



THE PARISH OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Dean of Banbury Deanery & Parish Priest: Rev. Fr. John Y Batthula BA, MA, Dip. Cat., MA Ed
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Parish Office: Tel: 01869 253 277. Weekdays 9am-3pm. Email: admin@immaculate-conception.org.uk
Marriages & Baptisms - contact Parish Office.

Parish Safeguarding: Elizabeth Green email: safeguarding@immaculate-conception.org.uk
Pope JOHN PAUL II CENTRE: Tel: 01869 324 307 - email: info@johnpaulcentre.co.uk
The Presentation Sisters: Tel: 01869 323 660
Parish School: 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



THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT



BREVIARY: WEEK 3 OF PSALTER (YEAR A)
 Saturday 10th December to Sunday 18th December 2016

Masses & Events During This Week

Times	Intentions	Feasts
Saturday 10th December		
5.15 pm	Rosary, Litany and Angelus	<i>Advent Feria</i>
6.00 pm	The People of the Parish & Garrison	
Sunday 11th December <i>Third Sunday of Advent</i>		
9.00 am	Ints. of St Mary's Children, Staff & Governors	
11.00 am	Alfred Smith (RIP)	
Monday 12th December <i>Advent Feria</i>		
9.30 am	Holy Souls	
7.15 pm	Youth Meeting—End of term party	
Tuesday 13th December <i>Advent Feria</i>		
7.00 am (Chu)	Holy Souls	<i>St. Lucy, VM</i>
2.00 pm	Divine Mercy Chaplet	
7.00 pm	Ints of M Helene, D Isidoe, T Marie, D Sylvie	
Wednesday 14th December <i>Mem. St John of the Cross PD</i>		
9.30 am	Cherry Bridle (RIP)	
7.00 pm	Carols by St. Mary's Children	
Thursday 15th December <i>Advent Feria</i>		
8.00 am (Sch)	Alice & Pat Beggs (RIP)	
7.00 pm	Holy Souls	
Friday 16th December <i>Advent Feria</i>		
12 noon	Anna & Bobby Duggan (RIP)	
Saturday 17th December <i>Advent Feria</i>		
8.30 am (BP)	Welfare of the Prisoners families	
10.15 am	Joan Bridle (RIP)	
5.15 pm	Rosary, Litany and Angelus	
6.00 pm	Don Burton (RIP)	
Sunday 18th December <i>Fourth Sunday of Advent</i>		
9.00 am	John, Neil, & Eddie Ward (RIP)	
11.00 am	The People of the Parish & Garrison followed by Christmas Buffet Lunch.	

Confession: Saturdays: 10.50 - 11.30 am & 5.00 pm - 5.30pm
 & other times by appointment.

Refreshments served in John Paul II Centre after 9.00 am and 11.00 am Masses. All Welcome!

Tuesday 13th December is Deanery meeting at chipping Norton. Please pray for the Clergy of the Deanery.

December is dedicated to Immaculate Conception

Reflections briefly on this weekend's Word of God 'First Reading (Isaiah 35: 1-6.10) This contains a thrilling message of hope for all those who may be feeling down. Isaiah says: 'Cheer up! Do not be afraid. God himself is coming to save you.'

Second Reading : (James 5:7-10) St James stresses something that we all find hard, namely, patience. He urges us to be patient with one another, and patient regarding the Lord's final coming.

Gospel ((Matthew 11: 2-11) Jesus has tremendous words of praise for his cousin John, who is languishing in Herod's dungeon. The Gospel also shows us Jesus at work: giving sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, healing to lepers, and so on. It is a marvelous display of compassion for suffering humanity. In this Eucharist we encounter the same compassionate Christ. Let us not be afraid to show him the various handicaps and wounds that we suffer from.

Lord, you open the eyes of all those blinded by materialism so that they can see the invisible riches of the Kingdom of God. You open the ears of the deaf to the word of God, knowing that people cannot live on bread alone. You touch the hearts of those hardened by indifference, and help them to love.

Fr John Y Batthula
 Parish Priest



Bullington Prison Chaplaincy Duty:
 Weekly on Thursday 8.30 am - 5.30 pm
 Friday from 8.30 am - 1.30 pm and
 Saturday 8.30 am - 3.00 pm.

PIETY SHOP Now in stock - Bought and blessed items from Bethlehem. Colouring books, gifts and Christmas cards. 2017 calendars & dairies. Gifts, nativity sets. ..lots more!

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE TICKETS: Can you start bring back the counterfoils and due amounts please. We have given away a 1000 books. Be generous in supporting our fundraising efforts. Thank you in advance for your support and to everyone who has donated prizes. Just a few more prizes are needed.

CHRISTMAS CAROLS BY ST MARY'S: On Wednesday 14th December in Church at 7.00pm. All are invited.

ADVENT SERVICE OF RECONCILIATION: On Monday 19th December at 7.00pm.

CHARITY BALL: On Saturday 11th February. Ticket cost £50 (includes a drink on arrival, three course meal and entertainment) Contact Parish Office, Helen Johnson, Kate Gore or Ellen Conway.

STARS: Stars in memory of loved ones can be bought, these will decorate our church Christmas trees. £3 each or 2 for £5. Please return slips with payment to the piety shop.

RCIA ~ Seeker: Returns on 10th January using the Sycamore Programme to explore Life and Faith. It consists of ten films that examine some of the core questions; Can I find happiness; Does God exist; Who is Jesus Christ and topics such as the Holy Spirit, the Church, the Bible, Christian Tradition, faith, love and prayer. For more information see the notice board or contact the office, Ron Weaver or Janet Marshall.

CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES AND OFFERINGS: This weekend we give away Christmas Season Mass times sheet along with special envelopes. This will be your Christmas Gift to your Parish Priest and Assistant Priest. We thank you in advance for your generosity.

100 CLUB WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER: £100 - 35 - Margaret Nugent, £50 - 85 - John Pettit, £25 - 28 - Joyce Thornley.

CHURCH VOLUNTEERS We are extremely grateful to everyone who helps maintain our church. We are very lucky to have such dedicated reliable parishioners who regularly help with daily chores. We are currently seeking some new helpers to help with the following: Brass cleaning - weekly/fortnightly, Church Cleaners—team of 4 is needed. Flower arrangers - once every 8 weeks. Counters—every 7 weeks. Do you like gardening? Could you give some time to look after our gardens? If you would like further information please contact Lucia at the Parish office: lucia@immaculate-conception.org.uk

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR Thank you to everyone who donated, came to help, and supported the Christmas Bazaar! Total amount raised was £2418.87 God Bless you all! Winner of the basket hamper was Miss P Pickering.

The Friday coffee morning raised £477.78.

A very big thank you to everyone who supported.

Teams For	11/12	18/12	25/12	1/1	8/1
Counting (8) No 7	5	6	none	8	1
Cleaning (7) no 5	2	3	4	Volunteers	6
Children lit. (5)	2	tbc	none	none	tbc
Coffee 9am (14)	3	4	None	5	6
Coffee 11am (8)	8	1	none	2	3
Flowers	advent	advent	all	Anne	all
Tradecraft		Open			

DIARY DATES

Cake and Produce Sale - First Sunday of the month.

TRADECRAFT Stall open every 3rd weekend of the month.

YOUTH GROUP—2nd,3rd,4th, Mondays month. 7.15 pm—8.30 pm Term time only.

BABY AND TODDLER Term time Thursday 9.15-10.45am at Presentation Convent.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY- Sunday at 9.00 am Mass.

PRESENTATION ASSOC. Monthly meetings first Wednesday of month.

100 CLUB DRAW After 9.00 am Mass last Sunday of the month.

13th December: Deanery Meeting at Chipping Norton

14th December: Carol Service - St. Mary's School

19th December: Service of Reconciliation

11th February: Charity Ball

4th March 2017: Confirmations

30th March: Closing celebrations of Deanery Parish Visitations at 7pm

ST MARY'S SCHOOL Vacancy for Caretaker (20 hours per week Mon - Fri) From January 2017. We are looking to recruit a School Caretaker to carry out handyman duties and routine Health & Safety checks. Please see notice on church notice board for more details or if you would like further information, please contact the school office on 01869 252035.

MONTHLY LUNCHES: I would like to express my sincere thanks to all our volunteers for making the festive lunch so enjoyable. A grand total £855 was raised. My heartfelt thanks to Jackie Flynn for all her hard work, enthusiasm, and support to the parish. To express our gratitude, I have requested Archbishop to award the UBI CARITAS to Jackie and I am happy to let you all know that he has accepted my request. I will be presenting the medal on Christmas Day at 9.00 am Mass. Meanwhile, I assure her of my prayers. We will commence our Monthly Lunch on Tuesday 24th January 2017. More volunteers are always needed.

PARISH CHRISTMAS BUFFET - Sunday 18th December after the 11am Mass at the John Paul II Centre. We are please to announce that this event will take place! All those who have paid deposits, please come along to the centre after 11am Mass. Coffee will take place upstairs.

APF—MISSION BOXES Please bring in any boxes so we can pay in before the end of year. Thank you.

LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND: M Smyth, T Kirby, B Hunt, C Whitehead, B Shepard, Sr Alma, P Harris, J Chapman, G Newton, C Busby, E Browne, E Cotter, N Cahill, F Ostrowski, S Clarke, J Fowler, J James, P Mears, B & D Weaver, S Sidston, N Southey, E Stonell, A McCambridge, J Calver, J James, J O'Rourke, M Lewandowski, M May, A Davies, Mis Curzon, M Kilby, J Cahlan, C Brown, M Starrett, K Cashman, J Hurst, P Dean, L Lambert, R Admans, Sr. Mary Humbert, C B Corpus, M Delos Santos, A Blakeley, W Babington, J Wickens, A Doniselli Morgan, W Stonell, J Ray, I Cook, M Smith, T Kirby, D Dee'le, M Wallace, J Busby, J Knox, M Last, P O' Brian. **Please contact the parish office if you wish your name to be added or taken off the sick**

BATTHULA CARE TRUST

This Christmas would you like to support a family suffering with leprosy?

You can help a family to celebrate Christmas with joy and happiness?

You really can make a difference. Barclays Bank: Sort Code: 200898

Account No: 23669386. So please join in this noble cause. Thank you.

Collections

The 2nd collection this weekend will be for **FATHER HUDSON SOCIETY**

The 2nd collection next weekend will be for the **Parish Maintenance.**



PARISH OFFERINGS

1st GA £ 411.45

1st Loose £ 273.50

£ 684.95

Poor Parish Fund

2nd GA £ 144.55

2nd Loose £ 154.88

Total: £ 299.43

11th December	Extraordinary Min	Extraordinary Min	Extraordinary Min	Extraordinary Min	Lector	Lector	Welcomer	Welcomer
Saturday 6pm	D Zanre	S Haydon	S Jacob	S Wilde	P Kallay	K Kallay	Thompson	family
Sunday 9am	C Conlon	K Riley	C Conlon	P Pickering	St Marys	children	St Marys	Children
Sunday 11am	A Jones	B Tah	O Panejko	S Lawrence	H King	M Lawrence	Kokore	family
18th December								
Saturday 6pm	B Thompson	D Zanre	M Thompson	I Foley	C Hall	A Hall	Lazarus	family
Sunday 9am	L Weaver	R Weaver	C St John	M Daniel	A Mutton	L Taylor	Conway family	Donna
Sunday 11am	F Thornley	J Hanna	E King	H King	R Evans	I Cook	Jonathan	Tuttle

MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEKEND: Saturday 6.00 pm: 108, Sunday 9.00 am: 145, 11.00 am: 168 Total: 421