



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

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RC Archdiocese of Birmingham charity
(No 234216)



Fourth Sunday of Easter 25.04.2021

Pray for Vocations

Sat 24 Apr 6.00pm **Streamed: no people**

Sun 25 Apr 9.00am (**Bampton**) + **People**

Fourth Easter Sunday Margie De Souza LD

10.15am **Streamed +People**

Elaine Barry LD / Isalina de Freitas LD

Mon 26 Apr

Tue 27 Apr Dominic Martin GE

Wed 28 Apr

Thu 29 Apr

St Catherine of Siena

Fri 30 Apr 6.00pm (Burford)

Sat 1 Apr 6.00pm **Streamed + People**

John Pollock GE

Sun 2 Apr 9.00am (**Carterton**) + **People**

Fifth Easter Sunday Renate Seber GE

10.15am **Streamed + People**

Santina Carrinchi GE

N.B. Live-streaming of 10.15am Sunday Mass

Details on website: www.stjosephscarterton.uk

PLEASE MUTE YOURSELVES

Church now OPEN for Mass on Saturdays, 6.00pm; Sundays 9.00am and 10.15am; Tuesday 6.30pm from 4 May; (+ Burford Fridays 6.00pm).

***Bampton:** Sunday Masses at 9.00am on the second and fourth Sundays of the month. On other Sundays the 9.00am Mass is at Carterton.

***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, Elaine Barry, Isalina de Freitas.

Anniversaries: Evelyn Morse, Anne Bowey, Gilbert Godfrey, Patricia Masraff, Phil Parker-Smith.

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, 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, Dominic Martin, Santina Carrinchi.

Stewards. In view of the fact that tens of thousands have died over the past year in the UK owing to becoming infected with Covid 19, I was staggered and dismayed that derogatory comments have been made about stewards who are trying to keep everyone safe at St Joseph's. Stewards go to some inconvenience and personal risk in volunteering to make Mass possible: the church would remain closed without their help and rightly so. Please have consideration for this situation by meekly doing precisely what you are requested.

First reading: Acts 4:8-12. Second reading: I John 3:1-2. Gospel: John 10:11-18

Fourth Sunday of Easter (B) 25.04.2021

The good shepherd lays down his life for his sheep. The theme of Jesus laying down his life for his sheep occurs five times in this short Gospel passage. The devotion of the good shepherd is contrasted to that of the hired man who has no real concern for the sheep, but abandons them at the approach of the wolf.

On this Good Shepherd Sunday when we are asked to pray for vocations (for good shepherds and shepherdesses) one should emphasise what unites **all** Christians. All of us all called to bear witness to Our Lord's love in a way specific to each and thus fulfil the commission of Jesus: *Go, make disciples of all the nations; baptise them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to observe all the commands I gave you.* (Mt 28)

In discerning one's vocation God's choice and will is paramount: do not compare yours to an apparently greater calling: God has chosen each person for a specific purpose. Each is irreplaceable in achieving God's purpose. We could certainly do with a few more priests. Women priests would be great and I am in favour, but it is not likely to happen in my life. Focusing on vocation we must pray for a **sense of Christian vocation**. How often / seldom do careers advisors even catholic ones counsel praying to do God's will? That would be in tune with a sense of Christian vocation.

What unites Christians is the sacrament of baptism. Vocation may be described as unfolding the grace of baptism. One can be a good shepherd for others in a limitless number of vocations and ministries. There is no greater vocation than being a parent shepherd to one's children and grandchildren, even godchildren. How often do parents lay down their lives for their sheep? At times almost daily.

Do we listen out for the voice of the shepherd? Do we trust Jesus? (*Jesus I trust in you*). Jesus shows us how to listen since he ever listens to his Father's voice and call. Do we allow ourselves not just to listen but be guided by the Lord? Are we familiar with his voice?

An essential and new aspect of being a good shepherd is introduced by Jesus. It is laying down his life for his sheep. A shepherd would gather the lost, care for the injured, protect the flock and guide it to pasture, (good teaching and spiritual nourishment). But laying down his life was not part of the job description. By so doing would the flock not be exposed to multiple dangers? Jesus, however, freely lays down his life in order to take it up again and so continue to shepherd it forever. It shows us how much God loves us. Do we love him as much as he loves us?

Jesus mentions *other sheep not of this fold* that he has to lead as well. These will listen to his voice and the flock will be united under one shepherd. We inevitably think of fellow Christians in other churches and the imperfect unity which exists among us. It would be wrong to interpret these words as guaranteeing unity but we trust that if we seek to do what the Lord asks us, we shall indeed be contributing to establishing the unity for which Christ prayed. In other words, we must be led here too by the Shepherd. Never should we believe that other Christians will simply be incorporated into our one true Catholic Church when once they notice the light. Unity is to be sought in mutual conversion of heart day by day. Sorry! Forgive me! Help me to start again and find my way back onto the narrow way with my brothers and sisters.

