

## The Gospel according to Matthew (vi)

IN THE narrative that constitutes the first part of the fourth book of the gospel (Mt 13:54–17:27), Jesus is shown preparing for the establishment of his church with its teaching authority that will supplant the blind guidance of the Pharisees (Mt 15:13–14), whose teaching, curiously said to be that of the Sadducees also, is repudiated by Jesus as the norm for his disciples (Mt 16:6, 11–12). The church of Jesus will be built on Peter (Mt 16:18), who will be given authority to bind and loose on earth, an authority whose exercise will be confirmed in heaven (Mt 16:19). The metaphor of binding and loosing has a variety of meanings, among them that of giving authoritative teaching. This promise is made to Peter directly after he has confessed Jesus to be the Messiah, the Son of the living God (Mt 16:16), a confession that he has made as the result of revelation given to him by the heavenly Father (Mt 16:17); Matthew's ecclesiology is based on his high Christology.

Directly after that confession Jesus begins to instruct his disciples about how he must go the way of suffering and death (Mt 16:21). Peter, who has been praised for his confession, protests against this and receives from Jesus the sharpest of rebukes for attempting to deflect Jesus from his God-appointed destiny. The future rock upon whom the church will be built is still a man of "little faith" (see Mt 14:31). Both he and the other disciples must know not only that Jesus will have to suffer and die but that they too will have to follow him on the way of the cross if they are truly to be his disciples (Mt 16:24–25).

The discourse following this narrative (Mt 18:1–35) is often called the "church order" discourse, although that title is perhaps misleading since the emphasis is not on the structure of the church but on the care that the disciples must have for one another in respect to guarding each other's faith in Jesus (Mt 18:6–7), to seeking out those who have wandered from the fold (Mt 18:10–14), and to repeated forgiving of their fellow disciples who have offended them (Mt 18:21–35). But there is also the obligation to correct the sinful fellow Christian and, should one refuse to be corrected, separation from the community is demanded (Mt 18:15–18).

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St Edmund Campion Deanery, Old Berkshire-  
Thames ISIS Pastoral Area  
www.thamesisis.org.uk  
**EAST HENDRED CATHOLIC PARISH**  
St Mary's Church, East Hendred  
St Patrick's Church, East Ilsley

hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk  
Parish Priest: The Revd Mgr Andrew Burnham  
01235 835038 or 07976 437979  
aburnham@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Sundays: Year A, Weekday: Week 6 (I),</b> <b>Divine Office: Week 2</b> <b>SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> [GREEN] <b>Mass: 9.30am St Mary's</b> <i>Pro populo</i> <b>Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's</b> <i>Pro populo</i>
<b>Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<i>Feria</i> [green] Mass: 9.15am St Mary's <i>Sick &amp; Housebound</i>
<b>Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>SS Cyril, Religious, and Methodius, Bishop, Patrons of Europe</b> [white] Mass: 9.15am St Mary's <i>The Naughton Family [Annie Furlong]</i>
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<i>Feria</i> [green] Adoration: 11.45am St Mary's Mass: 12.15pm St Mary's <i>Isabelle Langley [Annie Furlong]</i>
<b>Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<i>Feria</i> [green] Mass: 9.15am St Mary's
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<i>Feria</i> [green] Mass: 8.30am Hendred House <i>Adoration: 3pm at Hendred House</i> <i>Hoby Souls</i>
<b>Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<i>Our Lady of Lourdes [white]</i> <i>No Mass at St Mary's. 9.30am Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot</i>
<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> [GREEN] <b>Divine Office: Week 3</b> <b>Mass: 9.30am St Mary's</b> <i>Patrick &amp; Eithne Naughton [40th Wedding Anniversary]</i> <b>Mass: 11.15am St Patrick's</b> <i>Pro populo</i>
	<b>Confessions: Sunday 8.45am or by appointment</b>  <b>www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk</b>

### COUPLES' CATHOLIC CAROUSEL

We're running a 'hop on-hop off' Catholic Carousel for Couples preparing for marriage. The next meeting is at 7.30pm on **Wednesday (15<sup>th</sup> February)** at Cozens Farm. After that, we attend the 8pm Mass on Ash Wednesday (1<sup>st</sup> March) and meet again on 15<sup>th</sup> March. Please speak to Fr Andrew if you need further information.

### CONSECRATION OF ENGLISH MARTYRS CHURCH

We are really pleased that Bishop Philip is going to visit Didcot on the anniversary of English Martyrs' blessing, to actually consecrate the church. This is going to be on **Saturday (18<sup>th</sup> February) at 12 noon**. We hope that many people will be able to attend in order to make this a wonderful celebration.

### MUMS ON THE RUN

The next meeting is on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February at 8.00pm** in the Holy Family Room. If you are a mum raising children, who would like a bit of time to chat and reflect with other mothers, please come along to these meetings. Contact Gillian Groeger for more information [gilliangroeger@hotmail.com](mailto:gilliangroeger@hotmail.com)

### YOUTH GROUP

The Youth Group meets again on **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February**, in the Parish rooms at 6:30pm. We will be going swimming and returning to the parish rooms at about 9pm. Permission forms need to be filled in. Please see Veronica if you have not got one of these. Thanks

### DOMESTIC CHURCH: (5)

**Holidays and Sacred Spaces.** Whether on holiday or simply on a day out, there are all kinds of holy places well worth a visit. Combine a trip to the seaside with a visit to a cathedral or ancient abbey. Have a look at the chapel in the Tower of London or in a stately home. Take in the odd church in a town or village. Visit one of the college chapels in Oxford—the cathedral at Christ Church, for example, or New College Chapel, Magdalen College Chapel. Pick your time and find fabulous music as well as history and great beauty.

### PARISH COLLECTION

Today there is a second collection for the Catholic Education Service.

### FUTURE COLLECTIONS

Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> March: Clergy Assistance Fund



**NEWSLETTER** | Please send all notices for next week's Newsletter to Maria at [hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:hendred@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) by **Wednesday 10 am**



### BAPTISM AND WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

We remember in our prayers those whose anniversaries fall at this time.

### THE SICK AND THOSE IN NEED

We remember in our prayers *Kathleen Doyle, Sr Catherine, Diana Tuson, Mary Wallace, Des McNichol, Brenda Paddon, Alfie Bartlam, Jenny Ayres and Jadryga Adasko*. Names remain for four weeks. Please request further inclusion.

### THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

We remember in our prayers those who have died recently and those with anniversaries at this time: *Dermot Wisdom, Lawrence Cooling, Robert Tammer, Emily Mulford, Dinah Booker, Yvonne Goyder, Esme Stafford-Northcote, James Norman and Patrick Barnes*.

### VACANCY FOR CHAPLAIN AT HUNTERCOMBE PRISON

Part-time 18.5hrs per week, £25,520+ pro-rata. To offer pastoral care & religious formation to the prisoners and staff of the Catholic tradition. For job description & application form from Rev. Ian Thacker email: [ian.thacker@hmps.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ian.thacker@hmps.gsi.gov.uk) or 01491 643212. Apply ASAP.

### SUMMER CAMP FOR BOYS

This year Fr Mark Hogan will again be leading a camp for boys of secondary school age at St. Cassian's, Kintbury, from **Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> to Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July**. There will be plenty of sport, outings, competitions and fun and games to ensure that boys will have a fantastic few days. This will continue to take place within the context of the celebration of the Catholic Faith, including daily Mass and morning prayer. The cost of the camp is £200 (though full and part bursaries may be available). Please contact [dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### HOLY FATHER'S MONTHLY INTENTION - COMFORT THE AFFLICTED

That all those who are afflicted, especially the poor, refugees, and marginalized, may find welcome and comfort in our communities.

### DIOCESAN INTENTIONS - PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Archbishop Cornelius, the clergy and people of our twin diocese of Bamenda following recent outbreak of violence and unrest and the City of Bamenda and for all who have been killed or injured.

Peace in the world and for those who govern the nations that they may do so wisely and justly.

All those suffering in the world through hunger and disease and natural disaster.

Vocations to the Priesthood, Diaconate and Religious Life and for all currently discerning their vocation.

The sick clergy and lay faithful of the Diocese.

All the faithful departed, for deceased clergy and people of the Diocese, for those recently departed, especially as a result warfare, violence, terrorism and persecution.

The work of all Evangelisation Strategy Teams across our Diocese.

The success of the Convocation of Clergy to be held next Summer.

All the faithful of the Diocese that they may share their time and talents for the good of the Church and discern how God is calling them in a particular way to be more intentional disciples.