



Remember our newsletter is available **online**, with clickable links. 😊

Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church

Sandyhill Road, Banff, AB45 1BE

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Safeguarding Policy, *In God's Image*: <http://www.bcos.org.uk/safeguarding>
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The parish is part of the RC Diocese of Aberdeen Charitable Trust, a registered Scottish Charity, SC005122

15TH FEBRUARY 2026 – THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

MASS SCHEDULE

Monday – Tuesday
No public Mass

Ash Wednesday
7:00pm Mass

Friday and Saturday Morning
9:30am Mass

Saturday Evening
6pm (Vigil Mass of Sunday, Polish)

Sunday
9:30am

CONFESSION

Saturday 10:00-11:30 (when there's a Sat. a.m. Mass; please ring on Presbytery doorbell); **Sat 5:00-5:30pm**; before/after any Mass; or on request

Ash Wednesday and Lent

This Wednesday we enter the holy season of Lent: **a time of grace for us to grow in our relationship with Christ and with our neighbour**. It's a time when we think about "giving something up". This is good if done with prudence and love, to please God. But it's important to remember the other two major sorts of Lenten good work: **almsgiving** (or generally, helping others) and prayer. If all three – **prayer, fasting and almsgiving** – should always be part of a Christian life, Lent is a time to redouble our efforts. And God will bless this and reward us with His presence, His love, His protection.

Ash Wednesday is not a holy day of obligation, so it's not strictly necessary to go to Mass, but it is a **day of fasting (reducing the food we take to the necessary minimum) and abstinence (usually from meat)**. Catholics between the ages of 21 and 59 inclusive are held to fasting on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, unless their work, health or other significant factors make fasting inappropriate. In this case, abstaining from meat, offering some extra prayer for the grace of spiritual renewal during Lent, or some work of charity can be substituted. **The most important thing is to really open one's heart to God, and to be disposed to practice charity (holy love) towards those around us.**

Watoto Children's Choir

River Church Banff (Castle Street, AB45 1DH) are hosting the Watoto Children's Choir from Uganda on the **27th of Feb at 7pm**. They will be performing their powerful production, Better Days, which celebrates faith, courage, and the promise of brighter tomorrows. Don't miss this inspiring night that will move your heart and leave you full of hope. Free, but [reservation recommended here](#). For more info, see <https://www.watoto.com/choir/>

Parish Pastoral Council Meeting. The next meeting of OLMC Pastoral Parish Council will take place on Thursday 26th Feb, at 7pm in the Parish Room.

Catholic Education 2nd Collection – will be taken **this weekend, Sat/Sun 14th/15th February**, to help provide financial assistance to support the work of Catholic schools.

Stations of the Cross will be held in Polish at **5:30pm on Saturday** during Lent. 🙏🙏🙏

Youth 2000 Pilgrimage to Medjugorje!

The Youth 2000 Trustees and Staff Team believe that God is inviting Youth 2000 to 'Return to the Source'. They're delighted to announce that, for the first time in a generation, the Summer Festival this year will be in Medjugorje, the place Youth 2000 began, for the Mladifest Youth Festival, 30.07-06.08.26. Young people are invited to join them on this pilgrimage. It'll give you a unique opportunity to experience the original festival together with young people from all over the world. More info [here](#) or at www.youth200.org

The Marriage Course (online). Commencing on Sunday 25th January, a series of seven sessions, designed to help couples invest in their relationship and build a strong marriage. Nicky and Sila Lee, authors of *The Marriage Book*, developed *The Marriage Course* for couples looking for practical support to strengthen their relationship. The course is designed to help couples build strong foundations, learn to communicate more effectively and resolve differences well. [More Info & Registration](#)

'Why Should We Believe in God?' The Thomistic Institute Chapter at the University of Aberdeen is hosting a lecture by Professor Gaven Kerr of St Patrick's Pontifical University entitled *Why Should We Believe in God?* Thursday, 19th March at 6:30 pm in the Taylor Building Room TA21 of the University of Aberdeen. This is a great opportunity for Catholics and non-Catholics alike to explore the rationality of belief in God. This lecture is free and open to the public and will be followed by a reception. All welcome.

LITURGICAL DAYS THIS WEEK

Monday 16th February
Weekday of 6th Week of Ordinary Time

Tuesday 17th February
Seven Holy Founders of the Order of Servites

Wednesday 18th February
Ash Wednesday

Day of Fasting and Abstinence

Thursday 19th February
Thursday After Ash Wednesday

Friday 20th February
Friday After Ash Wednesday

Saturday 21st February
Saturday After Ash Wednesday –
Commemoration of St. Peter Damian,
Bishop and Doctor of the Church

Sunday 22nd February
1st Sunday of Lent

Recent Offertory Collections

8th Feb: Cash £257; Gift Aid Envelopes £50; Fabric Donation £100

Thank you for your support!