



# 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

## The Holy Family (Feast)

27 <sup>th</sup> December	Saturday	Vigil Mass	4.30 pm	Holy Mass	Pro Populo
28 <sup>th</sup> December	Sunday	The Holy Family (Feast)	10.30 am	Holy Mass	Well being of Hutton Family
29 <sup>th</sup> December	Monday	St Thomas of Canterbury	10.00 am	Holy Mass	Peter Davis RIP
30 <sup>th</sup> December	Tuesday	Sixth Octave of Christmas			
31 <sup>st</sup> December	Wednesday	Adoration and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament	9.00 am – 10.00 am		Anne Seagroatt Intentions
		Seventh Octave of Christmas	10.00 am	Holy Mass	
1 <sup>st</sup> January	Thursday	Mary, The Holy Mother of God Solemnity	10.00 am	Holy Mass	Anne-Marie Stevenson RIP
2 <sup>nd</sup> January	Friday	St Basil the Great, and St Gregory Nazianzen, Bishop & Doctors	7.00 pm	Holy Latin Mass	<b>St Thomas, Exton, LE15 8AN</b> Pat Joe Quinn & Daniel RIP
3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Saturday	Exposition & Benediction Vigil Mass	3.30 – 4.00 pm		Gwendolen & Margery Knight Intentions
			4.30 pm	Holy Mass	
4 <sup>th</sup> January	Sunday	Second Sunday after Christmas	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.

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

<p><b><u>Last week's collection</u></b></p> <p>Collections £215.38 Planned Giving &amp; Donations <b>£758.00</b> Total £973.38 Sick and retired Priests (11<sup>th</sup> January)</p> <p>As always, many thanks for all your contributions to our Church, how ever you may contribute.</p>	<p><b><u>Planned Giving Scheme - Envelope holders</u></b></p> <p>If you wish to contribute via the parish bank account, please contact Maria at <a href="mailto:rcchurchoakham@dioceseofnottingham.uk">rcchurchoakham@dioceseofnottingham.uk</a></p> <p>Many thanks for your ongoing support.</p>	<p><b><u>Please note:</u></b></p> <p>Canon Peter is at St Joseph's every Monday and celebrates Holy Mass at 10.00 am.</p> <p>He is available after Holy Mass should you want to make an appointment.</p> <p><a href="mailto:rcchurchoakham@dioceseofnottingham.uk">rcchurchoakham@dioceseofnottingham.uk</a></p>	<p><b><u>Don't forget</u></b></p> <p>to join us for light refreshments after Holy Mass on Wednesday and Sunday.</p> <p>All welcome</p> 
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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** † *Patrick Joseph Maiden, Edward Webb, Fergus O'Brien, Anthony Lord Gainsborough, Vanya Martin, Valerie Hughes, Malcolm Gibson, William Healey, Theresa Ford, Mary Countess of Gainsborough, Harold Johnson, Stanislaw Lubnicki, Sisto Foglietta, Bruce Wigmore, Lawrence McGuire, Doris Gonty, Veronica Gandy, Joseph Kennedy, William Maxwell, Mary Turnbull, Elsie Tyler, Gillian Sillars, Anne-Marie Stevenson, Pat Quinn, Annie Williams, Ronald Redman, Olga Szman, Sheila Shackleton, Frank Parlow Veronica Morris.*

**Eternal rest grant unto them O Lord and let perpetual light shine upon them, may they rest in peace. Amen**

**If you know any parishioners**

who are not well, in hospital or need a little support and would like a visit, please let Maria know using this email address [rcchurchoakham@dioceseofnottingham.uk](mailto:rcchurchoakham@dioceseofnottingham.uk) or call 01572 722308. It is very important for all our parishioners to feel part of our community - if we do not know we cannot help.

***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** Thank you. My heartfelt thanks for the cards, expressions of prayer, gifts and offerings over Christmas that I once again received from so many of you. I remain grateful for your kindness and generosity towards me in so many ways. I would also like to say of course a huge thank you to all who have helped in any way over the Christmas period with respect to our liturgies: cleaning, our organists, setting up and serving at the altar, welcoming, cleaning, decorating our Church with wonderful flower arrangements, and in many other ways that assist the community here. Finally, as we look forward to 2026, I pray that the New Year will be a peaceful and blessed one for you and your families. Canon Peter Vellacott

**The Jubilee Year of Hope** that began on Sunday 29th December 2024 when Pope Francis opened the 'Holy Door' in St Peter's Basilica will end this coming Sunday 28th December in our Diocese. Bishop Patrick will celebrate a special liturgy at the Cathedral this Sunday to mark the closing of the Jubilee Year for our own Diocese.

**Petition to urge the Nigerian government to protect Nigerian Christians:** Please consider signing the petition through the link given below to call on the UK Government to strongly urge the Nigerian authorities to protect Christian communities facing violence. It's been reported that over 7,000 Christians were killed in Nigeria this year. The link for the Petition can be found at <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/743829> (ctrl&click)

**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).

**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.