



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



www.stjosephscarterton.uk
Andrew Foster, PP Tel 01993-842463
andrewjamesfoster1956@ntlworld.com
RC Archdiocese of Birmingham charity
(No 234216)

Second Lent Sunday (B) 28.02.2021

Sat 27 Feb Ned, Mary & Mama Mulvaney GE
Sun 28 Feb **Live-streamed 10.00 Mass**
2nd Lent Sunday Anna & Andrew Martin/The Remnants
Mon 1 Mar Fr Ollie Kemp LD
St David
Tue 2 Mar Khaliq / Mia GE
St Chad
Wed 3 Mar Cynthia Brick GE
Thu 4 Mar Elaine Barry GE
St Casimir
Fri 5 Mar Joan Lowery / John Titcombe GE
7.00pm World Day of Prayer (online)
Sat 6 Mar
Sun 7 Mar **Live-streamed 10.00 Mass**
3rd Lent Sunday Isalina de Freitas / Phil Rice GE

Live-streaming of Masses from St Joseph's continues on Sundays at **10.00am**. Details on the website: www.stjosephscarterton.uk

May I request that you **mute** yourselves to avoid your being heard?

Pastoral Ministry

Both Carterton and Burford churches remain closed. I will continue to offer Mass privately at both churches, and will be pleased to remember any Mass intentions. I do not propose to visit parishioners at home during lockdown but please contact me if you or anyone you know is in need of the sacraments. I will gladly come to you.

World Day of Prayer, Friday 5 March

The service for Carterton and Brize Norton is being recorded. It can be seen from 7.00pm on 5 March onwards. You can access it via St John's Church Facebook page or the website:

www.stjohnschurchcarterton.org.uk

St Joseph's School is in dire need of governors. Please pray that suitable people be found: perhaps you may be a candidate?

Please pray for those who have died: 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, Graham Copping, Romy Sadler-Tomkins, Jim & Lily Rooney, Terry Curtin, Frederick Shaw.

Anniversaries: Margot Hince, M. Gibbon, Gladys Poynor, Gerald Smith, Bp Kevin Dunn, Canon Peter Taylor.

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, John Pollock, Richard, Nkechi, Celia Fairbrother, Annette Steele, Pauline Allen, Stephen, Cynthia Brick, Fr Bernard Garratt, John Titcombe, Isalina de Freitas.

Parish 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

Aluminium and metal cans / scrap metal

We can sell alu tins (and non-alu tins) if you collect them. **All** metal tins (and smaller pieces of scrap metal) can be turned to good use.

The manager post at the Oxford

Catholic Chaplaincy is being readvertised at a higher salary. Closing Date Mon 1 March [Vacancies at the Oxford University Catholic Chaplaincy - Oxford University Catholic Chaplaincy \(catholic-chaplaincy.org.uk\)](http://Vacancies at the Oxford University Catholic Chaplaincy - Oxford University Catholic Chaplaincy (catholic-chaplaincy.org.uk))

Ask your MP to support a NEW amendment to help stop forced abortion in Xinjiang, China There is extensive evidence that many women in the Uyghur Muslim community in Xinjiang, China are being subjected to forced abortions.

Lord Alton is currently championing a new amendment to the Trade Bill, to help put international pressure on the Chinese Communist Party to stop the practice of forced abortions and wider human rights abuses that evidence shows is being perpetuated against the Uyghur community. The amendment passed in the Lords on 23 February by 367 votes to 214, and is likely to be voted on in the Commons shortly.

If you would like to email your MP asking them to support the amendment, you can do this easily using a tool which has been set up on the Genocide Response campaign website, which can be accessed by visiting the link below:

<https://genocideresponse.org/>

Readings Genesis 22:1–2, 9–13, 15–18. Romans 8:31–34. Mark 9:2–10

Second Sunday of Lent (B) 28.02.2021

I well remember Fr John Bradley, the priest of my home parish of Watlington (1982-1990) preaching on the sacrifice of Isaac and how it prefigures Jesus' own sacrifice. However he argued cogently that the symbol of Jesus was not Isaac but the ram which Abraham offered in his stead. After all it was the ram that was slaughtered, not Isaac.

The case of Shamima Begum has preoccupied me since the Supreme Court ruling on Friday. You may recall how Shamima secretly left the UK for Syria as a teenager with two other schoolgirl friends about six years ago, to join the Islamic State group ISIS and to become ISIS brides. She was stripped of her UK citizenship in 2019 by the Home Secretary with the excuse that, being entitled to a Bangladeshi passport by virtue of her Bangladeshi parents, this action would not make her stateless. Yet Bangladesh did not want her and threatened criminal prosecution should she ever visit the country. She is indeed effectively stateless. The UK Supreme Court ruled on Friday that she will not be allowed to return to the UK even to fight being deprived of citizenship, and she is unable to fight the case from the refugee camp where she is being detained in Syria. The court asserted that her rights were not breached when she was refused permission to return.

We may feel at once a mix of compassion for Shamima and disgust for her extremist views, in that she allied herself with a murderous group like ISIS. Having been duped and groomed at fifteen to leave Britain with two young friends to become an underage ISIS bride, she married a Dutch ISIS fighter and the three children she bore has each since died. Home Office officials declared 'public sentiment is overwhelmingly hostile' to Shamima Begum and argued removing her British citizenship would not affect community relations when they advised the Home Secretary, Sajid Javid, to act against her in 2019. The then Home Secretary was formally advised that 'the general feeling' was that the young woman, who travelled from east London to live under Isis in Syria, had made her decision and must now live with the consequences. She had made her bed and must lie on it. But public sentiment is probably much less hostile to Shamima now.

Jeffrey DeLaurentis, U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, has said: ‘We continue to monitor the alarming situation of tens of thousands of suspected foreign terrorist fighters remaining in conflict zones. We watch with concern as women and children languish in camps in dire conditions with little access to education, increasing the potential for their radicalization. The global threat from ISIS will grow if the international community does not repatriate their citizens.’ Agreed, fairness and justice for Shamima and others like her needs to be balanced against safeguarding the national security of the UK, but the negative consequences of not repatriating her may in the long term outweigh any security issues.

Both the first reading and Gospel speak of the sacrifice involved in commitment; the commitment of Abraham to God on the one hand and of Jesus’ commitment to the Father and his disciples to him on the other. The tragedy of the last century is that commitment to an ideal has been so often deformed into commitment to an ideology. Religious ideology has poisoned the very concept of religious faith. It has proved tragic to all like Shamima, who have imagined they have discovered an ideal and in fact it was ideology. We pray for all who are deceived by false gods and that they may discover the true God. We must needs share Christ’s cross if we are to share his resurrection. That stumped the disciples, and often stumps us too. It is difficult to understand and difficult to accept, though we must ‘listen to him’ and not be ashamed of his words, if he is not to be ashamed of us.

