



# 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](mailto:admin@immaculate-conception.org.uk)  
**Marriages & Baptisms - contact Parish Office.**

**Parish Safeguarding:** Elizabeth Green email: [safeguarding@immaculate-conception.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@immaculate-conception.org.uk)  
**Pope JOHN PAUL II CENTRE:** Tel: 01869 324 307 - email: [info@johnpaulcentre.co.uk](mailto: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](mailto:st-marys-bicester.oxon.sch.uk)



## FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT



BREVIARY: WEEK 3 OF PSALTER (YEAR A)  
 Saturday 17th December to Sunday 25th December 2016

### Masses & Events During This Week

Times	Intentions	Feasts
<b>Saturday 17th December</b>		<i>Advent FERIA</i>
5.15 pm	Rosary, Litany and Angelus	
6.00 pm	Don Burton (RIP)	
<b>Sunday 18th December</b>		<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.	
<b>Monday 19th December</b>		<i>Advent FERIA</i>
9.30 am	Fr John Baggley (sick)	
7.00pm	Service of Reconciliation followed by Confessions	
<b>Tuesday 20th December</b>		<i>Advent FERIA</i>
7.00 am (Chu)	Ints of Molly Edgar	
2.00 pm	Divine Mercy Chaplet	
12 noon	Janet & Nicholas Byrne (RIP)	
<b>Wednesday 21st December</b>		<i>Advent FERIA</i>
9.30 am	Deceased members of the Sadagnet family & Joseph Kennedy (RIP)	
<b>Thursday 22nd December</b>		<i>Advent FERIA</i>
9.30 am	Marta Anastacia Maheras (RIP)	
<b>Friday 23rd December</b>		<i>Advent FERIA</i>
12 noon	Jude & Corina Sonon (RIP)	
<b>Saturday 24th December</b>		<i>Advent FERIA</i>
8.30 am (BP)	Welfare of the Prisoners families	
5.15 pm	Rosary, Litany and Angelus	
6.00 pm	Danny, Rita & Peter Egan (RIP), Ints of Pat Garforth	
11.30 pm	Carols	
12 Midnight	Bill and Kitty Hornby (RIP), Fiona Beasley (RIP)	
<b>Sunday 25th December</b>		<i>Solemnity of the Nativity of the Lord</i>
9.00 am	The People of the Parish & Garrison	
11.00 am	Norma Santiago (RIP), World Peace	
<b>Monday 26th December</b>		<i>Feast of St Stephen</i>
<b>ALL ALTAR SERVERS WILL RENEW THEIR COMMITMENT AT</b>		
12 noon	Jackie & Jacob Kokore - Wedding Anniversary followed by Baptism	

**Confession:** Saturday 5.00 pm - 5.30pm  
 & other times by appointment.

**Refreshments** served in John Paul II Centre after 9.00 am and 11 am Masses. All Welcome! No coffee on Christmas Day.

### December is dedicated to The Immaculate Conception

*Reflections briefly on this weekend's Word of God'*

**First Reading:** (Isaiah 7: 10- 14) This reading foretells the birth of a very special child - a child who will be called Emmanuel, God-with-us.

**Second Reading:** (Romans 1: 1-7) This contains the opening lines from St Paul's letter to the Christians at Rome. In them he refers to the human and divine 'roots' of Christ.

**Gospel:** (Matthew 1: 18-25) Joseph, the just man is told that Mary's child was conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit and the mission of this child is to save his people from their sins.

We are getting very close to Christmas, and the pace of things is heating up. There are so many things calling for our time and attention. The result could be that the spiritual side of Christmas hardly gets a look in.

Lord, you come to us with your light to dispel the darkness caused by sin. Lord, come to us with your peace to banish from among us rivalry and war. You come to us with your hope to dispel from our midst the gloom of despair.

**Fr John Y Batthula**  
 Parish Priest

#### **Bullington Prison Chaplaincy Duty:**

Weekly on Thursday & Friday 8.30 am - 5.30 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! Closed Christmas weekend.

**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. Draw will take place on this Sunday at Christmas Buffet lunch.

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

**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 by Sunday 18th.

**RCIA ~ Seeker:** Returns on 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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

**MONTHLY LUNCHESES:** 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.

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

**DECORATING THE CHURCH FOR CHRISTMAS**

If anyone is able to spare a couple of hours to help decorate the church for Christmas please come along on Friday between 9.30am & 2pm. Please note Mass will be held at 12 noon.



**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 9.00am Mass last Sunday of the month.  
**19th December:** Service of Reconciliation  
**11th February:** Charity Ball  
**4th March 2017:** Confirmations  
**30th March:** Closing celebrations of Deanery Parish Visitations at 7pm

*Charity Valentine's Ball*



Saturday February 11th 2017

7-7.30pm arrival for pre-dinner drinks and raffle

at John Paul II Centre

£50 per ticket

3 course meal & musical entertainment.

Tickets available from parish office or by calling: Helen Johnson – 07879 632737 □ Katy Gore – 07810 718989 □ Ellen Conway –

07867 987985

All proceeds going to Parish and donations to Seesaw

**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 Cahnan, 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, 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 list.**

**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.

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

**Collections**

The 2nd collection this weekend will be for **Parish Maintenance.**  
 The both collections next weekend will be for the **Priests of the Parish.**



**PARISH OFFERINGS**

1<sup>st</sup> GA £395.00  
 1<sup>st</sup> Loose £354.13  
**£749.13**  
**Fr Hudson**  
 2<sup>nd</sup> GA £157.37  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Loose £312.47  
**Total: £469.84**

18th December	Extraordinary Min	Extraordinary Min	Extraordinary Min	Extraordinary Min	Lector	Lector	Welcomer	Welcomer
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
25th December								
Saturday 6pm	J Marshall	S Haydon	L Hook	M Kelly	H Lawlor	A Nelson	Sue	Cathy
Midnight	R Lee-Heung	H King	Clergy	Clergy	S Grose	H King	B & L Hattam	Teni & Fred
Sunday 9am	A Mutton	C Conlon	K Riley	Clergy	M Daniel	E Mander	Cath M	C Conlon
Sunday 11am	F Thornley	O Panejko	F Ostrowski	J Hanna	M Lawrence	H King	Mary	

MASS ATTENDANCE LAST WEEKEND: Saturday 6.00 pm: 181, Sunday 9.00 am: 210 , 11.00 am: 177 Total: 568