

Mass Text for the First Sunday of Lent

When he calls on me,
I will answer him;
I will deliver him and give him glory,
I will grant him length of days.

First Reading: Gen 2:7-9; 3:1-7

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 50:3-6, 12-14, 17

Response:

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Second Reading: Rom 5:12-19

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
Man does not live on bread alone
but on every word that comes from the mouth of
God.

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel: Matt 4:1-11

Communion Antiphon:

One does not live by bread alone,
but on every word that comes forth
from the mouth of God.

MASS TIMES for the coming week

Saturday 4th February

Vigil Mass of the First Sunday of Lent

St John's: 5pm

English Martyrs: 6.30pm Pro Populo

SUNDAY 5th March

The First Sunday of Lent

*English Martyrs: 7.30am Extraordinary Form
Latin Mass*

*English Martyrs: 9am Janina Krokowska's
Intentions (P McLoughlin)*

St John's: 11am Pro Populo

Mass times for the coming week

MONDAY 6th March

Mass at St Mary's East Hendred, 9.15am

TUESDAY 7th March

St John's: 9.30am Canon Charles Walker RIP

WEDNESDAY 8th March

English Martyrs: 9.30am

*(Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
and Benediction)*

*English Martyrs: 7.30pm Extraordinary Form
Latin Mass, Albina Kubiliene RIP (Laura Okoli)*

THURSDAY 9th March

St John's: 9.30am

FRIDAY 10th March

*English Martyrs: 9.30am Molly Leahy RIP
(A Talbot)*

SATURDAY 11th March

English Martyrs: 9.30am Fr Jim Fanning RIP

*(Followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation and
reciting of the rosary)*

Weekend Masses as usual



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

www.thamesisis.org.uk

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5th March 2017
First Sunday of Lent (Yr A)

If we imagine that temptation never seems to come our way, could it be that we're not worth the devil's attention? We tend to think of temptation as something that will lead us into a life of crime or immorality, but temptation is simply anything that threatens to take us away from God. If temptation never seems to come our way, perhaps it's because we are not trying to be close to God in the first place.

Many of us fail to recognise temptation, and the reason we fail is because we don't really know who we are or what we're about. It's surprising that we can get so far on in years without being about to answer simple questions like "What are you doing for God?" "How would you like to be remembered?" The reason we struggle with questions like these is because as human beings we are governed hugely by self interest. Self interest is essential for survival and it's in all of us, but as Christians we have to put self interest on a back burner and put in the time and effort into defining who we really would like to be. Once we have achieved this, then the devil's temptations are suddenly crystal clear. After all, we can't be tempted away from our path in life if we've no idea what our path in life is. If we have no plan, we are hardly worth the devil's attention.

When we choose to give up something this Lent, perhaps it should be something that reflects the path we have chosen and the temptation we are trying to transcend. If we decide to give up red wine for instance, with the intention of dropping a couple of dress sizes, God won't be hugely impressed and the devil won't be remotely interested. If we give up wine because we have identified that it is stopping us from doing some important work of God's making, our Lenten journey will take on a life changing significance. Jesus gives us an important clue; "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" When we make our daily choices ask, "Is this about me.... or is it about God?"



In your prayers, please remember...

Cyril Verling, Jenny Evans, Amanda Gender, Christopher Almeida, Anna Pearce, Mary Guinan, Maureen Logan, Mary McCrystal, Margaret Goldsworthy, Sophia Farmer, Janina Krokowska, Ann and Cyril Tomline, Terry Appleyard, Charlotte Pyatt, Val Claridge, Joan Russell and all the sick of the parish.



Please pray for the repose of the soul of Fr Jim Fanning, who died last week. Many parishioners may remember Fr Jim's visits and correspondence about his Missionary work.

Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or Anniversary over 60 years? If so Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of Celebration. This will take place at St Bede's Church in Basingstoke on **Saturday 24th June 2017** at 11 am. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage. If you would like to come, please visit the Diocesan website <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/anniversaries/> and complete the on-line form,

Or send an email to anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Please note this address is not monitored daily and you may have to wait for a reply, so please be patient.
Or contact Liz Murphy at St Bede's Parish office on 01256 465214
To help celebrate the occasion please could you provide a **COPY** of your Wedding photograph, you can upload it when you complete the form. Alternatively send via email to above email address or by post to the following address:
St Bede's Parish Office, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX
Please mark envelope Significant Wedding Mass

MARRIED COUPLES

When someone buys a new car they usually want to look after it. The manufacturer recommends that they check the battery, the tyres and the oil and get it serviced on a regular basis. Relationships also need to have a 'check-up' from time to time.
A **Marriage Encounter Weekend** is an opportunity to enrich your marriage. The weekend is focussed on various aspects of relationship, including the Catholic Church's Vision for Marriage. Apart from mealtimes and the concluding Mass, the weekend is spent together as a couple. There are no group discussions. Here is a tremendous opportunity to enrich your relationship away from the stresses of everyday life. The next Weekend to be held in this area is at Park Place, near Fareham from 19 to 21 May.
For further details please look on our website www.wwme.org.uk

CAFOD Lent Fast day Friday 10th March

Florence is a hard working mother who has been helped by CAFOD's partner in Zambia to learn to become a fish farmer and so provided for her family, and give her children a brighter future by enabling them to go to school. Please support the CAFOD Lent fast day and ensure that more people like Florence can turn tiny fish into something amazing. Many thanks.

English Martyrs Church is open for prayer Tuesday to Friday mornings until 1pm. **If you have a key, please do not lock the church during these times.** Thank you.

Parish Safeguarding Rep
Kath Oldham—katholdham@hotmail.co.uk

CTWA Prayer Cycle
Please pray for
St Mary's Church, Cholsey

Talk on St John of the Cross—Barbara Thacker will be giving this talk on Thursday 9th March, at 7.30pm, in the altar room at English Martyrs. All are welcome.

SVP ANNUAL RAFFLE

Raffle tickets will be on sale after all masses the weekend of **11th/12th March**. Prizes of £3,000, £2,000, £1000, 10x £100, 10x £50. This is the largest fundraising event run by National Office and which enables us to fund the various projects we are involved with.



SOUP LUNCHEAS AT ST JOHN'S

Each Friday in Lent the SVP will be serving bread and homemade soup from 11.30am - 2.30pm. Money received from donations will go to the Baby Feeding Centres in the Sudan, both North and South. We hope you will support this venture and bring along your friends. A choice of delicious soups guaranteed!

Chrism Mass, St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth – Tuesday 11th April 2017

The Pastoral Area is once again running a bus to the Cathedral for the Chrism Mass this year. The bus will leave Our Lady and St Edmund's, Abingdon at 7.45am and English Martyrs, Didcot at 8.15am, returning at around 3pm. The cost of a seat is £12, payment required on booking. Please call Didcot parish office to book a place on 01235 812338, email didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. All bookings must be received by Friday 31st March.

Safeguarding Officer required—URGENT—The voluntary post of Safeguarding Officer for both parishes has become available. If you can help in this role, please contact the parish office. Full training will be given. A big thank you to Kath Oldham for all her efforts over recent years.

Diocesan Formation for Mission Team—This Lent, join the Formation for Mission Wednesday Gospel Webinar, every Wednesday from 7 to 8 pm, to discover the depths of the Sunday Gospel.

Find out more about God, about yourself and about the Church.
Take the time to ponder the Word of God and to ask the questions you cannot ask in church during the homily!
You can join the webinar wherever you are, from a computer with a good internet connection and the sound turned up.

Here are a few steps to join the webinar:

1. Register: <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/formation/webinar>
2. You will receive a confirmation email, and reminder emails after that.
3. On Wednesday at 7pm, join the webinar by clicking on the link in your confirmation/reminder email.

Telephone Number for SVP

If you know of anyone in need please call 07580539765.

Last week's Collections:

£1545

**Second Collection this week:
Parish Centre/Refurbishment Fund
Thank you for your donations**