



St Joseph's Catholic Church

Arkell Avenue, Carterton, OXON OX18 3BS

Twenty-first Sunday (B) 22.08.2021

Sat 21 Aug 6.00pm (Burford) Sheila Biggane A
St Pius X, Pope

Sun 22 Aug 9.00am (Bampton) Holy Souls

21st Sunday (B) 10.15am People of Parish

Mon 23 Aug 9.45am Mary McKeever A

St John Wall

Tue 24 Aug 6.30pm Gerardo Pama LD

St Bartholomew Thanksgiving

Wed 25 Aug 9.45am Fr Frank Rowe A

Thu 26 Aug 6.00pm

Bl Dominic Barberi

Fri 27 Aug 6.00pm (Burford) Fr Downey A
St Monica

Sat 28 Aug 12.00noon **Memorial Mass for Olive**

St Augustine of Hippo 6.00pm (Burford) People

Sun 29 Aug 9.00am (Carterton) Fr Frank Toole A

22nd Sunday (B) 10.15am Denis Brennan RIP

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

Details on website: www.stjosephscarterton.uk

**Olive Harcourt Memorial Mass St Joseph's
Sat 28 August at 12.00noon**

Ride and Stride Saturday 11 September

This event in aid both of local churches and the Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust (which gave St Joseph's a grant a few years ago), is taking place again. Please contact Antoinette Broad (Tel 01993-213413) for sponsor forms and participating churches.

www.stjosephscarterton.uk

Andrew Foster, PP Tel 01993-842463

andrewjamesfoster1956@ntlworld.com

RC Archdiocese of Birmingham charity

(No 234216)



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, Zena Miles, Dominic Lackschewitz- Martin, Susan Wiffen, Barbara Gianni, Gianfranco Formigli, Philip Buckingham, Dom Michael Phillips OSB, Gerardo Pama.

Anniversaries: Martin Walsh, Isabel Hall, Fr Leo Targett, Mary Carroll, Elaine Petherick, Rebecca Phillips, Mary McKeever.

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, Kathleen Fagan, Jen Thomas, Ann Heaton, Celia McCauley, Pat Hand, Rodrigo Bantug, Cynthia Brick, John Titcombe, Pat O'Neill, Antoinette Broad.

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. **Parish bank overdraft on 5 August 2021: £169,820.60.** Would you be willing to 'sacrifice' collections permanently and set up a **bank standing order (SO) instead? About 50 parishioners already do so.** SO's are DIFFERENT from Direct Debits (DD). DD's allow the business in question to increase the DD you pay, whereas, it is ONLY YOU who can increase or decrease a SO!

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

Joshua 24:1-4,15-18 | Ephesians 5:21-32 | John 6:60-69
Twenty-first Sunday (B) 22.08.2021

When we come to Mass, we both hear God's word and are fed with the bread of Christ's flesh – Both the hearing and the communion are the Eucharistic liturgy. We begin Mass with the penitential rite, and unless we are in the frame of mind that says “I want to be changed”, we will not be ready to hear Christ and receive him. The bread he gives us is the food of travellers, the food of those willing to move, to be changed by him. Trying to present the Church's teaching on Holy Communion is a difficult undertaking: both to speak of and to accept, since the Church teaches that Holy Communion is nothing less than the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ, true and holy food and drink. Are we willing to change and accept something we may strongly resist at first? People of our own time may have a similar reaction to those who first heard Jesus speak. We may like them experience outrage. *This is intolerable language*, many of his followers say. Who does he take us for? Only cannibals eat human flesh!

If my words seem a little familiar, they are. What I have just said I said two weeks ago, but they are specially relevant to today's Gospel, the last in a series of four from John chapter 6 (we missed last Sunday's owing to the feast of the Assumption). I spoke of John's Gospel as the only one of the four Gospels that does **not** record the words of Our Lord as he blesses and shares the bread and wine at the Last Supper. Chapter six of John's Gospel may be construed as John's alternative to recording an account of which he was certainly well aware.

By combining what we know from the other three Gospels (the synoptic Gospels of Mt, Mk and Lk) of the words Jesus spoke at the Last Supper over the bread and wine together with what we know from this account of Jesus' teaching about the bread of life, it becomes clear how we receive the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion. We receive it under the form of bread and wine, but through the repeated words of consecration at each Mass (not the priest's words but the words of Jesus himself), the bread and wine are truly changed into the body and blood of Jesus. We have come to faith in Jesus; we, like Peter, know he has the words of eternal life. In the Holy Eucharist, we *devoutly* eat his Flesh and drink his Blood.

The theme of sacrifice constitutes Christianity. It is this which differentiates Christianity from other religions. Christianity came to proclaim the real sacrifice for sin which God had provided in order to supersede all the fumbling efforts which men had made to provide a sacrifice for sin for themselves.

But do we want to change? Do we want to see Jesus' *self-giving* as our New Law, the Pattern to follow? Does this Sacrament of Jesus' Sacrifice draw us to repent of our sins, which have helped bring about Jesus' Death? Do we still nurture a 'fleshly,' this-worldly attitude? – or will we let the Spirit re-shape our priorities so that we hunger for eternal life, and cherish others with a lively hope that they will be our friends forever in God? Do we measure Jesus' value to us in terms of what we would like him to do for us? – or are we open to the precise gifts the Divine Wisdom sees it best to grant? To what kind of deeper discipleship is the Holy Eucharist calling *us*?

