



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



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RC Archdiocese of Birmingham charity
(No 234216)

Divine Mercy Sunday 11.04.2021

Sat 10 Apr Canon Peter Jones A

Easter Saturday

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

Divine Mercy Sunday

9.00am (Bampton) Pauline Brett A

10.15am (Carterton) Isalina de Freitas GE

Mon 12 Apr Catherine Kearns A

Tue 13 Apr Paddy Connors & Family

Wed 14 Apr

Thu 15 Apr Rosary Call

Fri 16 Apr **6.00pm Mass at Burford**

Sat 17 Apr

Sun 18 Apr **Live-streamed 10.15am Mass**

3rd Easter **9.00am (Carterton)** Florencio Gamad GE
Adele Maxwell A

10.15am Andrew & Isabel Pinto A

N.B. Live-streaming of Sunday Masses from St Joseph's continues at 10.15am. Details on the website: 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 are on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. On other Sundays the 9.00am Mass is at Carterton.

***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, Marie Whelan.

Anniversaries: James Lord, Cicely Ceresa, Dmyteo Terlekyj, Adele Maxwell, Fr Antony Conlon.

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, 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, Rodrigo Bantug, John Pollock, Richard, Nkechi, Celia Fairbrother, Pauline Allen, Stephen, Cynthia Brick, John Titcombe, Elaine Barry, Isalina de Freitas.

* Please pray for **Isalina de Freitas and Elaine Barry** who are both seriously ill.

*After a long illness and devoted care at home by her family, **Marie Whelan sadly died on Wed 7 April.** Please pray for her, for Patrick her husband and the family.

***Talk on Church Finances in a time of Pandemic** by Rev. David Palmer former Treasurer of the Archdiocese. **On Sun 18th April 1.45pm for a 2pm start.** In recent years income to parishes has steadily reduced and costs continue to rise. The pandemic will have a significant impact on that situation. So understanding the financial situation is topical. To register for the Zoom Meeting, Email: actabham@gmail.com

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All choices carry consequences. These are words of retired British Army Major General Timothy Cross. Choices conscientiously made, lead to true freedom, but freedom in and of itself does not lead to anything: it must be invested in a particular objective or goal to become freedom. When we think of our faith, it is inextricably linked to an irrevocable commitment or covenant. Whose covenant? God's. It is God's irrevocable commitment to us that make our commitments possible, since God's love is the rock upon which we build. It is the nature of any loving commitment. It was the nature of the marriage of more than seventy years of HRH Prince Philip and Her Majesty the Queen and it is the nature of every marriage. Why marriage? There is no commitment which people enter upon greater than marriage, since it describes a person's state and choice of life: it is a public declaration of commitment. It is the glue holding together a nation, not just from a religious or faith point of view but from any point of view. Major General Cross has stated that the British Army risks becoming a weaker and less effective defence force because of the weakening of marriage.

Hesed is a Hebrew word widely used of God's love in the Old Testament but difficult to translate. *Lovingkindness* (or *steadfast love*) is as close as one gets.

It speaks of a love that is loyal, covenantal, steadfast, and unending. Naturally the standard of love which Jesus sets by his example and his new commandment: love one another as I have loved you, supercedes the Old Testament, but the solidarity, collective ownership and mutual love of the first Christian community described in the first reading reflects this longstanding legacy. The practice of the first community was inspired and dictated by love because of their faith in the continuing risen life of Jesus among them. In the Gospel Thomas's profession of faith is the origin of his own loving witness to Jesus and that of all the apostles, since Thomas was not the only one to doubt, even after the Resurrection.

One of my favourite examples of the concept of Hesed occurs in the hymn of praise of Zechariah, the Benedictus, once the question of the name of his son, John the Baptist, had been resolved. (You will remember that he had been struck dumb for the duration of the pregnancy of his wife Elizabeth, for doubting the prophecy of Archangel Gabriel that they were to become parents late on in life). John is to *make known to his people their salvation through forgiveness of all their sins* and heralds *the loving kindness of the heart of our God who visits us like the dawn from on high*. God is making good on his covenant commitment and we the recipients are called to collaborate with him. We believe in Our Lord and witness with steadfast love and kindness to faith by erecting a culture and civilisation of life upon its firm foundations.

