.15am Sunday Mass

Details on website: www.stjosephscarterton.uk

St Joseph's 6.00pm Saturday Mass

Could you be a school governor? St Joseph's is in dire need of governors. Speak to Andrew or contact the school on 841240.

EMAIL SCAM

If you receive an email purporting to come from Andrew Foster requesting you buy any voucher, it is a scam. I apologise. I am increasing my email security and have changed my password.

Please pray for those who have died: Rodney Forder, Joe Lambe, Pauline Leverett, Olive Harcourt, Chris Murphy, Joan Clements, Monica Owen, Kate Gargan, 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, Marie Whelan, Isalina de Freitas, Elaine Barry, John Pollock, Dominic Lackschewitz Martin **Funeral 9 July at 1.30pm**
Anniversaries: Liz Meechan, Jessie Turner, Sara Scanlon, Betty McGovern, Ali Kazem, Andrea Colvile, Brian Clifford, Steve Park-Pearson.

Please pray for the sick, housebound and those in the armed forces suffering mentally and physically from the effects of war: Anne Gillick, Wendy Murray, Catherine Robinson, Peter Garfoot, Brendan Farrow, Phil Rice, Natalia Romanek, Pat Haddock, Mario Bugeja, Justin Family, Dom Michael Phillips, Kathleen Fagan, Jen Thomas, Ann Heaton, Celia McCauley, Pat Hand, Rodrigo Bantug, Cynthia Brick, John Titcombe, Zena Miles, Pat O'Neill.

Parish Bank details for Standing Orders.

Natwest sort code 60-24-60 and account 43009530. Thanks to all who support the parish in this way.

***Holy Communion.** Please let the parish priest know of children (7 or older) wishing to be prepared. September start.

***Confirmation** Preparation sessions on Sunday mornings in the church hall after 10.15am Sunday Mass starting **Sunday 11 July**.

Vision for the Archdiocese. Leaflets explaining **The Diocesan Vision: Unfolding God's Plan.** Please take one.

Readings Ezekiel 2:2-5. 2 Corinthians 12:7-10 Mark 6:1-6

Fourteenth Sunday (B) 04.07.2021

The first twenty minutes of my Wimbledon viewing last night was Andy Murray's sad knock-out in straight sets by Shapovalov. It is eight years since Murray was the first Brit in 77 years to be men's singles champion at Wimbledon. Murray's home town is Dunblane, the Scottish town most associated with the terrible assassination of sixteen children and their teacher in 1996. Can we imagine the citizens of Dunblane being so jealous and resentful of Murray's success that they come to despise him as much as the people of Nazareth came to despise Jesus? Yes, we have all known jealousy, but as the little grey cells decrease and the grey hair increases, as our muscles waste and our tummies spread, do we rejoice that someone is still capable of seizing the baton, of doing what we can no longer do? It is extraordinary in the situation described in the Gospel that the Nazarenes recognise Jesus' wisdom and miracles for what they are, yet still despise and reject him.

Both Ezekiel and Our Lord do their best with an incredulous audience. *Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them...this is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary...and they would not accept him...he was amazed at their lack of faith.* St Paul's *thorn in the flesh*, in the second reading, which thrice he pleads to be relieved of, might refer to a psychic or physical infirmity but might equally refer to an enemy or enemies within the Christian camp working, or in modern political speech, briefing against him. The one sure thing about evangelising, standing up for one's faith, is that one will encounter resistance. It is not a case of believing in oneself, but in the power of Jesus Christ. *When I am weak then I am strong* refers not to St Paul's own considerable resolve, since that is an evident contradiction in terms. It refers to the power of Christ working in him all the more transparently when he experiences his own weakness and limitation; something we all do.

There will always be resistance to prophetic word and deed by external forces. But what of our internal resistance? One of the choruses in the British twentieth century composer Sir Michael Tippett's *A Child of Our Time* has the line: *I would know my shadow and my light. Then shall I at last be whole.* This borrows from the psychology of the great Swiss psychotherapist C G Jung who taught that we have both a light and a shadow side to our personality. There are times of light and times of darkness; times when life is meaningful and times when we seem to be walking in thick fog; a self clear and enthusiastic about life and another unenthusiastic self for whom life is confusing and a burden. Both these aspects of personality or 'selves' need to be explored and befriended so as to become whole and an effective human beings. In fact Jung believed that the shadow side of personality is ninety per cent 'golden'. If we fail to admit and befriend our shadow side, we risk constantly denying a part of ourselves and condemning ourselves when we experience our shadow side letting us down. Jesus does not condemn us, but accepts us, warts and all. He accepts our shadow as well as our light. We may believe that we must attain a certain minimum standard to be able and worthy to approach the Lord. But is it not our experience that when a friend reveals his or her imperfections, even their inadequacies and sins, that it makes us all the more ready to forgive and love that friend? We begin to understand him or her in the round, to identify with them and take them to our heart. What makes friendship difficult is pretence and condemnation such as Jesus experiences from his neighbours in Nazareth. They recognise wisdom in his words and the miracles he works and yet they close their hearts to him because it is just Joseph the carpenter's son. We know him and where he comes from they think dismissively.

We must beware of being lamed by letting the shadow side of our selves dominate our lives, since this internal resistance has already been accepted, accounted for and overcome by Our Lord. It needs to be accepted by us. Facing our shadow and exploring it we become free of its laming and destructive power. I spoke about the power of Our Lord's touch last weekend, but forgot to

mention that we too need to be aware of how we touch others through our thoughts, words and actions. Touch is an aspect of love, or Christian service. But it applies to the way that we think about ourselves too, an aspect of love of self. Yes Andy Murray had to face his shadow then and again today when he is playing on two artificial hips: is it all worthwhile any more? We do too. Facing it detoxifies it, but in a Christian sense enables us to draw on the power and light of Christ.