



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
 Rev Deacon Raymond Keogh - Tel: 01572 755360



Third Sunday of Advent

12th December	Vigil Mass	Saturday	4.30 pm	Holy Mass	Lesley and Chris Knowland's Intentions
13th December	Third Sunday of Advent (Gaudete)	Sunday	11.00 am	Holy Mass	All Parishioners, Visitors, Relatives and Friends of our Church Community
14th December	St John of the Cross	Monday	10.30am	Holy Mass	Requiem Mass for Aline Egan
15th December	Advent Feria	Tuesday		Holy Mass	Gerard Holmes (Good Estate)
16th December	Advent Feria	Wednesday	10.00 am	Holy Mass	Shirley Topaz RIP
	Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament		10.30 am – 12 noon	St Joseph	Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
17th December	Advent Feria	Thursday		Holy Mass	Peter and Hilary Davis' Intentions
18th December	Advent Feria	Friday		Holy Mass	Philip Hutchinson RIP
19th December	Vigil Mass	Saturday	4.30 pm	Holy Mass	Ann Robinson's Intentions
20th December	Fourth Sunday of Advent	Sunday	11.00 am	Holy Mass	All Parishioners, Visitors, Relatives and Friends of our Church Community

Please note

If you wish to attend Holy Mass on Wednesday, Saturday or Sunday, please ring Maria on 01572 722308 to book a place or email rcchurchoakham@live.co.uk.

Please note that no bookings are taken for the weekend Masses after Thursday at 6.00 pm.

Parish Website	http://www.stjosephs-oakham.org	
English Martyrs Primary School Head Teacher	Willow Crescent, Oakham Alison Chambers	www.englishmartyrs.rutland.sch.uk Tel: 01572 722400
Children's Liturgy Group	For children up to First Holy Communion	11.00 am Mass in term time
Safeguarding Representative	Maria Marriott	rcchurchoakham@live.co.uk
Parish Support Group - HELP	Hilary Davis	Tel: 01572 724256
Prayer Groups	Martin and Barbara Black	Tel: 01572 724918
Chair - Parish Pastoral Council	Jim O'Kane	Tel: 01572 755112
Parish Newsletter	Eileen Worrall	eileenworrall@hotmail.com

Please pray for the following who are ill: *Colleen Lully, Mary Hurst, Sarah Ennis, Marie-Jeanne LloydHughes, Philip Quinn, Teresa Thompson, Claire Smith, Sharon Larkworthy, Halina Woolford, Elizabeth Fay, Myra Smith, Janet and Barry Chalmers-Stevens, Fr David Bowler, Annie Welsh, Daniel Dopson, Floss Jepson, Joy Widdows, Krystyna Chritchlow, Sally Blythin, Dennis Trevor, Richard Goodger, Jim Whalley, Anne Stevenson, Fr John Trenchar, Caterina Harrison, Elisabeth Simpson, Florence Valentine and Alison Pepperdine.* If you cannot see your loved one's name in this sick list online you need to sign a consent form – please email Maria at rcchurchoakham@live.co.uk

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

Last Week's Collection	
Envelopes	£152.50
Loose Plate	£ 50.00
Standing Orders	£650.00
Total	£852.50

Spiritual Communion
 My Jesus,
 I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.
 I love You above all things,
 and I desire to receive You into my soul.
 Since I cannot at this moment receive You Sacramentally,
 come at least spiritually into my heart.
 I embrace You as if You were already there
 and unite myself wholly to You.
 Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

A New Parishioner Please welcome into God's Holy Catholic Church, Bayley Halpin, who will be received on Sunday 13th December. Please say a prayer for him as he takes this important step in his spiritual life.

Congratulations and Best Wishes to Michal Czapor and Alison Conklin who celebrated their wedding at St Joseph's on Saturday 5th December. Please pray for them as they begin their new life together.

Christmas Masses
 We appreciate that many of you will want to go to Holy Mass at Christmas including people visiting you. However, Masses over Christmas will be subject to the same restrictions as now and we will be operating the usual pre-booking system. That means that we can only accommodate 24 individuals or a few more if there are family groups. This means that some of you who want to come to Holy Mass may not be able to do so. Fr Stephen will be putting on extra Masses over Christmas but that may not meet the anticipated demand. In the light of this, Bishop Patrick has asked us to remind all parishioners that like Easter, the Nativity of the Lord is one of the two solemnities in the Ordinary Form of the Church's liturgical calendar which has its own Octave. The Church regards each day in an Octave as if it were the solemnity itself. So, for example, the prayers for Holy Mass during the Christmas Octave refer to each day as if it were still Christmas Day. This means that, liturgically, each of the days from 25th December to the 1st January is 'Christmas Day'. So, you can come and celebrate the mystery of Christmas at any of the Masses during the Octave days. Would you please pre book in the usual way but without specifying which day you wish to come to Mass and you will be allocated one Mass within the Octave. This will allow us to maximise the number of people we can accommodate. It is an act of Christian charity for every parishioner and visitor to be sensitive to the needs of others. Please also remember that these Masses do not just happen. We are dependent on volunteers, willing to give up part of their own Christmas, to sanitise the church before and after every Mass and to act as stewards on the day. Thank you for your understanding.

Deacon Raymond

Thursday 24th	Christmas Eve	4.30pm and 8.00pm
Friday 25th	The Nativity of the Lord	9.00am and 11.00am
Saturday 26th	St Stephen, the first Martyr	4.30 pm
Sunday 27th	The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph	9.00am and 11.00am

Homeless Visitors Can you spare a tin of soup or tinned food? Fr Stephen often gets homeless visitors who need food. Could you spare a tin of food for them? If so, please either give to Maria on WEDNESDAY OR SATURDAY or leave them in the box Fr Stephen's porch (carpark side), CLEARLY MARKED for the HOMELESS VISITORS. Many thanks.

Planned Giving Scheme - Envelope holders If you are concerned about not being able to donate weekly, you may wish to contribute via the parish bank account. If so, please contact Maria at rcchurchoakham@live.co.uk. Many thanks.

Book of Remembrance This is an ongoing project, so if you wish to have the names of loved ones inscribed in our book, please contact Maria at rcchurchoakham@live.co.uk.

Our Sick List If you would like someone to be added to the Sick Parishioners list, please contact Maria at rcchurchoakham@live.co.uk.

Mass Intentions If you wish to have a Mass said for anyone living or deceased, please contact Maria at rcchurchoakham@live.co.uk

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

Thank you for the Donations - 2 Envelopes Marked 'Missio' one for £20 and one for £40 - No contact details on either

Diocesan Carol Service

Carol services are a wonderful family tradition of our Advent and Christmas celebrations, and often are a great opportunity to invite those who are not regular Churchgoers to connect with our parish or chaplaincy community. This can be quite challenging to do this year, so we are offering a virtual Diocesan carol service. We will celebrate a short online carol service on **Friday 18th December at 6.00 pm** on Bishop Patrick's YouTube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/BishopPatrickMckinney>) with readings, music, prayers and reflections. Please join us as a family and invite others to join us too. After the service grab a mince pie, something warm to drink, and join us on Zoom for our family Christmas Quiz (6.45 pm-7.15 pm). The link and access code will be given out during the service.

COVID-19 and Vaccination

The Bishop has received a number of letters from concerned Catholics with regards to the new vaccine which has been developed to combat the coronavirus.

In September 2020, the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales issued a statement COVID-19 and Vaccination (24th September 2020). In the light of the recent breakthrough in vaccine development, they have now issued a follow-up statement (3rd December 2020) which can be found on the CBCEW website along with the original September statement. Please take the time to read this statement on <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/home/our-work/health-social-care/coronavirus-guidelines/update-on-covid-19-and-vaccination/>

Congratulations to Marie Johnson celebrating 100th Birthday

Marie Johnson (resident of Belton House) has only been a member of our parish since 2019, having lived all her life in the West Midlands, but has had links here through her daughter, Teresa Thompson, since 1971. As a keen craft hobbyist, she supported many fund raising events for English Martyrs and St Joseph's with donations of her work, especially during the years that her grandchildren attended the school.

Before her marriage to Harold, a builder and plumber, she worked as a shop girl, including during the war years, but her greatest vocation was as wife and mother. She has survived her husband, who passed away at Belton just a year ago, and two of her children, Andrew and Anne who both had Downs Syndrome. She has endured all her life's ups and downs with endless patience and fortitude and well deserves to celebrate reaching the grand age of **100 years on Saturday 12th December.**

CHURCHES TOGETHER IN OAKHAM

Oakham Hope into Action house

Update November 2020

It is now nearly two months since the second of our two tenants moved into the house and we are pleased and thankful to the Lord that both of them have responded well to their new situation. The chaps are getting to know each other and both of them are making great efforts to settle down responsibly in their new home.

After periods of homelessness, it takes time to adjust, to gain self-respect and confidence and it is great to see the strides that both chaps have been making. This is in a large part also due to them being given much needed support and encouragement by the team of friendship and support volunteers who represent our churches in Oakham and each one of the team is owed our thanks, and our continued prayers. The Rutland Foodbank too has been hugely helpful during the Covid restrictions and our thanks are due to them as well.

Christmas is approaching and some church members have asked what additional seasonal support might be welcomed. A small decorated Christmas tree for the house and a small hamper of Christmas treats for the chaps to share will be donated by Churches Together.

In addition, a few Christmas cards from church members to "the chaps in the Oakham Hope into Action House" would also be much appreciated and would reinforce our message to them that they are not alone or forgotten.

If you would like to help in one of the ways suggested, have a word with Hilary Davis, one of the support team.

Please continue to pray for the project and what it is seeking to achieve.

Thank you

Project Steering Group and Support Team

The Christmas Gospels In the days before Christmas and for several days afterwards we read from the 'infancy narratives' in Matthew chapters 1-2 and Luke chapters 1-2. At the 'day Mass' on Christmas Day John chapter 1 is read. This presentation, in three parts, takes us through these gospel readings in 'liturgical order' in such a way as to enhance our celebration of the Liturgy of the Word at Christmas, and to derive from the Christmas gospels profound insights into the person and mission of Christ the Saviour. Fr Adrian Graffy Fr Adrian is parish priest of Gidea Park in the diocese of Brentwood, England. He received his doctorate from the Pontifical Biblical Institute, and taught Scripture for many years. He is now a member of the Pontifical Biblical Commission, and delegate to the world-wide Catholic Biblical Federation. His 'Sunday Gospels' have recently been published by Darton, Longman and Todd. Fr Adrian is director of www.whatgoodnews.org Videos of the three parts of the talk (Mt 1

and Lk 1; Lk 2 and Mt 2; Jn 1) can be accessed by going to the home page of www.whatgoodnews.org Christ the
Eternal High Priest Catholic Church 410 Brentwood Road Gidea Park RM2 6DH England