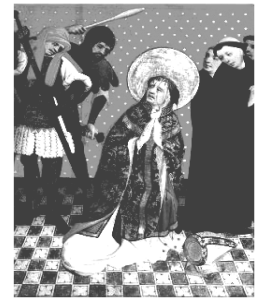




THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF RUTLAND

ST JOSEPH, OAKHAM & ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, EXTON



Parish Priest: Fr Stephen Dye email stephendye@btinternet.com
 Presbytery, Station Road, Oakham LE15 6QU Tel: **01572 722308**
Deacon Rev. Raymond Keogh Tel: **01572 755360**

3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

12 th December	Vigil Mass	Saturday	6.30 pm	St Joseph	Gabriel Falconbridge's Intentions
13 th December	Third Sunday of Advent Gaudete Sunday	Sunday	9.00 am	St Thomas	Pro Populo
			10.30 am	St Joseph	Agnes & Geoff Wallace RIP
14 th December	St John of the Cross	Monday	9.30 am	Holy Mass	Kevin O'Shea RIP
15 th December	Advent Feria	Tuesday	9.30 am	Holy Mass	Terrence Hart's Intentions
16 th December	Advent Feria	Wednesday	9.00 am	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	
			10.00 am	Holy Mass	O'Kane Family Intentions
17 th December	Advent Feria	Thursday	9.30 am	Holy Mass	James Black RIP
18 th December	Advent Feria	Friday	9.30 am	Holy Mass	June Sheasby's Intentions
			7.00 pm		NO LATIN MASS THIS WEEK
19 th December	Vigil Mass	Saturday	6.30 pm	St Joseph	Trish Brophy (Good Estate)
20 th December	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Sunday	9.00 am	St Thomas	Rita Dawson RIP
			10.30 am	St Joseph	Pro Populo

Confession Times: Wednesday: 9.15 am – 9.45 am; Saturday: 11.30 am – 12.00 noon & 5.15 pm – 5.45 pm

THIS WEEK ROTAS	Saturday 12 th December	9.00 am (Exton)	Sunday 13 th December
Welcomers	C Collins		J Nash & P Reilly
Readers	T Reilly & A de Kremer	P Pitts	C Miller & N O'Rourke
Minister of Eucharist	M Donn & M Port	J Aitkens	L Perril & G Tennant
Coffee			V Wands & M Kenning
NEXT WEEK ROTAS	Saturday 19 th December	9.00 am (Exton)	Sunday 20 th December
Welcomers	J Williamson & C Berrie		M Mildner & Y Nicolle-Anderiesz
Readers	R Lott & J Widdows	B Moore	I Kearney-Rose & R Tennant
Minister of Eucharist	S Morrell & A Wilkinson	L Knowland	M Pryke & N O'Rourke
Coffee			S Archer & E McCombie
Church Cleaning	E Keogh & R Streeter		

Parish Website	www.stjosephs-oakham.org	
Primary School – English Martyrs	Willow Crescent, Oakham	www.englishmartyrs.rutland.sch.uk
Acting Head Teacher	Mrs A Chambers	Tel: 01572 722400
Children's Liturgy Group	For children up to First Holy Communion	
Safeguarding Representative	Irene Kearney Rose	Tel: 01572 823883
Parish Support Group - HELP	Hilary Davis	Tel: 01572 724256
Prayer Groups	Martin & Barbara Black	Tel: 01572 724918
Chairman – Parish Pastoral Council	Sarah Archer	Tel: 01572 756622
Parish Newsletter	Eileen Worrall Hilary Davis Maria Marriott	eileenworrall@hotmail.com hilaryj@uwclub.net tantucat@yahoo.co.uk

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING WHO ARE ILL: Colleen Lully, Mary Hurst, Bernadette Wilkinson, Pearl Duffy, Mary Crump, Sarah Ennis, Marie-Jeanne Lloyd-Hughes, Eileen Cox, Enid Wootton, Susan Healey, Helen Reilly, Stephen Walters, Christopher Brown, Elizabeth Brown, John O'Brien, Maura & Mike Goulding, Philip Quinn, Simon Duncan, Fiona Ruddle, Theresa Thompson, Patricia Slater, Monique Pryke, Tim Maskell, Elisabeth Simpson, Claire Smith, Peter Tookey, Bill Hiscocks, Sharon Larkworthy, Mark Smith, Tim White, Helena Woolford, Megan Owens, Veronica Wands, Robert Johnstone, Monica Holt, Tricia Brophy, Michael Rimmer, John Rhodes, Elizabeth Fay, Myra Smith, Mike Ellis, Rhona Morris & John Widdows

Anniversaries †

Gladys Reuse, Agnes Wallace, Willott Graczyk, John Patrick O'Shea, Monica Joyce, Pauline Goater, Evelyn Bush, Helen Cooke, Charles Hobbs, Margaret Battersly & Thomas Wilson

Last Week's Collection

Loose Plate	£202.58
Envelopes	£181.75
S/O	£540.00
Totals	£924.33

Don't forget to join us for Coffee after Mass on Wednesday and Sunday.



Sunday Masses at Uppingham in the School Chapel at 12.15 pm: Dates for 2016 to be confirmed

Retiring Collection this weekend for New and Poor parishes

The Year of Mercy announced by Pope Francis began officially on 8th December 2015 and continues until 20th November 2016. His intention is that the "balm of mercy" should reach everyone and that this would be a sign that the Kingdom of God is present in our midst. As well as an opportunity for our own spiritual growth, it is also a time to reflect upon the corporal and spiritual works of mercy, i.e. our love in action.

There is a Diocesan website: www.bemerciful.co.uk which will be a hub for events and activities during the year. Bishop Patrick would like each parish and each school to reflect upon what they are already doing through the lens of mercy and then undertake one further act of mercy.

The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy

1. Counselling the doubtful
2. Instructing the ignorant
3. Caring about sinners
4. Comforting the afflicted
5. Forgiving offences
6. Bearing wrongs patiently
7. Praying for the living and the dead

The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy

1. Feeding the Hungry
2. Giving drink to the thirsty
3. Clothing the naked
4. Welcoming the stranger
5. Visiting the sick
6. Visiting the imprisoned
7. Burying the dead

Prepare well for the Birth of Our Lord by making a good confession. There are five Penitential Services in the Grantham Deanery as follows:

Deanery Penitential Services

Tues 15 th December:	St Gilbert's, Bourne at 7.00 pm
Weds 16 th December:	St Mary's, Grantham at 7.00 pm
Thurs 17 th December:	St John's, Melton at 7.00 pm
Friday 18 th December:	St Augustine's, Stamford at 7.00 pm
Sunday 20 th December:	St Joseph's, Oakham at 4.00 pm

Are you involved in your Parish Confirmation programme?

Are you in need of new resources, support, ideas and inspiration? Then join others from across the Diocese at The Briars Retreat Centre, on Friday 15th to Sunday 17th January 2016. Retreat will begin with supper at 6.30 pm on the Friday and finish at 2.00 pm after lunch on the Sunday. For more details, please contact Teresa on 01773 852044 or bookings@ncdys.com.

Parish Christmas Card is available to sign. Rather than send individual cards to parish friends why not send greetings in the parish card and donate the money saved to Mary's Meals. (Any money raised before the 28th December the government will double).

We welcome English Martyrs School (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6) to St Joseph's for their carol service on Wednesday 16th December at 5.45 pm. Everyone is welcome!

First Holy Communion Preparation classes for Holy Communion will commence mid-January. More details will follow later. Forms to be filled in by parents will be in the church porch in a couple of weeks.

Foodbank Christmas Hampers A big thank you to all who contributed to the Foodbank Christmas hampers. £320 was collected and has now been sent to the Foodbank.

Parish Concert and Social Evening will take place on Thursday 17th December at 7.00 pm. Please come and enjoy a relaxed evening of music and song followed by a shared table in the Meeting Room. Everyone welcome.

Christmas Hamper Raffle in aid of Mary's Meals. Tickets priced £1 will be on sale after Masses this weekend 12th/13th December. Winning ticket will be drawn after the Christmas Concert on Thursday 17th December.

Priest, Prophet and King – A series of three Advent Reflections by Bishop Robert Barron This series of reflections by Bishop Robert Barron is the ideal way to prepare to welcome Jesus anew this Christmas. Who was Jesus, the child in the manger, who grew up to become an itinerant preacher whom many called the Messiah? Through this deeply biblical program, you will come to understand Jesus better, become more familiar with Scripture, and understand your own call to be priest, prophet, and king; the mission that you received when you were baptised. Bishop Barron uses biblical insights and engaging stories and affirms that we see Jesus most clearly through the lens of the Old Testament. To be held in the Meeting Room on Wednesday 2nd, 9th and 16th December at **7.45 pm (Please note change of time.) Not to be missed.**

Appeal I am desperately looking for a car seat for a 1 year old for December/January. Would prefer one that fits inside a seatbelt, but anything would be good. Please contact me either at Mass or on 01572 759153. Siobhan Taylor

200 Club

1st Prize
2nd Prize
3rd Prize

October Winners

Patricia Venn
Janet Chalmers-Stevens
Mrs E Cox

November Winners

Ken Williamson
Evelyn Rees
Veronica Wands

A very warm welcome to all our visitors this weekend

Additional notices/information

Please note any cheques made out to the Parish should read St. Joseph's Oakham RCP. Thank you.

CAFOD Fast Day The recent CAFOD Fast Day raised £362.00. Thanks to all who support this.

CAFOD Refugee Appeal The final total to be sent to the CAFOD Refugee Appeal is £374.45.

Have you room for an extra place at your table on Christmas day? For £12.20 you can feed a little one every day for a year with a substantial meal and make them smile! Mary's Meals will sort it for you!

Christmas Flowers Collection Thank you to everyone who contributed towards the flower collection which raised £114.86

MSF have sent a thank you letter for the donation of £110.19 raised at a stall in the Market Place in August.

Mary's Meals Money sent to Mary's Meals from:

Sunday Coffee	£57.00
Summer produce and donations	<u>£100.00</u>
TOTAL	£157.00

Many thanks to English Martyrs children and staff for decorating our "Door of Mercy". If you haven't noticed it yet, come and have a look – it's really good. We look forward to many people walking through it.

Jubilee of Mercy

Message from Bishop Patrick regarding the Jubilee of Mercy: 8th December 2015 to 20th November 2016 The Year of Mercy officially started on the 8th December 2015. As well as an opportunity for our own spiritual growth, it is also a time to reflect upon the corporal and spiritual works of mercy – our love in action. In response to this, we have set up a diocesan website: www.bemerciful.co.uk which will be a hub for events and activities during the year. It has ideas for what parishes, schools and individuals can do, as well as downloadable material, news and other helpful information. There is also a resource booklet which will give you some ideas to start with. In this coming year, I would like each parish and each school to reflect upon what they are already doing, but through the lens of mercy, and then undertake one further act of mercy. In this way, I hope there will be a legacy in every parish and school. Bishop Patrick.

The Corporal Works of Mercy Some practical ways of being merciful . . .

1. Feed the hungry: Collect for your local food bank, or volunteer to help; raise funds for a charity that offers food for overseas – 'Mary's Meals, for example; make sure that you offer Fair Trade tea and coffee after Mass and at parish events.
2. Give drink to the thirsty: Raise funds for charities such as 'Water Aid' that provide clean water and sanitation; ask: where can homeless people and street sleepers in our parish get a drink of water or use a toilet? Could we do something to help?
3. Clothe the naked: Donate decent clothes you don't need to 'Sharewear' (sharewearclothingscheme.org) or to a charity shop; support campaigns like the 'International Clean Clothes Campaign' that helps workers in the garment industry fight for better pay and working conditions – and let retailers know that you are concerned.
4. Visit the sick: Is there a hospital or hospice in your parish? Do they need volunteers? Time can be just as valuable as money! Be aware of invisible forms of illness and disability, of the needs of people with depression, or families with a child with a disability. Help them to be welcomed, included and supported by the parish. What about Street Pastors, helping the vulnerable in our towns and cities on a Saturday night?
5. Shelter the homeless: Find out about homelessness in your parish. Day centres, night shelters, winter shelters all need volunteers. Look for opportunities to work with others! Refugees and asylum seekers also need help with finding shelter. Could you support 'Host' or 'Night Stop' in your nearest city?
6. Visit the Imprisoned: If there is a prison in your area, contact the Chaplaincy to see what help is needed; learn more about people trafficking and other forms of modern slavery. Prisoners' families also need support, and so do men and women leaving prison. Remember Prisoners' Sunday.
7. Bury the dead: Campaign against assisted dying and press politicians to fund good palliative care for all who need it. Be aware of people in the parish who may be dying alone, and see what can be done to support them. How does your parish support the bereaved?