



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

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RC Archdiocese of Birmingham charity  
(No 234216)



**Easter Sunday: Resurrection 04.04.2021**

Sat 3 Apr

**Holy Saturday**

Sun 4 Apr **Live-streamed 11.00 Mass**

**Easter Sunday Bampton 9.00am** Steve Gallup A

**Carterton 11.00am** Annette Steele LD  
Iris Allen A

Mon 5 Apr Fr Tim Burke A

Tue 6 Apr

Wed 7 Apr

Thu 8 Apr

Fri 9 Apr Fr Eamon Clarke A

Sat 10 Apr Canon Peter Jones A

Sun 11 Apr **Live-streamed 10.15am Mass**

**Divine Mercy Sunday**

**9.00am (Bampton)** Pauline Brett A

**10.15am (Carterton)** Isalina de Freitas GE

**N.B. Live-streaming of Sunday Masses from St Joseph's continues. On Easter Sunday at 11.00am and from SUN 11 APRIL ONWARDS AT 10.15am.** Details on the website: [www.stjosephscarterton.uk](http://www.stjosephscarterton.uk)

**Sat 6.00pm Masses** will be streamed on Zoom from Sat 17 April. The church remains closed except for Sunday Masses at the moment **PLEASE MUTE YOURSELVES** if on Zoom.

**Bampton.** Sunday Masses at 9.00am will continue on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. The next are Sun 11 and Sun 25 April.

**\*Pastoral Ministry** Please contact me if you or anyone you know is in need of the sacraments. I will gladly come to you.

**\*Red Boxes** Please return your Mission / APF boxes between now and the end of May.

**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, Annette Steele.  
**Anniversaries:** Jim Fleming, Ernest Walters, Isabela & Andrew Pinto, William & Doris Statham, Tom Buchan, Anne Lambe, Alec Somerfield, Pauline Brett.

**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, Pauline Allen, Stephen, Cynthia Brick, John Titcombe, Isalina de Freitas.

**\*Ed Poole** Big thank you to Ed for coordinating all the Easter Mass bookings.

**\*Mario Bugeja** sends Easter greetings to all his friends. He continues living at his daughter Evelyn's and is able to receive visitors when it becomes possible again.

**\*"Factoid"** The weight of the Antarctic ice cap distorts the shape of the Earth. (As the ice shelves continue to break off and melt, will the distortion decrease?)

First reading: Acts 10:34. 37- 43. Second reading: Colossian 3:1- 4. Gospel: John 20:1- 9

## **Easter Sunday 04.04.2021**

One could compare the Gospel of the transfiguration which we heard on the second Sunday of Lent to today's. How we should have liked to witness the transfiguration or the resurrection as did both St Peter and St John. We imagine that from then on everything would have been clear: relating our experience would have been the perfect put down to all those who continue in our day to demand concrete proof before they are willing to consider believing. Such evidence we imagine would be what the Americans call *slam-dunk*, incontrovertible. And yet, after a flash of clarity what follows tends to be perplexity and bewilderment. The instant when St John perceived, *he saw and he believed*, does not mean he was thenceforth absolved from the darkness which is a constant accompaniment of a life of faith: his and ours. Even doubting Thomas, whom we shall presently be meeting again in next Sunday's Gospel, continued to struggle with doubts: for a believer doubts cannot be eradicated.

In the silence of the empty tomb, Peter and John encountered themselves and they encountered God. It was perhaps an occasion to experience again what they had witnessed Jesus doing in the Temple (the Gospel of the third Sunday of Lent): cleansing it of extraneous commerce. The Church of Our Lord is not a business: it is about uniting the kingdoms of earth and heaven. Money is totally redundant in heaven and in the Christian scheme should be becoming redundant on earth. Why? Because we can have all that is worthwhile for the asking. Nothing that you do can make God love you any less: he is not in the business of cutting deals. Stop and let God be God. He is beyond our capacity to comprehend and he has on Easter morning just broken all the rules we thought we knew governing death and life.

Believing we have eternal life. Jesus said so in the Gospel of the fourth Sunday of Lent: belief in the love of the one who has sent his only Son into the world not to condemn but for eternal life. Love makes us vulnerable and involves sacrifice. The Father sacrifices his Son, the Son accepts. The Father asks us not to harden our hearts if we are to discern and respond to God's love. We need to examine our hearts: have we hardened them against God and our neighbour? Because if we have, we have sinned.

Jesus continued the theme of the love which implies self-sacrifice in the Gospel of the fifth Sunday of Lent, where the Greeks request permission of the disciples to see Jesus. Unless the grain of wheat dies it remains alone but if it dies it yields a rich harvest. We are most alone when we focus on ourselves and our own interests. We are richest, most fulfilled, most life-giving, happiest when we accept to be not at the centre but on the periphery, losing ourselves, poring ourselves out like Jesus. It has to be about service of others, the service which Jesus modelled by washing his disciples' feet at the Last Supper, by accepting death, death on a cross...but God raised him high and gave him the name above all others.

*That Christ is truly risen from the dead we know.  
Victorious king, thy mercy show.*



