

**Mass Text for the First Sunday of Advent**

**Entrance Antiphon**

To you, I lift up my soul, O my God.  
In you, I have trusted; let me not be put to shame.  
Nor let my enemies exult over me;  
and let none who hope in you  
be put to shame.

**First Reading:** Isaiah 63:16-17; 64:1, 3-8

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

**Response:** God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

**Second Reading:** I Cor 1:3-9

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy  
and give us your saving help.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Mark 13:33-37

**Communion Antiphon:**

The Lord will bestow his bounty,  
and our earth shall yield its increase.

**MASS TIMES for the coming week**

**SATURDAY 2nd December**

**Vigil Masses of the First Sunday of Advent**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4:30-4:50pm**

**St John's:** 5:00pm Pro Populo

**English Martyrs:** 6:30pm Deceased members of  
the O'Halloran family and P Flynn (G Marr)

(Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at English  
Martyrs 5:50-6:20pm)

**SUNDAY 3rd December**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**English Martyrs:** 7.30am Extraordinary Form  
Latin Mass—Elizabeth Jane King RIP

**English Martyrs:** 9:00am Pro Populo

**St John's:** 11:00am William Bertie King RIP

**If you have a Missio Box, please remember to  
return it to church as soon as possible for  
counting. Thank you.**

**Mass times for the coming week**  
**(English Martyrs is open mornings, Tuesday to**  
**Friday 9.15am-1pm, for private prayer)**

**MONDAY 4th December**

**Mass at St Mary's East Hendred, 9.15am**

**TUESDAY 5th December**

**No Mass this morning**

**WEDNESDAY 6th December**

**No Mass this morning**

**English Martyrs:** 7:30pm Extraordinary Form  
Latin Mass—Arthur Roland Harris RIP

**THURSDAY 7th December—St Ambrose**

**St John's:** 9:30am Constance Irene Harris RIP

**FRIDAY 8th December—The Immaculate**  
**Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary**

**English Martyrs:** 9:30am Lucy Kelly RIP  
(A Talbot)

**St John's:** 12 Noon Vera King RIP

**English Martyrs:** 7.30pm John and Ivy Dean RIP

**SATURDAY 9th December**

**English Martyrs:** 9:30am Teresa Swain and  
Teresa Johnson RIP (P & T)

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: 10:00-10:30am**

*Weekend Masses as usual*



Thames ISIS  
Catholic Pastoral Area

**PARISHES OF**  
**THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Didcot**  
**ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, Wallingford**

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**3rd December 2017**  
**First Sunday of Advent (Yr B)**

The new Church year begins with a plea for God's visitation. "Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down," the prophet Isaiah cries in today's First Reading.

In today's Psalm, too, we hear the anguished voice of Israel, imploring God to look down from His heavenly throne—to save and shepherd His people.

Today's readings are relatively brief. Their language and "message" are deceptively simple. But we should take note of the serious mood and penitential aspect of the Liturgy today—as the people of Israel recognize their sinfulness, their failures to keep God's covenant, their inability to save themselves.

And in this Advent season, we should see our own lives in the experience of Israel. As we examine our consciences, can't we, too, find that we often harden our hearts, refuse His rule, wander from His ways, withhold our love from Him?

God is faithful, Paul reminds us in today's Epistle. He is our Father. He has hearkened to the cry of His children, coming down from heaven for Israel's sake and for ours—to redeem us from our exile from God, to restore us to His love.

In Jesus, we have seen the Father (see [John 14:8-9](#)). The Father has let His face shine upon us. He is the good shepherd (see [John 10:11-15](#)) come to guide us to the heavenly kingdom. No matter how far we have strayed, He will give us new life if we turn to Him, if we call upon His holy name, if we pledge anew never again to withdraw from Him.

As Paul says today, He has given us every spiritual gift—especially the Eucharist and penance—to strengthen us as we await Christ's final coming. He will keep us firm to the end—if we let Him.

So, in this season of repentance, we should heed the warning—repeated three times by our

**In your prayers, please remember:**

Jenny Evans, Amanda Gender, Christopher Almeida, Anna Pearce, Mary Guinan, Maureen Logan, Mary McCrystal, Margaret Goldsworthy, Sophia Farmer, Janina Krokowska, Ann Tomline, Terry Appleyard, Val Claridge,

**Advent Day of Recollection**—Please don't forget to sign up for the Advent Recollection Day, led by Fr. Paul King at the Newman Centre, Littlemore. Lifts are available. Forms are at the

**Christmas Mass times at English Martyrs and St John the Evangelist**

*Advent Penitential Service, English Martyrs, 14th December at 7pm*

**Christmas Eve**

Midnight Mass at 11pm at English Martyrs (carols from 10.30pm)

**Christmas Day**

9am Mass at English Martyrs

11am Mass at St John's

*Please note: Saturday Vigil Masses on 23rd December and Sunday morning Masses on 24th*

**St Edmund's Catholic Primary School - Admissions Arrangements September 2019**

As required by regulations, the Governing Body of St Edmund's Catholic Primary School will be conducting a consultation on its proposed admissions arrangements for the school year 2019-2020. The consultation period runs for a minimum period of 6 weeks from 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017 until 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018. Copies of the proposed policy can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the school website

[www.st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk).

Comments on the arrangements should be sent to Chair of Admissions Committee, St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, Radley Road, Abingdon, Oxon OX14 3PP **by 12 noon on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2018.**

The Governing Body will consider all comments received before determining its admissions

**SVP**

Grateful thanks to those who provided and bought such delicious cakes last weekend ,also to those who bought raffle tickets. A total of £261.70 was raised for the work of the SVP. The

**Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics enough to send their children to them?** Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their

**Parish Safeguarding Rep**  
To be announced

**CWTA Prayer Cycle**  
Please pray for  
The Free Church, Brightwell

**Help needed to deliver Mass times flyers to the new houses on Great Western Park in Didcot. Please mark the map at the back of church with the roads you can deliver to and**

**Readers' Rota, St John's** - The next readers' rota will run from December 16th/17th to Easter. Could readers please pick up a form which has been left for each of them at the back of church, and fill in on there any dates on which they are NOT available during that period.

**Advent and Christmas at Heavenly Harrods at English Martyrs**



Advent and Christmas are in the air at Heavenly Harrods. There are a variety of cards boxed or single large or small. Advent calendars with or without glitter! Angels, scented candles and much more. Come and

**Happy New Liturgical Year!**

Today, the First Sunday of Advent is the first day of the new liturgical year of the Church. Every liturgical year is devoted to a particular set of Gospel readings for each Sunday and they run in a three year cycle, corresponding to Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Last year was devoted to Matthew, while this year's readings will be primarily from Mark. Today's reading is just the beginning of many passages from Mark that you will be hearing throughout the whole year. It might be a good spiritual exercise for all of us this Advent, to sit down one evening, turn off the T.V., and read the Gospel of Mark all the way through. It's the shortest of the four gospels so try to do it in one sitting so you don't lose any of the flavour of it. Then, when we come to Mass on Sunday and hear various passages of the Word of God proclaimed, we'll know where

**Are you interested in becoming a Catholic?** If so, we are planning on starting an RCIA course very soon. Please contact the parish office or speak to Fr Phillip for more information.

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December**—As we get older we can begin to feel invisible. Younger generations begin to be dismissive of us or even patronise us. It might be true that our brain function slows down a little as we get older, but we still have a wealth of experience that the younger generations have not got. This month Pope Francis invites us to join in his prayer intention for December "...**That the elderly, sustained by families and Christian communities, may apply their wisdom and experience to**



**Telephone Number for SVP**

If you know of anyone in need please call  
07580539765.

**Last week's Collection:**  
£1412

*Thank you for your donations*