

**Mass Text for 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:** Jeremiah 33:14-16

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 24:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14

**Response:**

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

**Second Reading:** St Paul Thess 3:12-4:2

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Alleluia!

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

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

**Communion Antiphon:**

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

**MASS TIMES**

**Saturday 1st December**

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

**24 hours Adoration begins after 9.30am Mass at English Martyrs**

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

**English Martyrs:** 6.30pm Mary Angela Evans RIP (J Wells)

(24 hours Adoration continuing until tomorrow morning)

**SUNDAY 2nd December**

**First Sunday of Advent**

**English Martyrs:** 7.30am Extraordinary Latin Mass Pro Populo

**English Martyrs:** 9:00am Lech Wiczorek RIP (Lazarus family)

**St John's:** 11am Sean Kenny RIP (D Tomas)

**Mass times for the coming week**

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

**MONDAY 3rd December**

No Mass in Didcot or Wallingford (please refer to East Hendred newsletter (www.thamesisis.org.uk) for details of Mass times at St Mary's)

**TUESDAY 4th December**

**St John's:** 9.30am Tina Plazes RIP (C Wheeler)

**English Martyrs:** 2.30pm Requiem Mass for Martin Connolly RIP

**WEDNESDAY 5th December**

**Please note: No 9.30am Mass**

**English Martyrs:** 11am Requiem Mass for Giuseppe Pani RIP

**English Martyrs:** 7.30pm Extraordinary Form Latin Mass Val Claridge RIP

**THURSDAY 6th December**

**No Mass this morning**

**FRIDAY 7th December**

**English Martyrs:** 9.30am Fr Bob Jennings RIP (Naughton family)

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

**English Martyrs:** 9.30am For the children and young people of our parishes

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

**St John's:** 5pm Christopher Almeida's Intentions (Almeida family)

**English Martyrs:** 6.30pm Pro Populo

**SUNDAY 9th December**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**English Martyrs:** 9am Francis and Margaret McLoughlin RIP (P & T McLoughlin)

**St John's:** 11am Pro Populo

Please remember to turn off your mobile phone during Mass.



**PARISHES OF  
THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Didcot  
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, Wallingford**  
*www.thamesisis.org.uk*

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(Parish Office in Presbytery open Tuesday to Friday mornings for all enquiries)  
Fr Phillip's e-mail: ppharris@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

**2nd December 2018**  
**First Sunday of Advent (Yr C)**

Every Advent, the Liturgy of the Word gives our sense of time a reorientation. There's a deliberate tension in the next four weeks' readings—between promise and fulfillment, expectation and deliverance, between looking forward and looking back.

In today's First Reading, the prophet Jeremiah focuses our gaze on the promise God made to David some 1,000 years before Christ. God says through the prophet that He will fulfill this promise by raising up a "just shoot," a righteous offspring of David, who will rule Israel in justice (see [2 Samuel 7:16](#); [Jeremiah 33:17](#); [Psalm 89:4-5](#); [27-38](#)).

Today's Psalm, too, sounds the theme of Israel's ancient expectation: "Guide me in Your truth and teach me. For You are God my Savior and for You I will wait all day."

We look back on Israel's desire and anticipation knowing that God has already made good on those promises by sending His only Son into the world. Jesus is the "just shoot," the God and Savior for Whom Israel was waiting.

Knowing that He is a God who keeps His promises lends grave urgency to the words of Jesus in today's Gospel.

Urging us to keep watch for His return in glory, He draws on Old Testament images of chaos and instability—turmoil in the heavens (see [Isaiah 13:11, 13](#); [Ezekiel 32:7-8](#); [Joel 2:10](#)); roaring seas (see [Isaiah 5:30](#); [17:12](#)); distress among the nations (see [Isaiah 8:22, 14:25](#)) and terrified people (see [Isaiah 13:6-11](#)). He evokes the prophet Daniel's image of the Son of Man coming on a cloud of glory to describe His return as a "theophany," a manifestation of God (see [Daniel 7:13-14](#)).

Many will cower and be literally scared to death. But Jesus says we should greet the end times with heads raised high, confident that God keeps His promises, that our "redemption is at hand," that "the kingdom of God is near" (see [Luke 21:31](#)).



Scott Hahn

**In your prayers, please remember:**

Jenny Evans, Christopher Almeida, Anna Pearce, Mary Guinan, Maureen Logan, Mary McCrystal, Margaret Goldsworthy, Sophia Farmer, Ann Tomline, Joan Walker, Terry Appleyard, Val Claridge, Joan Russell, Audrey Edwards, Rosa Maria Santos, Laurence Turner, Margaret Healy and all the sick and housebound of the parishes.



**Mission Kids** is a club is for children who have made their First Holy Communion and would like to continue exploring their faith while also having fun with their friends. The next group will meet on Saturday 8th December, 10.30am—12pm at English Martyrs. More details from [tipayouth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tipayouth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Val Claridge, who died on Friday.

**St Amand's School Christmas Fair** Friday 7th December 3.30-6pm, all welcome!

St Amand's is your local Catholic primary school, please contact Mrs Ellery Headteacher, via the school office on 01235 833342 or email [office.3855@st-amands.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3855@st-amands.oxon.sch.uk) if you would like to visit.

**Peace Actions for December 2018**

- Pray for those who suffer abuse of their human rights. (**Human Rights Day is 10th December**)
- Support projects for the homeless that could do with some help over the Christmas period.
- Support a children's charity over Christmas. Think particularly of children who have been displaced because of war or persecution
- Reflect on the meaning of Christ's coming to the world. What does the 'peace of Christ' mean to you?

**Apostleship of the Sea – Stella Maris (Christmas Drive)**

As you may know the ships of the world which bring us the many goods we use each day do not stop operating over the Christmas Season. This means that the seafarers who live on-board these ships are also working over the Christmas period and they are very far from home and have no contact with friends and family. Each year the **Apostleship of the Sea (AoS)** seeks your kind donations of woolly hats, toberone chocolates as well as other personal items in support of the many seafarers who work upon the high seas. As well as those much needed items, **AoS** also invites the Faithful to donate any extra rosaries, bibles or small crucifixes. Financial donations are most welcomed as well. For more information on how you may be able to help, please contact your local parish **AoS** representative or Fr John Lavers ([john.lavers@stellamarisemail.org](mailto:john.lavers@stellamarisemail.org)). The website is: <https://www.apostleshipofthesea.org.uk>.

**Parish Safeguarding Rep**

For all adult and child safeguarding issues, please call Stefania Harford Tel: 07846559700

**CWTA Prayer Cycle**

The Free Church, Brightwell

**Christmas Raffle**—tickets will be on sale on 24th November, 1st and 8th December and will be drawn on 15th December, cost £1. Prizes on display in the church porch at English Martyrs.

**The next Youth Group meeting** will take place on 7th December at 7pm at English Martyrs. It will be a Quiz Night with Supper. Please put the date in your diaries.

**Next Senior's Lunch will be on 6th December** at noon. Menu and sign up form are in the church porch at English Martyrs.

**Advance notice of Advent Penitential Service**—Tuesday 18th December at 7pm, at English Martyrs. Please put the date in your diaries.

**Christmas Hampers**—Didcot Baptist Church are organising the Christmas hampers this year and have asked for donations of chocolates no more than 500g in weight. We need a total of 55 boxes. They would also be happy to have help for packing of the hampers, which will take place on 14th December at Didcot Baptist Church. Thank you in advance.

**Churches Together Didcot and District**—We currently need parishioners to represent English Martyrs on the Churches Together team in Didcot. Please contact the parish office if you think you can help. Thank you.

**SVP – Donation of Toiletries for Nursing homes in Didcot and Wallingford**

The SVP will be distributing toiletries to local nursing homes in Didcot and Wallingford to give a gift to the residents for Christmas. Donations such as a bar of soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, shower gel, men's toiletries etc. will be much appreciated. Boxes for donated items will be at the back of church at English Martyrs and St John's from 24<sup>th</sup> November until December 16<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your generosity.

**Advent My Day by Day** booklet now available from the back of church, cost £1.50.

**Heavenly Harrods Repository** has many new Christmas items in stock from candles, advent calendars to cards and small gifts. Come and have a browse after weekend Mass.

**Pope Francis' Message for December**

Jesus' message is universal and timeless, but the language we find in the liturgy is often a little lofty. The loftier the language gets, the more we feel it is for the Church and not for our everyday lives. If we are to keep the message alive, we have to use a language that connects with our 21st century interests. This month Pope Francis invites us to join in his monthly prayer intention, "**...That people, who are involved in the service and transmission of faith, may find, in their dialogue with culture, a language suited to the conditions of the present time.**"



*Telephone Number for SVP*

If you know of anyone in need please call  
01235 812338

*Last week's Collection:*

*£1356  
Second Collection for this weekend:  
Parish Centre/Refurbishment Fund*

*Thank you for your donations*