



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



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RC Archdiocese of Birmingham charity
(No 234216)

All Saints (A) 01.11.2020

- Sat 31 Oct 6.00pm Holy Souls
- Sun 1 Nov 9.00am (Carterton) Margot Hince A
- All Saints 10.15am Fr Tom Williams LD
- Mon 2 Nov I will offer a private Mass for all Holy Souls.
- Tue 3 Nov 6.30pm Holy Souls
- Wed 4 Nov 9.30am **Class Mass** Holy Souls
St Charles Borromeo
- Thu 5 Nov 6.30pm Holy Souls
- Fri 6 Nov 6.00pm (Burford) Holy Souls
- Sat 7 Nov 6.00pm Holy Souls
- Sun 8 Nov 9.00am (Bampton) Holy Souls
- Remembrance Day 10.15am For the war dead

As we celebrate All Saints, and their lives of loving and supporting the most vulnerable in society, we pray for the courage to follow in their footsteps, by supporting the poor, the helpless and the unborn.

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

Retiring collection:

***Holy Places £85**

Johnson Association next weekend (7/8 Nov)

Sorry, I forgot the last named. It is the priests' retirement fund collection.

Government Lockdown Announcement

Since preparing this newsletter, the Prime Minister has announced a month's lockdown beginning on Thursday 5 November. There will therefore be no further Masses in the parish after Wed 4 November. **The church will be open for private prayer at the times when there would ordinarily be Mass.**

Please pray for those who have died: 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: Edith & Michael Carey, Anthony Farrugia, George Leverett, Margot Hince, Dom David Beer OSB, Gerry McGeough.

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, Elaine Barry, Miriam James, Rodrigo Bantug.

Hall bookings: manager needed

We have just started letting the hall again and need a bookings manager. Could **you** coordinate bookings which are done online?

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

November Holy Souls envelopes. To remember loved ones, please place names in an envelope. The names will be placed on the altar at all Masses in November.

School Class Masses in church on Wednesdays. Sadly at present **we cannot invite others** to join us.

All Saints (Thirty-first Sunday A) 01.11.2020

A friend with Asperger's Syndrome telephones me regularly to assure himself that misfortunes, which befall us all, will not be the case in heaven. He needs constant reassurance, but he needs to face as a Christian, which he is, the demands and situations of everyday life. In the morning we might sometimes have to tell ourselves: yes, I owe it to myself and others who may depend on me to get out of bed. A Christian does not have an easier life because of the belief that all will be well in God's loving providence. Christians do not avoid or distort present reality for the sake of happiness in life after death. (Pie in the sky when you die). We are imperfect. We are in need of God's grace. This is not to diminish the extraordinary things we are capable of; just to emphasise that we are sinful and inconsistent. We share a flawed human nature. Christians are realists in this. We need someone who reliably reveals the way and guides them along it. That person is Jesus Christ. The saints are his helpers.

From the earliest period of the Christian Church veneration of saints has been associated with the place where they were buried and specifically with their relics, the possession of which could in the medieval period literally make or break the fortunes of a town. In the first centuries, when there was continual persecution, it was above all the martyrs that were venerated as saints. It seems, for example, that Rome came to be of such importance for Christianity not because it was the administrative centre of the Roman Empire, the dominant political culture, but because both St Peter and St Paul were martyred there for the faith, and that above their tombs the primitive churches which we now know as the Basilicas of St Peter and St Paul respectively were built. The same goes for the Apostle St James at Santiago da Compostella in NW Spain or for St Alban, the first martyr of the island of Britain, at the Cathedral of St Albans. Later it was the shrine of St Thomas Becket in Canterbury and Our Lady of Walsingham which became important places of pilgrimage.

Thus the enthusiastic reception of St Therese of Lisieux's relics in England a few years ago reconnects with something very widely practised until the Reformation and something that is a profound human need: to be close to one's loved ones and to visit and decorate their graves with flowers, especially in this season when we remember All Saints this weekend, the Holy Souls (those waiting to enter heaven) on Monday and those who have died for their country in warfare on Remembrance Sunday.

Saints give themselves to God heroically and are drawn from every human estate, from kings and queens to peasant farmers, from business-men and artisans to beggars. The friendship of the saints in heaven for us here on earth is what today's feast is about. The friendship of the saints in heaven is a purer friendship than our human friendship because it is not based on any need they have, except the need to allow their joy and love to overflow into this world. They offer that friendship to us on earth and we need to accept it with gratitude and an open heart.

Becoming a saint is something every Christian should aim for, but we cannot achieve it by our own efforts. An essential part of sainthood is living *in Christ* in whatever state of life we are called to. Grace, the divine help which Christ freely offers to every person according to their situation, is how we get there. Saints co-operate with grace wholeheartedly and selflessly: they become Christ-like through the help Christ gives them. St Paul writes *I live; yet not I, but Christ lives in me*.

The Gospel is an illustration of those who have become happy or blessed through their heroic living out of the Christian virtues. This passage is called the beatitudes: the poor in spirit, the gentle, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers. Our Lord calls us to put these virtues into practice with the help of his grace.

