



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



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RC Archdiocese of Birmingham charity
(No 234216)

Twenty-seventh Sunday (A)

Sat 3 Oct 6.00pm

Sun 4 Oct 9.00 (Carterton) Fr John Bullen A

27th Sun 10.15am Sean Brick A / Mr Varghese A

Mon 5 Oct No Mass

Tue 6 Oct 6.30pm Fr John Bullen A

Wed 7 Oct No Mass

Our Lady of the Rosary

Thu 8 Oct 6.30pm

Fri 9 Oct 6.00pm (Burford)

St John Henry Newman. FAMILY FAST

Sat 10 Oct 6.00pm

Sun 11 Oct 9.00am (Bampton)

28th Sun 10.15am Fr Paul Spellman A

Standing Orders Please support the parish through a bank standing orders: you specify the amount you give monthly and only you can change this.

Parish bank details: Natwest Witney
23 High Street, Witney, Oxon OX28 6HW
Account: St Joseph's Catholic Church
Account No: 43009530 Sort code: 60 24 60
Forms for standing orders (and Gift Aid forms, should you pay tax) from the church.

Retiring collection

Fr Hudson's collection: £130

Retiring Collections

10/11 Oct CAFOD

17/18 Oct APF Missions

24/25 Oct Holy Places

None of these are diocesan but are for the church across the world and have been rescheduled.

***This weekend collection for Peter's Pence**
***Please take a CAFOD envelope for next Sunday's retiring collection** in respect of Friday's Family Fast Day.

Please pray for those who have died: Kevin Southwood, Anne Rooney, Esme Lyons, Janet Mansell, Mateo Bantug, Allan Tomkins, Phil Hocknell, Bridget Valentine, 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.
Anniversaries: Muriel Fella, Maggie Doran, David Doran, Sean Brick, Margaret Doyle, Dom Francis McKenna, Paddy Doran.

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, Loretta Walcott, Natalia Romanek, John Middleton, Pat Haddock, Mario Bugeja, Justin Family, Dom Michael Phillips, Kathleen Fagan, Jen Thomas, Ann Heaton, Celia McCauley, Elaine Barry.

Sacraments at home

Andrew will visit those who are sick or still shielding at home to bring Holy Communion and the Sacrament of the Sick. Please telephone or email me.

Confessions after all Masses except Sun 9.00am or by arrangement.

Stewards make Holy Mass possible If you could occasionally help with stewarding please contact Pauline McCormack-White mccormackwhite@gmail.com 845774.

Save time in registering for track & trace Scan the QR code with your smart phone NHS covid-19 app to check in.

Feast of St John Henry Newman (9 Oct)
Newman Night Walk Pilgrimage cancelled this year, but **Holy Hour at Bl Dominic Barberi Church, Littlemore on Thursday 8 October 8.30-9.30pm** (confession available)

Twenty-seventh Sunday (A) 04.10.2020

What a passionate and tragic cry of the heart is the first reading! The attentive care lavished by the Lord on his vineyard, Israel his people, yields not the largesse of a rich harvest but only sour grapes. There follow the hammer blows of his verdict: **I will** take away the protecting hedge, **I will** knock down the wall, **I will** lay it waste, **I will** command the clouds to rain no rain on it.

Both readings speak of the laborious process of cultivating vines. Isaiah's friend, the wine-grower, loves and cultivates his vineyard, which is the people of Israel *and the men of Judah that chosen plant*. He goes to enormous lengths to ensure that the vineyard enjoys every prerequisite for a rich harvest. What is produced in the former case are not sweet but sour grapes and in the latter, the tenants to whom he has entrusted its care reject, maltreat, kill and stone his servants, culminating in the expulsion and execution of his own son. Elsewhere, in John's Gospel, Jesus describes himself as the true vine and us as the grape-bearing branches. God does everything to encourage luxuriant, fruitful growth. He prunes the vine through his word, (the word par excellence is Jesus), so that the grape harvest may be optimal. But we do not value what God has done for us. We allow the landowner's vineyard to fall into neglect. We, the tenants, instead of being responsible stewards, take God's creation for granted and exploit it selfishly. The Kingdom of God is an attractive prospect; but in practice, God's chosen people have not always responded in faith and obedience to God's offer of friendship. Matthew shows through the use of Old Testament imagery and prophecy that the history of salvation is entering a new stage, leading to the Passion, death and Resurrection of the Son.

What happens to the vineyard in Isaiah's account is that it is laid waste, being grazed and trampled upon, unpruned and undug and overgrown. In the Gospel passage the chief priests and elders, who have failed as dutiful stewards, declare that the vineyard should be leased to other tenants who will deliver the produce when the time for harvest comes. Once again these leaders of the people pronounce their own sentence: they are unworthy. It is a parallel to the verdict of the first reading. The servants represent God's messengers, especially the prophets, who were habitually rejected, and the Son represents Our Lord, who is taken outside the vineyard (Jerusalem, the capital city of Israel) and brutally executed.

The parable emphasises that the very centre of Christian faith is the sending of God's Son with God's hope for the world: even though they have failed me in the past, they will surely respect my son. But they do not respect him. They kill him. Do we respect the Son, Our Lord Jesus? Do we allow him to inspire, influence and live in us, in our relations with others and ourselves, to be present in the vineyard of our life? Or are we deliberately deaf to him, preferring to have and do things our way?