

# THE CATHOLIC PARISH OF RUTLAND

## ST JOSEPH, OAKHAM &

## ST THOMAS OF CANTERBURY, EXTON



Parish Priest: Rev Canon Peter Vellacott: [peter.vellacott@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:peter.vellacott@dioceseofnottingham.uk)  
 Rev Deacon Raymond Keogh: [raymond.keogh@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:raymond.keogh@dioceseofnottingham.uk) Tel: 07845 773619

Retired Priest in Residence: Rev Canon Stephen Dye

Parish Office: [rcchurchoakham@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:rcchurchoakham@dioceseofnottingham.uk)

St Joseph's Catholic Church, Parish Office, Station Road, Oakham, LE15 6QU Tel: 01572 722308

### Fourth Week of Advent

20 <sup>th</sup> December	Saturday	Vigil Mass	4.30 pm	Holy Mass	Oksana and Family Intentions
21 <sup>st</sup> December	Sunday	Fourth Week of Advent	10.30 am	Holy Mass	Pro Populo
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	Monday	Advent Feria	10.00 am	Holy Mass	Emily Morgan RIP
23 <sup>rd</sup> December	Tuesday	Saint John of Kanyt, priest			
24 <sup>th</sup> December	Wednesday	Carols	5.45 pm		
		The Nativity of the Lord Vigil Mass	6.00 pm	Holy Mass	Deceased Members of the Quinn/Fisher family
25 <sup>th</sup> December	Thursday	The Nativity of the Lord Christmas Day	9.00 am 10.30 am	Exton Hall St Joseph's	Holy Souls in Purgatory Holy Souls in Purgatory
26 <sup>th</sup> December	Friday	St Stephen	7.00 pm	Holy Latin Mass	St Thomas, Exton, LE15 8AN Michael Green RIP
27 <sup>th</sup> December	Saturday	Exposition & Benediction Vigil Mass	3.30 – 4.00 pm 4.30 pm	Holy Mass	Well being of Hutton Family
28 <sup>th</sup> December	Sunday	The Holy Family (Feast)	10.30 am	Holy Mass	Pro Populo

**Sacrament of Confession TIMES:** Wednesday: 9.30-10.00 am Saturday: 3.30-4.00 pm

**Please note: This Church is monitored by CCTV cameras and/or live streaming cameras during Holy Mass.**

Parish Websites	<a href="https://www.stjosephs-oakham.org/">https://www.stjosephs-oakham.org/</a>	<a href="https://www.catholicstamford.com/">https://www.catholicstamford.com/</a>
Safeguarding Representative	Tel: 07513 725552	<a href="mailto:Maria.MarriottPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk">Maria.MarriottPSR@dioceseofnottingham.uk</a>
Parish Support Group HELP	Rosemarie Duncan	Tel: 01572 723873
House Faith Sharing Group	Barbara Black	Tel: 01572 724918
Chair - Parish Pastoral Council	Andreas Menzies Tel: 01572 722308	<a href="mailto:ppcchair@stjosephs-oakham.org">ppcchair@stjosephs-oakham.org</a>
Parish Newsletter	Maria Marriott	<a href="mailto:rcchurchoakham@dioceseofnottingham.uk">rcchurchoakham@dioceseofnottingham.uk</a>
English Martyrs Primary School	Head Teacher: Mrs Jo Rutledge Willow Crescent, Oakham	Tel: 01572 722400 <a href="https://www.englishmartyrs.rutland.sch.uk/">https://www.englishmartyrs.rutland.sch.uk/</a> <a href="mailto:office@englishmartyrs.rutland.sch.uk">office@englishmartyrs.rutland.sch.uk</a>

#### Parish Office Telephone contact:

For all Parish enquiries, please contact Maria on the office number or (via email, quickest option) or Canon Peter, via email.

**In the case of an emergency, please ring the office number the end message will advise you who to contact.**

<b>Last week's collection</b>  Collections £164.00 Planned Giving & Donations £695.50 Total £859.50 Sick and retired Priests (11 <sup>th</sup> January) <b>Christmas Flowers £141.28</b>  As always, many thanks for all your contributions to our Church, how ever you may contribute.	<b>Planned Giving Scheme</b> <b>- Envelope holders</b> If you wish to contribute via the parish bank account, please contact Maria at <a href="mailto:rcchurchoakham@dioceseofnottingham.uk">rcchurchoakham@dioceseofnottingham.uk</a> Many thanks for your ongoing support.	<b>Please note:</b> Canon Peter is at St Joseph's every Monday and celebrates Holy Mass at 10.00 am. He is available after Holy Mass should you want to make an appointment. <a href="mailto:rcchurchoakham@dioceseofnottingham.uk">rcchurchoakham@dioceseofnottingham.uk</a>	<b>Don't forget</b> to join us for light refreshments after Holy Mass on Wednesday and Sunday. All welcome
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**Please pray for the following who are ill:** Meryl Vincent, Angela Kirkup, Claire Smith, Ita Jones, Janet and Barry Chalmers-Stevens, Monique Pryke, Elisabeth Simpson, Judy Nash, John Rhodes, Amanda Messer and Marie Thérèse Goldberg.  
 If you would like to add anyone to the sick list, (permission required). Please contact Maria [rcchurchoakham@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:rcchurchoakham@dioceseofnottingham.uk)

**Anniversaries** *† Vivien Panter, Jake Bullimore, Jessie Wigginton, Mary Turnbull, William Coughlin, Edmund Rauscher, Colin Larkin, Robert MacDonald, Ellen Freer, Betty Hope, Ethel Robinson, John McCarthy, Ursula Stephenson, Winifred Prior, Patrick Joseph Maiden. Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen*

*It is the Lord's House, which Jesus taught was a house of prayer" (Mt 21:13) and thus should be used according to its purpose. The House of God, where dwells the Real Presence of God, must be treated with ongoing reverence.*

**The month of December** is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception.

The first 24 days of December fall during the liturgical season known as of Advent and are represented by the liturgical colour purple — a symbol of penance, mortification, and the sorrow of a contrite heart. The remaining days of December mark the beginning of the Christmas season. The liturgical colour changes to white or gold — a symbol of joy, purity and innocence.

**The Christmas Offering** traditionally goes to the Priest of the Parish and forms the major part of his income for the year, along with the Easter offering. Priests do not receive any income from any other source outside of the Parish. So, whatever you give in your Christmas Offering will express your personal and financial support. Should you wish to provide a Christmas Offering, please mark your envelope as 'Christmas Offering' or use one of the envelopes provided at the back of Church and place it in the usual bag as the Offertory Collection is taken up. You can also use the card reader in the porch or on the website under the heading Christmas Offering using this link <https://donate.mydona.com/st-joseph-rc-oakham>

**The meetings of Churches Together in December at 1-1.30 pm** will be held each Thursday at St Joseph's.

**"Peace be with you all: Towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace"** The theme of Pope Leo XIV's Message for the World Day of Peace (1st January 2026) invites humanity to reject the logic of violence and war, and to embrace an authentic peace based on love and justice. This peace must be unarmed, that is, not based on fear, threats, or weapons. And it must be disarming, capable of resolving conflicts, opening hearts, and generating mutual trust, empathy, and hope. It is not enough to call for peace; we must embody it in a way of life that rejects every form of violence, whether it be visible or systemic. The greeting of the Risen Christ, "Peace be with you" (John 20:19), is an invitation addressed to everyone — believers, non-believers, political leaders, and citizens — to build the Kingdom of God and to work together to build a humane and peaceful future.

**According to Aid to the Church in Need 5.4 billion people (2/3 of the world's population)** live in countries where individuals and entire communities suffer violations of religious freedom. More than 220 million Christians are at direct risk of persecution. In response, ACN has initiated a petition calling on governments around the world to implement in full Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the gold standard of religious liberty - the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, the right to change religion and the right to manifest religion in teaching, practice, worship, and observance. Parishioners are invited to stand with persecuted Christians and all those who suffer for their beliefs by signing the ACN Article 18 petition, by visiting: <https://acnuk.org/article-18-petition-religious-freedom-human-right-not-privilege>. Please continue to pray for all those who suffer for their faith.

**SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY** A special blessing for your home. The Church has a custom of blessing homes on the Solemnity of the Epiphany (January 6th) and the weeks following. Family and friends gather to ask God's blessing on their homes and those who live in or visit the home. It is an invitation for Jesus to be a daily guest in our home, our comings and goings, our conversations, our work and play, our joys, and sorrows. A traditional way of doing this is to use chalk blessed during the Solemnity of the Epiphany and write above the home's entryway, 20 + C + M + B + 26. The letters C, M, B have two meanings. They are the initials of the traditional names of the three magi: Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar. They also abbreviate the Latin words Christus mansionem benedicat, "May Christ bless the house." The "+" signs represent the Cross, and 2026 is the year. (Leaflet available in the porch).

### Christmastide 2025

**Monday 22nd December - Holy Mass 10.00 am - St Joseph's Oakham**  
**Tuesday 23rd December - Holy Mass 10.00 am - St Mary & St Augustine Stamford**

**Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve Vigil - Nativity of Our Lord**

**Carols begin at 5.45 pm- St Joseph's Oakham**

**6.00 pm Holy Mass - St Joseph's Oakham**

**6:00 pm Holy Mass - St Mary & St Augustine Stamford**

**11:30 pm Office of Readings followed by Midnight Mass**

**Thursday 25th December – Christmas Day - Nativity of Our Lord**

**9:00 am Dawn Mass of Christmas - St Mary & St Augustine Stamford**

**9.00 am - Dawn Mass of Christmas - St Thomas of Canterbury Exton**

**10.30 am – Day Mass of Christmas - St Joseph's Oakham**

**11:00 am - Day Mass of Christmas - St Mary & St Augustine Stamford**

**Please Note:**  
**The Missio Boxes**  
**have been emptied and are**  
**now named and ready for**  
**Collection.**  
**They are in the Porch.**

**If you wish to sign the**  
**Parish Christmas card, it**  
**gives our parishioners the**  
**opportunity to wish people a**  
**happy Christmas without**  
**sending individual cards and**  
**the money can then**  
**be donated to Shelter.**

**School admissions to Catholic Primary Academies (Reception Year)** - Children born between 01/09/2021 and 31/08/2022. The deadline for submitting an application for a school place is 15th January 2026. Application forms are available on your 'home' Local Authority website. For every Catholic school you apply for if you wish your child to be considered and ranked under a faith criterion you should also complete a supplementary information form, and return this form to the school by the deadline, (forms are available from the LA and the school). You must also include the supporting evidence\* as required with this form, i.e. a baptism certificate (photocopies are acceptable; contact the parish of baptism if you do not have a copy); failure to supply the required supporting evidence will mean your child is ranked in a lower criterion which may affect your chance of a place.

**Holy Mass Streaming Service** If you use St Joseph's Holy Mass streaming service and find that it is not online, please contact Maria in the Parish Office via email. [rcchurchoakham@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:rcchurchoakham@dioceseofnottingham.uk) or call 01572 722308

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