



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

Fifteenth Sunday (B) 11.07.2021

Sat 10 July 6.00pm (Burford) Bernard McCarthy LD

Sun 11 July 9.00am (Bampton) Holy Souls

15th Sunday (B) 10.15am Isalina de Freitas LD

Mon 12 July

Tue 13 July 6.30pm Brian Clifford A (Fr P. Farrelly)

Wed 14 July 9.45am Fr Jim McGloin RIP

Thu 15 July 6.00pm Fr Robert Wright RIP

St Bonaventure

Fri 16 July 6.00pm (Burford)

Sat 17 July **11.00am Holy Communion**

6.00pm Mass (Burford) Holy Souls

Sun 18 July 9.00am (Carterton) Special Intention

16th Sunday (B) 10.15am Dominic Martin LD

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

Details on website: www.stjosephscarterton.uk

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

EMAIL SCAM

If you receive an email purporting to come from Andrew Foster requesting you buy any voucher, it is a scam. I apologise. I am increasing my email security and have changed my password.

Andrew away ...again! 19 to 26 July incl.

I am away in Orkney. Dom Henry Wansbrough will offer Mass on Sat 24 6.00pm at Burford and on Sun 25 July 9.00am at Bampton. Canon Kenneth Noakes will offer 10.15am Mass on 25 July at Carterton.

www.stjosephscarterton.uk

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RC Archdiocese of Birmingham charity

(No 234216)



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, Zena Miles, Dominic Lackschewitz- Martin.

Baptism: Isaac KERNAGHAN at St Mary's 11 July 1.00pm

Anniversaries: Sheila & Seamus Edney, Lilian Barry O'Brien, Kevin Mayne.

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, Kathleen Fagan, Jen Thomas, Ann Heaton, Celia McCauley, Pat Hand, Rodrigo Bantug, Cynthia Brick, John Titcombe, Pat O'Neill.

Parish Bank details for Standing Orders.

Natwest sort code 60-24-60 and account 43009530. Thanks to all who support the parish in this way. **Would you be happy to sacrifice collections permanently? Would you be content to set up a bank standing order (SO) as an alternative? SO's are DIFFERENT from Direct Debits (DD). DD's allow the business in question to increase the DD they receive. In the case of a SO, it is ONLY YOU who can increase or decrease the amount you give!**

***Holy Communion.** Please let the parish priest know of children (7 or older) wishing to be prepared. September start.

***Confirmation** Preparation sessions on Sunday mornings in the church hall after 10.15am Sunday Mass starting **Sunday 11 July.**

Vision for the Archdiocese. Leaflets explaining **The Diocesan Vision: Unfolding God's Plan.** Please take one.

**Readings Amos 7:12-15. Ephesians 1:3-14. Mark 6:7-13
Fifteenth Sunday (B) 11.07.2021**

Once again, my friends, I am diverging entirely from the readings of this Sunday to speak briefly about a subject where there have been rapid and momentous developments in recent weeks. It is marriage. An editorial in the *Spectator* of 23 June is entitled 'Forget race or class, marriage is the big social divide.' A 'Family Resources Survey' carried out by the Centre for Social Justice, states 'the disparity in marriage between rich and poor white families in the UK is very, very stark.' In the wealthiest fifth of white families 84% of parents are married and 12% cohabit. In the poorest fifth, 19% are married and 9% cohabit. This means that in the first group 96% of children have two parents and in the second 28%! Research shows that a married mother and father provide the best circumstances in which to bring up a child. If a drug showed the (same) sort of effects as marriage...it would be in our children's systems faster than you can say Oxford-AstroZeneca.

Eight years ago an act of Parliament effectively redefined marriage to be the union between two adults of any sex. Just over a week ago the Methodist Church became the largest religious denomination in Britain to permit same-sex marriages. The Anglicans and Catholics have maintained their teaching and practice on marriage, but for how long?

The Government insisted 8 years ago that there is a distinction between civil marriage and religious marriage, and that their proposals would not affect what happens in Churches. This is a misunderstanding. Marriage is a natural institution, and one that pre-dates organised religion and the state. The concern of the Church is first and foremost about preserving the meaning of marriage as such for the common good of society. Furthermore there is the issue of religious freedom and what happens in Churches. When a Catholic priest marries a couple, he has done so as a person authorised by the Registrar General to conduct a wedding in the absence of a registrar, including the function of signing the register of marriage. This is a 'public function' and it would be undermined if a court were to determine that if a Catholic priest is to be so authorised, he must act in accordance with the wider public sector equality duty and thus be ready to marry same-sex couples.

The Government has defended same-sex marriage on the basis that marriage is a state recognising love and commitment. This principle now established by law logically leads to the inevitability that other relationships involving love and commitment will also seek recognition as marriage. In Canada, even before the law changed here, a decision to allow same-sex marriage was swiftly followed by a legal challenge claiming that the state's law on marriage discriminated unfairly against polygamy.

Marriage is not just about the couple. It has always been about a life-long bond between a man and a woman, because that provides the best environment for the creation and upbringing of children: it is for the common good of society. The Catholic Bishops' Conference commented back in 2012 before the law was changed that 'if the Government introduces legislation for same-sex marriage, it will bring marriage within the scope of a wide range of legal challenges as to its meaning, limitations, and religious aspects. No one can have any idea of the eventual outcome.'

In his address to a region of the USA Bishops Conference in March 2012, Pope Benedict XVI said: "defending the institution of marriage as a social reality is ultimately a question of justice, since it entails safeguarding the good of the entire human community and the rights of parents and children alike."