



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



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RC Archdiocese of Birmingham charity
(No 234216)

**No public Masses, but church open as below.
No use of Bampton on Sundays in November**

Christ the King (A) 22.11.2020

Sat 21 Nov 10.00am until 6.30pm P. Prayer
Presentation of Mary
Sun 22 Nov 9.00am P. Prayer
Last Sunday (A) 10.15am P. Prayer
Mon 23 Nov 10.00am P. Prayer
Tue 24 Nov 6.30pm P. Prayer
St Andrew Dung-Lac & Vietnamese Martyrs
Wed 25 Nov 10.00am P. Prayer
Thu 26 Nov 10.00am (Burford) P. Prayer
6.30pm P. Prayer
Fri 27 Nov 6.00pm (Burford) P. Prayer
Sat 28 Nov 6.00pm
Sun 29 Nov 9.00am P. Prayer
First Advent Sunday 10.15am P. Prayer

In accordance with what our Lord told us, may we take on the responsibility of serving the voiceless in our society - especially those imprisoned, the homeless, the widowed, the sick and the unborn. We pray for the Lord to fill our hearts with a passion for justice, knowing it is truly Him we are serving in our efforts.

November Lockdown

Church is open for private prayer at the times when there would ordinarily be Mass and some others. **Please pray daily at 6.00pm for all suffering directly and indirectly, especially those in care homes and their families and for an end to the pandemic. On Sat 21 November the church will be open 10am till 6.30pm to this end.**

Hamper We will provide a hamper for a person in need. Donations towards the cost welcome.

***Red Mission Boxes raised £589. Thank you.**

Please pray for those who have died: 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, Sue Hand.

Anniversaries: Alexandra Outram, Marie Claude Terry, Christopher Doran, Helen & Lawrence Rosario, Gwen Sawyer, Dolly Winfield, Catherine Knight, Francis Shergold, May Fowler.

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.

"Light up the town with a message of hope"

The idea is to make a lantern and display it in your window during the **first weekend in December** when the town lights would have been switched on and say a prayer for our community.

We have 10 simple lantern making kits available from Fr Andrew (email or call him). If we run out of kits there is no reason why people can't put something together themselves and join in.

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

Sue Hand died at home on 10 Nov. Please pray for her, for Pat and their children Chris and Becky. The parish and school remember Sue with affection for her love and service over many years. The date of the funeral has not yet been announced.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Bishops of England and Wales have met in prayer and dialogue to respond to the **final IICSA Report into the Catholic Church**. The report shows institutional failures on the part of the Church which failed to keep the vulnerable safe from abuse and failed to offer compassionate responses to those who suffered. It is with shame and profound sorrow that we recognise these failures and accept our need for a change of heart. Our first thoughts and prayers must always be for those who have suffered. In their terrible suffering we must also recognise that they are our best teachers on how to improve.

The bishops have also responded to the Elliot Report. This independent review and report was commissioned by the bishops to recommend changes that are necessary to ensure best practice in safeguarding in the Church at every level. Victims/Survivors of abuse in the Church have played a crucial role in presenting the bishops with these necessary recommendations. The bishops have accepted and will implement all the recommendations contained in both the Elliot and the IICSA Reports.

Safeguarding is the work of all of us in the Church. I wish to thank all the volunteers and clergy in our parishes who help to ensure that they are safe places for all-comers. The IICSA Report acknowledges the vast improvements over the last 20 years in safeguarding practices. The acceptance and implementation of the Elliott Review recommendations will help us all improve further. The Bishops' Conference, under the leadership of Cardinal Vincent, is committed to improve our practices and our responses to those who have suffered.

Abuse has no place in the Church. The Archdiocese will always report allegations to and co-operate fully with the police and statutory agencies. I invite anyone who has suffered abuse to contact the police or if appropriate to contact the Diocesan Safeguarding Team: safeguarding@rc-birmingham.org.

Thank you for your prayers for all those who have suffered abuse, within and beyond the Church, as well as for Cardinal Vincent and the bishops at this important moment.

With my prayers and every kind wish. Yours devotedly in Christ, **Archbishop Bernard 20.11.2020**

Readings for Christ the King (A) 22.11.2020

Ezekiel 34:11-12.15-17

First Letter to Corinthians 15:20-26.28

Matthew 25:31-46

Christ the King 22.11.2020

When the Gospel reading we have just heard is chosen for a funeral I tend to edit out the part which begins: *next he will say to those on his left hand, 'Go away from me, with your curse upon you to the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels...'* We recognise that judgement is unavoidable but recoil naturally enough from the weeping and grinding of teeth which is particularly prevalent in Matthew's Gospel; and we do well to balance the Gospel with the first reading from Ezekiel which presents an altogether more comforting image of the Lord who rescues his sheep from wherever they have been scattered; looking for the lost one, bandaging the one who is wounded and bringing back the stray. We will never plumb the depths of how God's justice and his mercy are reconciled and equitably applied. God is both just and merciful but I'm pretty sure that if we appealed to God for mercy on behalf of someone through the merits of Our Lord, the prayers of Our Lady and St Joseph, the Father would not refuse.

The Gospel passage is a masterpiece of composition on the part of St Matthew. It has no equivalent in the other two synoptic Gospels. It seems to present the Christian faith as a

religion of deeds of loving-kindness and love of neighbour. We remember that faith is essential too but that the essence of Christianity consists in the care of the needy and distressed. As St James says: *So you have faith and I have good deeds? Show me this faith of yours without deeds, then! It is by my deeds that I will show you my faith.*

This text is immediately attractive to non-Christians, since it not only speaks of the corporal works of mercy, (six of the seven are mentioned, except burying the dead), but Christ identifies himself with every single person in need: it is literally him whom one is serving. Examples of St Martin's beggar outside Amiens or the leper kissed by St Francis of Assisi. Both were Christ in disguise. These works of mercy have never been more topical or relevant. A quarter of food is wasted and much has been dumped in landfill, resulting not only in the hungry not being fed, but also massive methane pollution; throwing back massive quantities of caught fish into the sea, so-called by-catch, which are already dead according to the strictures of fishing policy. Access to clean water. Visiting the sick or prisoners. Making the stranger welcome. Do you know at least the Christian name of those people you may have sat next to in church for years?

It is not only a Simon of Cyrene who can help Jesus carry his cross: each of us can do so when we come to the assistance of someone suffering under a burden. Only by helping someone in small ways can that person so helped develop trust in us sufficient to request help in a really difficult situation. So it is not only a Veronica who wipes the face of Jesus: we wipe his face when we alleviate suffering and offer comfort.

So, active charity is a very concrete way of working towards the kingdom of God in our time. There are other ways of contributing towards the kingdom too. For example: not reminding someone of something they regret or are ashamed of; not retaliating in kind when someone insults or humiliates us; not telling lies to protect oneself. These are just as important in their own way.

So much more could be said on this great feast and final Sunday of the year. Christ the King calls to mind how Jesus offers himself as the symbol of a total gift of himself and perfect sacrifice for the world. He reigns from the cross as King of creation, a new recreation, so that ultimately he is able to present to the Father a world perfected in his image. For this it is necessary that we serve Christ in serving one another.

