

Feast of the Holy Family

Year B

Entrance antiphon: **The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in the manger.**

First Reading *"Your heir shall be your own flesh and blood"* *Genesis 15 : 1-6, 21 : 1-3*

The word of the Lord was spoken to Abram in a vision, 'Have no fear, Abram, I am your shield; your reward will be very great.' 'My Lord,' Abram replied 'what do you intend to give me? I go childless...'. Then Abram said, 'See, you have given me no descendants; some man of my household will be my heir.' And then this word of the Lord was spoken to him, 'He shall not be your heir; your heir shall be of your own flesh and blood.' Then taking him outside he said, 'Look up to heaven and count the stars if you can. Such will be your descendants' he told him. Abram put his faith in the Lord, who counted this as making him justified. The Lord dealt kindly with Sarah as he had said, and did what he had promised. So Sarah conceived and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the time God had promised. Abraham named the son born to him Isaac, the son to whom Sarah had given birth.

The word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm **He, the Lord, is our God. He remembers his covenant for ever. (2)**

Second Reading *" The faith of Abraham, Sarah and Isaac "* *Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19*

It was by faith that Abraham obeyed the call to set out for a country that was the inheritance given to him and his descendants, and that he set out without knowing where he was going. It was equally by faith that Sarah, in spite of being past the age, was made able to conceive, because she believed that he who had made the promise would be faithful to it. Because of this, there came from one man, and one who was already as good as dead himself, more descendants than could be counted, as many as the stars of heaven or the grains of sand on the seashore. It was by faith that Abraham, when put to the test, offered up Isaac. He offered to sacrifice his only son even though the promises had been made to him and he had been told: It is through Isaac that your name will be carried on. He was confident that God had the power even to raise the dead; and so, figuratively speaking, he was given back Isaac from the dead.

The word of the Lord
All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Acclamation **Alleluia, alleluia!** May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you . **Alleluia !**

Gospel *" The Child grew , filled with wisdom. "* *Luke 2: 1—4*

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, – observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord – and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said: 'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.' As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected – and a sword will pierce your own soul too – so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.' There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the Temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem. When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; & God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you , Lord Jesus Christ.



The Catholic Parishes of Immaculate Conception @BICESTER



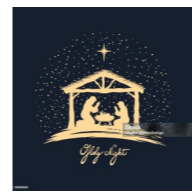
And **Holy Trinity @** Hardwick Rd, HETHE OX27 8AW

Henley House, 12 Causeway, Bicester OX26 6AW

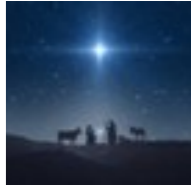
www.immaculate-conception.org.uk

Deanery website: banburyandwarwick-catholicdeanery.org.uk

The Parishes of the Immaculate Conception & Holy Trinity are part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham: Registered Charity No: 234216



Sunday Cycle B - Weekdays - Christmas Octave
Week beginning of 30th December to 7th January 2024 Psalter 1
Pope's Prayer Intention for January: We pray that the Holy Spirit may help us to recognise the gift of different charisms within the Christian community and to discover the richness of different ritual traditions in the Catholic Church.



DECEMBER	TIME	INTENTIONS	FEASTS	LECTORS	E O MINISTERS	STEWARDS
SAT 30th	4.00 pm @Hethe	People of the Parish	4th Sunday of Advent	R Deane/V Burns		R Deane
Vigil Mass	6.00 pm	Ints of Helena Nowak		T Nugent/ P Cousins	S & M Doherty	S & M Doherty
SUN 31st	9.00 am	Mieczyslaw Checko (RIP)	Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph	M Daniel/L Cleeve	L & R Weaver	L & C Cleeve
	11.00 am	Neil Schrieber (RIP)		J Franta/ A Kearsley	J Kokore/Sr Rose	Franta Family
January MON 1st	12 Noon	Gertrude & Cyril Hurst (RIP)	Solemnity of Mary the Holy Mother of God	M Daniel	J Kokore	
TUE 2nd	7.00pm	Service of the Word with Holy Communion	Mem of St Basil the Great & St Gregory Nazianzen B, Drs	J Kokore	Sr Sani	
WED 3rd	12 noon	Ints of Maria Kobeldva & Family	Christmas Feria	L Cleeve	Sr Rose	
THU 4th	7.00pm	Service of the Word with Holy Communion	Christmas Feria	H King	Sr Sani	
FRI 5th	12 noon	Service of the Word with Holy Communion	Christmas Feria	E King	Frankie	
SAT 6th	4.00 pm @Hethe	Sr M Clare Champion O. Ss.S	Christmas Feria	R Deane/V Burns		R Deane
Vigil Mass	6.00 pm	Ints of Jane, Guy Susan & Dale Bridgett McDermott (RIP) 4th Ann.		R John/H Henwood	S & M Doherty	B & K McFall
SUN 7th	9.00 am	People of the Parish	Solemnity of the Epiphany	E Penhallow/M Brown	A Hall/ P Capretta	L & C Cleeve
	11.00 am	John & Joan Calnan (RIP)		H King/ T Lane	J & M Franta	Kokore Family



This week we pray for...
SANCTUARY LIGHT:
OUR LADY'S LIGHT:

Parish Office: Monday - Fridays 9.00am – 4.00pm
Phone: 01869 253277 Email: tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk
Dean of Banbury & Warwick Deanery & Parish Priest:
Very Rev. Canon John Y Batthula BA, MA, Dip. Cat., MA Ed
Only for Confidential matters: canonjohn.batthula@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Deacons: **Rev Mr Michael Panejko** MA 01869 246 459
Rev Mr Nick St John: 01869 246 787
Retired Priest: **Rev. Fr. Pat Armstrong**
Parish Secretary: **Lucia Hattam**
St John Paul II Centre: **Sr Sani Vijayan** Email: office@johnpaulcentre.co.uk
Phone: 01869 324 307 Gift Aid Email: ga.tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk
St Mary's Catholic School Head Teacher: **Mr Daniel O'Connor**
St Mary's Primary School 01869 252035 / office.3824@st-marys-bicester.oxon.sch.uk

Archdiocese of Birmingham: "Our Vision is to be a Catholic Diocese which is faithful to the mission entrusted to us by Jesus Christ, full of missionary disciples who work together co-responsibly in vibrant communities of faith, joyful in their service of God and neighbour".

Safeguarding: Both our Parishes operate in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance & the National and Archdioceses policies and procedures at all times.
Our Parishes Safeguarding Representatives are:
Elizabeth Green: sg.tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk
Les Cleeve: sg.holytrinity.hethe@rcaob.org.uk
Diocesan Safeguarding Team can be contacted on 0121 2306240 or

Parish Sacramental Programme Coordinator - Clare St John
pssc.tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Children's Liturgy Coordinator - Elspeth Morgan
plc.tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Altar Server's Coordinator - Deacon Michael Panejko
dce.michael.panejko@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Youth Coordinator - Deacon Nick St John
yth.tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Environmental & Peace and Justice Group - Janet Marshall
peg.tic.bicester@rcaob.org.uk
Parish Sisters: Sr Rose Mathew - Ursuline Convent 01869 327 689

Teams for	31/12	7/1	14/1	21/1	28/1
Children lit. (4)	none	tbc			
Coffee 9am (10)	1	2	3	4	5
Coffee 11am (9) 5	4	6	7	8	9
Flowers	All	Dismantle	Kasia	Kasia	Sandy

LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND:

Mary Lynch, Victor Francis, K Cashman, Tim Charles, Helena Nowak & Jean McIntosh.

ROSARY: Daily 25 minutes before Mass starts.
DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET: Every Tuesday at 2.00pm in Church
BAPTISMS/WEDDINGS: Please contact the Parish Office through email or phone.
CONFESSIONS: Hethe: *Saturday from 3.15pm - 3.50 pm (in the Sacristy)* Bicester: 5.15 pm - 5.45pm
EAST TIMOR COMMUNITY PRAYER: First Sunday of the month at 5.00pm @ Ursuline Convent
HOLY HOUR: Every First Friday from 6.00pm to 7.00pm (Not during Lent)
PARISH OUTREACH GROUP: Please contact the Office if you need some form of practical help -252 277.
PIETY SHOP: Open Friday, Saturday and Sunday around Masses.
URSULINE LAY ASSOCIATES MEETING: 2nd Wednesday of every month at 2pm @ Ursuline Convent.

CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS: My sincere thanks to each and everyone of you for your gifts, cards and offerings. Please continue to pray for me as I do for you.

ST PATRICK'S MISSION APPEAL Will take place on the weekend of 6th and 7th January 2024. Father Stephen Kariuki, from St Patrick's Mission Society will be appealing in both our parishes for the mission. Let us support the work of Evangelization in mission countries with our prayers and generosity.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE: Please see notice board for winning tickets. Thank you to all who supported the raffle. £1162.76 was raised for parish funds.

THE YEAR OF PRAYER 2024 AND THE JUBILEE YEAR 2025

In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year 'Pilgrims of Hope', 2024 has been designated a Year of Prayer by Pope Francis. There is a particular focus on the Our Father, and this presents us with a great opportunity to go back to the basics of prayer. If the Gospel is a message of Joy, then it is one we should be eager to share with others, and this can be done especially by inviting people to a deeper, prayerful encounter with Jesus Christ this year.

We encourage every Catholic to reflect on their life of prayer: what they pray, how they pray, and why they pray. This is for two reasons: To encourage people to go deeper in their commitment to pray, and in their love of God; To think about how they might accompany someone else to pray during the coming Year of Prayer.

Council Meetings in 2024 for Bicester Parish

Pastoral Council: 31st Jan, 20th May, 2nd Sep & 4th November at 7pm.

Finance Council: 30th Jan, 21st May, 3rd Sep & 5th November at 7 pm.

Council Meetings in 2024 for Hethe Parish

Pastoral & Finance: 5th Feb, 6th May, 2nd Sep, 4th Nov at 10 am.

PARISH OPEN FORUM/MEETING: This meeting will be held on Saturday, 22nd June from 10 am to 12 noon. All parishioners are invited for an Open Meeting in the St John Paul II Centre. It will be nice to see parishioners who are new to the Bicester area. We encourage you to come forward with any ideas and suggestions, these will be received in a positive spirit, so that we can all feel that this parish belongs to everyone. I look forward to seeing you all.

RETOUVAILLE: A PROGRAMME FOR COUPLES STRUGGLING IN THEIR MARRIAGES HELP YOUR MARRIAGE – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Do you argue ... or have you just stopped talking to each other? Does talking about it only make it worse? Retrouvaille is a programme to support couples who have difficulties in their marriage. It brings a positive focus, new hope and helps nourish and grow your marriage. Tens of thousands of couples headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending and using the tools provided. The programme helps spouses uncover or re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought them together. It helps them through difficult times whether they are disillusioned or in deep misery. There is no group therapy or group work. For confidential information about 'Retrouvaille' or to register for the next programme commencing with a Virtual weekend on 8 - 11 February 2024 or a Face to Face weekend in Welwyn Garden City on 14-16 June 2024, call or text 07887 296983 or 07973 380443 or email retrouvailleukinfo@gmail.com - or visit www.retrouvaille.org.uk

SANCTUARY LAMPS— currently lots of weeks available.

The Archbishop's Pastoral Letter for the Feast of the Holy Family, **30/31 December 2023 will be read at all masses and available on the diocesan website:** www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk.

THE JUBILEE YEAR (TAKEN FROM VATICAN NEWS)

Following the extraordinary 2015 Holy Year of Mercy instigated by Pope Francis, the forthcoming Jubilee will take place in line with the norm of leaving a 25-year gap between each one. The most recent ordinary jubilee took place in the year 2000, as the world and the Catholic Church prepared to enter the new millennium.

The Jubilee Year is a special year of grace, in which the Church offers the faithful the possibility of obtaining a plenary indulgence. Traditionally, it begins just before Christmas and ends on the Epiphany of the following year.

CHRISTMAS STARS Raised £248 - thank you!

LOURDES PILGRIMAGE
 25th to 31st May 2024
 Full Board £998
 Single room supplement applies.
 Please book it online now.
www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/LD0930/



Dates to remember in 2024


Friday 12th Jan - Monthly Coffee Morning
 Sunday, 28th Jan- First Holy Communion Commitment Mass at 9am
 February - The Chosen will continue
 Saturday 16th March- Confirmations in both Parishes
 Wednesday 14th February - Ash Wednesday (beginning of Lent)
 Saturday 16th - Sunday 17th March - Parish Visitations (Both Parishes)
 Saturday 11th May - First Holy Communion (St Mary's) at 11am
 Saturday 18th May - First Holy Communion (non St Mary's) at 11 am
 Sunday 2nd June - Corpus Christi Procession after 11 am Mass
 Sunday 7th July - Family Festival & presentation of Certificates (11 am Mass)

COFFEE MORNINGS 2024 Dates are now on the notice board.

PARISH GIVING
BICESTER <https://portal.mydona.com/assets/webPay/index.php?cid=528>
Standing Orders/Donations/Payments:
Bicester: Sort Code: 51 70 15 Acc. No: 02342731
Hethe: Sort Code: 51 70 15 Acc. No: 02301466
MASS STIPENDS/OFFERINGS:
 Canon John Y Batthula: Sort code: 60-08-40 Acc. No. 75459760.

CONTACTLESS You can also donate by scanning the QR code with your phone or by card at the machine in the church porch. If you pay tax, please consider Gift Aiding your donation. Each time you make a subsequent donation using the same card, Gift Aid will be collected automatically.

HETHE BICESTER




Financial Information
SECOND COLLECTIONS
 Christmas Crib Collection 2024—Friends of the Holy Land
 7th January: Mission Appeal
 14th January: Parish Maintenance

Church	First Collection	Second Collection	Standing Orders	Tap & Go Donations	Mass Attendance
Bicester	£242.78	£131.51	£1165	£105	307
Hethe	£68		£170		30

Gift Aid it!!- you could add 25% to the value of your donation. Contact the Parish Gift Aid Co-ordinator

An Induction Loop system is provided. Please switch Hearing Aid to 'T'

We use live streaming Go to the website and/or follow this link <https://mcnmedia.tv/iframe/e8896647923e089406131a3b96e45994de4a89c4>
 OR
<https://www.mcn.live/Camera/church-of-the-immaculate-conception-bicester>



Priest: In the name of the Father

People: **Amen**

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**



Penitential Act

Everyone: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Gloria

Priest: Glory to God in the highest,
Everyone : and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

After the first and second readings

Reader The Word of the Lord

People **Thanks be to God**

Gospel acclamation

Reader Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.....

... (a few words)

People **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ**

Before the Gospel reading

Priest/Deacon: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Priest/Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to...

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the Gospel reading

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Creed - The Nicene Creed

Everyone: I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Bidding Prayers
All: Hear our Prayer

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Priest: Pray, brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

People: **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

The Eucharistic Prayer

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And with your spirit.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Priest: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right and just.**

Everyone: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Memorial Acclamation

Priest: **The mystery of faith.**

People: ONE OF THESE:

A *We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.*

B *When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup, we proclaim your Death, O Lord, until you come again.*

C *Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.*

Doxology

Priest: Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour is yours, for ever and ever.

People **Amen**

Priest: At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say: **Our Father....**

Priest: Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every

People: **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

Sign of Peace

Priest: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People **And with your spirit.**

Priest/Deacon: Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

To each other: Peace be with you

Lamb of God

People: **Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us. (2)**
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

Priest: Behold the Lamb of God,

People: **Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

Concluding Rites

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People **And with your spirit**

Priest: May almighty God.....

All: Amen

Priest/Deacon: Go & announce the Gospel of the Lord