



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



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RC Archdiocese of Birmingham charity
(No 234216)

Thirteenth Sunday (B) 27.06.2021

Sat 26 June 6.00pm Mass at Burford

Sun 27 June 9.00am (Bampton) John/Helen Chung A

13th Sunday (B) 10.15am People of the Parish

Mon 28 June

St Irenaeus

Tue 29 June 6.30pm Winnie Lythall

Ss Peter & Paul

Wed 30 June 9.45am School Class Mass. David Barry

Thu 1 July

Fri 2 July 6.00pm (Burford) Dom Michael Phillips GE

Sat 3 July 6.00pm Mass (Burford) John Ellis

St Thomas

Sun 4 July 9.00am (Carterton) People of Parish

14th Sunday (B) 10.15am Mgr Louis McRaye

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

Details on website: www.stjosephscarterton.uk

St Joseph's 6.00pm Saturday Mass

Could you be a school governor? St Joseph's is in dire need of governors. Speak to Andrew or contact the school on 841240.

Bank details for SO

Please pray for those who have died: Rodney Forder, Joe Lambe, Pauline Leverett, Olive Harcourt, Chris Murphy, Joan Clements, Monica Owen, Kate Gargan, 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, Marie Whelan, Isalina de Freitas, Elaine Barry, John Pollock, Dominic Martin.

Anniversaries: Bill & Margaret Canning, Charlie & Anita Lockton, Moira Cotterill, Trudi Chapman, Sheila Kynaston, Violet Kane, Hildegard Wick, Liz Meechan, Jessie Turner, Sara Scanlon.

Please pray for the sick, housebound and those in the armed forces suffering mentally and physically from the effects of war: Anne Gillick, Wendy Murray, Catherine Robinson, Peter Garfoot, Brendan Farrow, Phil Rice, Natalia Romanek, Pat Haddock, Mario Bugeja, Justin Family, Dom Michael Phillips, Kathleen Fagan, Jen Thomas, Ann Heaton, Celia McCauley, Pat Hand, Rodrigo Bantug, Cynthia Brick, John Titcombe, Zena Miles, Pat O'Neill.

Sacramental Preparation

***Holy Communion.** Parents of baptised children aged seven and above, not part of an existing group, wishing a child to be prepared for Holy Communion, please contact the parish priest.

***Confirmation** Parents of baptised children aged 10 and above wishing their child to be prepared for confirmation, please contact the parish priest. Preparation sessions will be on Sunday mornings in the church hall after 10.15am Sunday Mass **starting on Sunday 27 June** and will continue throughout the school summer holidays.

Vision for the Archdiocese. The Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Bernard outlined this. Leaflets explaining **The Diocesan Vision: Unfolding God's Plan** will be available soon

Thirteenth Sunday (B) 27.06.2021

I think of today's Gospel as Mark's 'sandwich Gospel' and it is one of my favourites. It exemplifies the fact that Mark, despite composing the shortest and most concise of the four Gospels, (one that is generally held to be the first to be written and the foundation for Matthew and Luke), was nevertheless a skilled stylist too. The inside or filling of the sandwich is the woman suffering from a haemorrhage, who is healed when she dares touch Jesus' cloak, and the outside is the beginning and end respectively of the story of Jairus's daughter, (one of only three people whom Jesus brings back to life from the dead.)

The first reading tells us that *God made man imperishable*. Death has an almost mesmeric quality for human beings, who may have a natural dread of death and what is beyond. God created all *to be*. In fact every human being who has ever lived continues to live before God: extinction is not part of his plan. Who could not be moved by the account of Jairus coming to Jesus and pleading for the healing of his desperately sick little girl, and by Jesus immediately going to help? In fact she succumbs to her sickness and Jesus takes her by the hand and saying *talitha kum, little girl I tell you to get up*, brings her back to life.

What unites both miracles is the sense of **touch**, one of the senses of which we have learnt over the last year of pandemic to beware. We do not shake hands or hug each other anymore, unless we are married or in a family group. Jesus knew the woman had dared to touch his outer garment and had felt healing power go out of him. (The reason the woman did not ask Jesus to touch her was that because of her illness she had become unclean and untouchable. She was not permitted to touch anyone and no one was permitted to touch her. There is still in India a whole caste of Hindus, the Daliths, who are literally untouchable.) Jairus asked Jesus to lay his hands on his daughter to make her well and he gently takes her by the hand.

A further aspect of touch is when we receive Holy Communion on our hands and place it on our tongue. At least four senses are involved. We see, feel, and taste the Christ's Holy Body and we hear the words, 'The Body of Christ', when it is placed on our hand or tongue. I read an extraordinary statistic yesterday, that seven out of ten of Catholics in the USA believed that Holy Communion was only symbolically the body and blood of Christ. We know that it is the body. Blood, soul and divinity of Jesus Christ, not the reward of saints but (blessed) bread of sinners. We pray that we may be touched in our hearts by the needs of all our neighbours and do what we concretely can to alleviate those needs, starting with people close to us.

Mike Overton writes:

In the 1960's The Holy Spirit sent us Roman Catholics the Second Vatican Council, a catalyst to re-think traditions, in a rapidly changing world: and the opportunity to update understandings of theology, in the light of new scholarship. The Council wanted clergy and the laity to come together in synods, and through the prompting of the Holy Spirit, give focus and vitality to our Christianity.

Some things did change last century, but the devolution of control to synods of Bishops, did not happen. Control remained in Rome.

In 2013 the Holy Spirit tried again, He gave us Pope Francis, a totally different style of old man! Who wished for a great deal to change within the Roman Catholic Church. He

wanted the Vatican Council proposals to happen. He wanted doctrinal authority to rest with Bishops gathered in synod, (not with the Pope and the Curia.) He wanted what you and I think, and feel, when we are gathered together as the people of God, to be a big part of this up-dated Roman Catholic Church. Over all he wanted to stress the love God has for us, and God's mercy, when we fail.

Father Andrew wants to start a lay group, which meets regularly to share what the writings of Pope Francis sparks in each of us. In this way we become familiar with Francis's ideas, and can make known our collective personal responses, for the great synod that will happen in about two years.

Please do join this new group of fellow Catholic parishioners. Contact Mike (01451 – 821338) or Andrew (01993 – 842463).