



The Catholic Churches of Immaculate Conception

with Holy Trinity

HENLEY HOUSE, 12 CAUSEWAY, BICESTER OX26 6AW

www.immaculate-conception.org.uk

The Parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No: 234216



**3rd Sunday of Easter (YEAR A)
26TH APRIL 2020**

Dear Parishioners

I hope and pray that you all are well and safe. In the next few weeks we can learn & meditate on Our Lady as month of May is dedicated to her.

It was in Rome, towards the end of the eighteenth century, one fine evening in May. A child of the poor gathered his companions around him and led them to a statue of Mary, before which a lamp was burning, as is the custom in that holy city. There, these fresh young voices sang the Litany of our Lady. The next day, the little group, followed by other children, again gathered at the feet of the Mother of God. Next came their mothers, to join the little assembly. Soon, other groups were formed, and the devotion rapidly became popular. Holy souls, troubled by the disorderly conduct which always increases and becomes graver at the return of the pleasant spring-time, saw in these growing practices the hand of God, and they co-operated with the designs of Providence by approving and promoting this new devotion, as a public and solemn act of reparation. The Month of Mary was founded.

"This is the month in which, in the churches and individual homes, the most affectionate and fervent homage of prayers and devotions from the hearts of Christians are raised to Mary. It is also the month in which from his throne descend upon us the most generous and abundant gifts of the Divine Mercy." In our own times, we Catholics, wanting to be close to her always, offer her special presents in May: pilgrimages, visits to churches dedicated to her, little sacrifices in her honour, periods of study and well-finished work offered up to her, and a more attentive recitation of the rosary.

May 1 MARY: THE MOTHER OF GOD

"When the Blessed Virgin said yes, freely, to the plans revealed to

Dean of Banbury Deanery & Parish Priest:

Very Rev. Canon John Y Batthula BA, MA, Dip. Cat., MA Ed

Assistant Priest: Fr Robert Carey

Retired Priest: Rev. Fr. Pat Armstrong

Parish Deacons:

Rev Mr Michael Panejko MA: 01869 246 459

Rev Mr Nick St John: 01869 246 787

Parish Sisters: Sr Rose, Sr Sani & Sr Anu: 01869 327 689

Parish Safeguarding: Elizabeth Green

email: safeguardingbicester@gmail.com

hethesafeguard@gmail.com

St Mary's RC Primary School, Queen's Avenue, Bicester, OX26 2NX

Head Teacher: Miss. P. Pickering Tel: 01869 252 035

st-marys-bicester.oxon.sch.uk

Parish Office: Tuesdays and Fridays 9am – 4.30pm

admin@immaculate-conception.org.uk 01869 253277

St John Paul II Centre – 01869 324 307 · info@johnpaulcentre.co.uk

her by the Creator, the divine Word assumed a human nature -- a rational soul and a body -- which was formed in the most pure womb of Mary. The divine nature and the human were united in a single Person: Jesus Christ, true God and, thenceforth, true man; the only begotten and eternal son of the Father and from that moment on, as man, the true son of Mary. This is why our Lady is the mother of the Incarnate Word, of the second person of the Blessed Trinity, who has united our human nature to himself for ever, without any confusion of the two natures. The greatest praise we can give to the Blessed Virgin is to address her loudly and clearly by the name that expresses her very highest dignity: 'Mother of God.' Let us offer to our Mother today: *Brief but frequent prayers of love, such as: "Mother of God, your petitions are most powerful."* (Catholic News Agency)

It is not possible to come to Mass, but you can take part through our Webcam.

Canon John Y Batthula

Parish Priest & Dean

APRIL	TIME	IMMACULATE CONCEPTION & HOLY TRINITY	INFORMATION
SUNDAY 26TH	9.30 am	Katie Conlon - 18th Birthday	3rd Sunday of Easter
	11.00 AM	Leo Hurst & People of the Parish	
MONDAY 27TH	9.30 AM	Roland Natividad & his daughter—Get well	Easter feria
TUESDAY 28TH	9.30 AM	Fiona Beasley (RIP) 4th anniversary	Easter feria
	12 NOON	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament & Midday Prayers	
WEDNESDAY 29TH	9.30 AM	Intentions of Joyce Thornley	Easter feria
	12 NOON	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament & Midday Prayers	
THURSDAY 30TH	9.30 AM	Terence Thompson (RIP)	
	12 NOON	Exposition of Blessed Sacrament & Midday Prayers	
FRIDAY 1ST	9.30 AM	Intentions of Fred Thornley	Easter feria
	1.00 PM	Funeral Service of Margaret MacSweeney (RIP)	Graveside Service
	6 PM - 7 PM	Service of Reconciliation (Holy Hour)	
SATURDAY 2ND	10.00 AM 10.20 - 11 am	John O'Grady (RIP) Exposition of Blessed Sacrament & Rosary	Easter feria
SUNDAY 3RD	9.30 AM	People of the Parish	4th Sunday of Easter
	11.00 AM	Leo Hurst (Thanksgiving)	



Today's Liturgy of the Word: On Easter Sunday evening two disciples of Jesus were returning to their native village. They were filled with sadness because the man on whom they had pinned their hopes had been executed. Then the risen Jesus joined them, opened their eyes, and turned their sadness into joy. The risen Jesus stands among us as we gather in his name to celebrate the Eucharist. He will turn our sorrows into joy.

First Reading (Acts 2:14;22-28). This is part of a sermon preached by Peter to the Jews on the feast of Pentecost. It shows that the resurrection of Jesus from the dead is the very heart of the Good News.

Second Reading (1 Peter 1:17-21). The benefits we enjoy as Christians were won by Christ through the shedding of his blood. We must try to respond with a life of holiness.

Gospel (Luke 24: 13-35). This contains the story of two men whose dreams had been shattered when Jesus was executed, how the risen Jesus joined them and showed them that it was by dying that he entered his glory.



Saint Corona, Pray for us! It turns out that the Patron Saint of Epidemics is a little known (until now) girl called St Corona! There's a lot online if you look her up. It seems she was from Syria and was martyred at the age of 16 by the Romans during the reign of Marcus Aurelius (C2nd). Her relics are not far from the epicentre of the present pandemic and her feast is 14th May.



Parish Helpers If anyone is willing to join a What's App group to help our elderly and more vulnerable parishioners in these unprecedented times with doorstep deliveries of essential items or 'Phone For a Chat' calls, then please email the parish office with your mobile number. Please ring this number **07387 281 861** and leave a message if you need assistance and we will try our best to assist.

Winners 100 club drawn on Sun 29 March 2020, witnessed at a distance by Mrs M. Mellett. **£100 Eleanor King 70; £50 Hilary King 42; £25 Honor Hollis 58;**

Please pay online if you can. Email paulcous@yahoo.com for details. The remaining numbers are: 30, 39, 43, 61, 94, 96 -

SYMPATHY We extend our very deepest sympathy and the assurance of our prayers to the family of Margaret MacSweeney who passed away on Monday 13th April 2020, aged 93 years. Funeral Service will be taking place on Friday 1st May at Bicester Cemetery at 1.00pm(Graveside service). *May she rest in peace. Pray for all those who have died and for all who mourn.*

WEEKLY OFFERINGS these are difficult and worrying days, financially, for so many of us and I want to reassure you that you need not worry about your contribution to the Church. For many, however, I know that you are really worried about how you can continue to support the parish. You can email us in the office and we can send you the bank details to make an online donation, you can set up a standing order, you can simply put the money to one side. Whatever you do, please do not come to the church or presbytery to bring your weekly donations. Stay home, stay safe. Gift Aid can all be sorted out once we're up and running again. I'm absolutely sure that this will be in the mind of HMRC and there will be any number of further instructions in the fullness of time. Right now, follow all government advice and look after the most vulnerable. The Diocesan Finance Officer has been in touch and reminds us: there is still the (preferred really) option of parishioners downloading and using the standing order form on the diocesan website.

1st May 2020 - For The Work of Human Hands

At a time when we give huge votes of thanks to our NHS workers, it is tempting for the rest of us to think that perhaps our own jobs aren't worth as much. The truth is, that everyone's job is reliant on someone else's. We are all part of a big human jigsaw and we are all valuable. Whether we are currently working or currently in lockdown, this is a time for us all to consider how to make our skills more valuable to others.

This week: reflections for couples -

How well do we listen to each other?

As Jesus walked to Emmaus, he listened carefully to His disciples and experienced their grief.

An important part of our relationship is listening.

We may disagree with our partner's thoughts and judgments but they are part of who this person is.

We need to experience him/her and convey the joy of discovering the person he/she is.

The Regina Coeli (Queen of Heaven) in English

V. Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.

R. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.

V. Has risen, as he said, alleluia.

R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.

R. For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Let us pray.

O God, who gave joy to the world through the resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.



Online Webcam

Go the website and follow link

<https://mcnmedia.tv/iframe/e8896647923e089406131a3b96e45994de4a89c4>

LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND:

K Cashman, Tim Charles, Joyce Thornley, Mary Ashley, John Dunn.



PARISH OFFERINGS

With thanks for all your generosity to the Parish and to charity.