

**Mass Text for the Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Entrance Antiphon**

You are just, O Lord,  
and your judgement is right;  
Treat your servant in accord  
with your merciful love.

**First Reading:** Isaiah 35:4-7

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 145:7-10

**Response:**

My soul, give praise to the Lord.

**Second Reading:** James 2:1-5

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Alleluia!  
Speak, Lord, your servant is listening:  
you have the message of eternal life.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Mark 7:31-37

**Communion Antiphon:**

Like the deer that yearns for running streams,  
so my soul is yearning for you, my God;  
my soul is thirsting for God,  
the living God.

**MASS TIMES for the coming week**  
**Saturday 8th September**  
**Vigil Masses for The Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*In September the Angelus will be said before the Vigil Masses*

**St John's:** 5:00pm Sally Carty RIP  
(anniversary) (family)

*(Preceded by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation from 4.30pm)*

**English Martyrs:** 6.30pm Pro Populo  
*(Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at English Martyrs 5:50-6:20pm)*

**SUNDAY 9th September**  
**Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**English Martyrs:** 9:00am Lech Wiczorek's welfare

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

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

**MONDAY 10th September**

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

**TUESDAY 11th September**

**St John's:** 9.30am Margaret O'Loughlin RIP  
(C Wheeler)

**WEDNESDAY 12th September—The Most Holy Name of Mary**

**English Martyrs:** 9.30am Gerarda Lazaro Olfato RIP  
*(Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction)*

*The funeral service for Margaret Carr RIP will take place at the Old Vicarage Nursing Home at 2pm following the cremation at Thatcham Crematorium*

**English Martyrs:** 7.30pm Extraordinary Form Latin Mass Christie Daly RIP

**THURSDAY 13th September—St John Chrysostom**

**St John's:** 9.30am Margaret Carr RIP (SVP)

**FRIDAY 14th September—The Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

**English Martyrs:** 9.30am Mike Bat O'Sullivan RIP  
(C Wall)

**SATURDAY 15th September—Our Lady of Sorrows**

**English Martyrs:** 12 Noon John Logan's Intentions on his reception into the Church  
*(no 9.30 Mass or confessions today)*



Thames ISIS  
Catholic Pastoral Area

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

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**9th September 2018**

**Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Yr B)**

The incident in today's Gospel is recorded only by Mark. The key line is what the crowd says at the end: "He has done all things well." In the Greek, this echoes the creation story, recalling that God saw all the things He had done and declared them good (see [Genesis 1:31](#)).

Mark also deliberately evokes Isaiah's promise, which we hear in today's First Reading, that God will make the deaf hear and the mute speak. He even uses a Greek word to describe the man's condition (mogilalon, or "speech impediment") that's only found in one other place in the Bible—in the Greek translation of today's Isaiah passage, where the prophet describes the "dumb" singing.

The crowd recognizes that Jesus is doing what the prophet had foretold. But Mark wants us to see something far greater—that, to use the words from today's First Reading: "Here is your God."

Notice how personal and physical the drama is in the Gospel. Our focus is drawn to a hand, a finger, ears, a tongue, spitting. In Jesus, Mark shows us, God has truly come in the flesh.

What He has done is to make all things new, a new creation (see [Revelation 21:1-5](#)). As Isaiah promised, He has made the living waters of Baptism flow in the desert of the world. He has set captives free from their sins, as we sing in today's Psalm. He has come that rich and poor might dine together in the Eucharistic feast, as James tells us in today's Epistle.

He has done for each of us what He did for that deaf mute. He has opened our ears to hear the Word of God, and loosed our tongues that we might sing praises to Him.

Let us then, in the Eucharist, again give thanks to our glorious Lord Jesus Christ. Let us say with Isaiah, here is our God, He comes to save us. Let us be rich in faith, that we might inherit the kingdom promised to those who love Him.

*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, Martin Connolly, Rosa Maria Santos, Laurence Turner, and all the sick and housebound of the parishes.



**Child, Youth and Family Team (CYFT) Retreats 2018 - Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> September 13:30-17:30 and Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> October 10:30-14:30.**

Following the call of Jesus to ‘Come away by yourselves...and rest a while’, everyone working with children, young people and their families in Thames Isis, is invited to attend **one** of two retreat days this autumn. Join us for a time of refreshment and renewal! For more information or to sign up, email Maria at [tipayouthadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:tipayouthadmin@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

You are invited to come to our Harvest fast day briefing meeting to hear about CAFOD’s work in Peru from Weronika Ozieranska our Regional Officer for Latin America on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September at English Martyrs’ Church 64 Liebenrood Road Reading RG30 2EB from 7:15pm to 9pm . Please book your place by emailing [portsmouth@cafod.org.uk](mailto:portsmouth@cafod.org.uk) or call Jo Lewry on 01252 329385 .



**Kerala floods: an SVP appeal**

As you’ve probably seen in the media, terrible floods have been taking place in Kerala in southern India. Hundreds of people have been killed and many more are missing; countless homes have been washed away, and the monsoon season is set to continue until early September. Kerala is the most Christian state in India – it has more churches than any other region. The leading Catholic volunteering charity, the St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP), is very active there and they are doing great work helping the victims of the flood in local communities. However, they desperately need funds. Please contribute to the SVP’s Kerala appeal. To donate visit [www.svp.org.uk](http://www.svp.org.uk), telephone 020 7703 3030 or send cheques made out to SVP (write ‘Kerala appeal’ on the back) to SVP, Romero House, 55 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7JB. And please remember our sisters and brothers in Kerala in your prayers.

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018 - National Mass for Altar Servers**

The national Mass for Altar Servers will be held on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2018 in Westminster Cathedral at 2:30pm. Please see the flyer at the Church entrance for more information about this event.

**15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September 2018 – Refugee Event**

The picture of the 3-year-old Syrian boy Aylan Kurdi’s lifeless body on a beach horrified us all and begs the question, just what can we do as a parish to sponsor and house refugees? In response to this a practical way of housing refugee families will be presented at two Caritas “Welcoming our Neighbour” events, one in the Sacred Heart Church, Waterlooville on 15th Sep and another repeat event at St. Joseph’s, Maidenhead on 29th Sep. Find out more under "Events" on the diocesan website, look it up on Eventbrite or send an email to [caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:caritas@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

*Please make sure your mobile phone is turned off during Mass.*

**Parish Safeguarding Rep**

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

**CWTA Prayer Cycle**  
St Mary’s Wallingford

**Safeguarding Training**—The latest training available for those who either have new DBS checks or require refresher training is on 6th October at English Martyrs, Reading, and 20th October at St Bernadette’s Church, Pangbourne. To book, please contact [sorava@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:sorava@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) Tel: 023 92 816396 / 023 92 836511

**Confirmation Programme** —We will be starting our parish Confirmation programme in October this year. If you have a child who is 13 years or above who would be like to be confirmed (Confirmation will take place around May 2019 at Portsmouth Cathedral), please pass your name to the parish office.

**First Holy Communion Programme**—Our parish programme will begin later in September. Sessions will take place after Mass on Sundays, for children aged 8 or above. Please contact the parish office to put your child’s name on the list.

Reminder: **PPC Meeting** this coming Thursday 13th September at 7pm  
**Finance Meeting** this coming Friday 14th September at 7pm

**RCIA course starting in mid-September**—If you know of anyone who would like to become a Catholic, or if you are already a Catholic and would like to attend a refresher course, Fr Phillip will be running the next RCIA course after the summer. Please contact the Parish Office to sign up.

**Next Seniors’ Lunch**—Thursday 18th October. Please sign up on the noticeboard at English Martyrs if you would like to attend.

**Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride**—Thank you so much to all those who took part in this event over the weekend. Also thank you to all those who sponsored those who took part.



**Soul in Didcot** is a community social action event taking place on 29th September. All are welcome to take part, please see poster at the back of church for details.



Founded in 1833 by Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, The St Vincent de Paul Society is a Christ-centred organisation made up of almost 10,000 volunteers across England and Wales. While every Conference is unique, our mission is the same; to seek and find those in need, to help them in the spirit of justice and to tackle the causes of poverty where we can.

Over the next month there will be a series of posters displayed showing different ways the SVP operates culminating in a second collection at all masses on the weekend of the 5/6th October for the work of the SVP both at home and abroad. This year we will be supporting the appeal for the floods in Kerala in Southern India.

Please note that the price of The Universe has increased to £1.50 from this weekend.

**Telephone Number for SVP**

If you know of anyone in need please call 07580539765.

**Last week’s Collection:**  
£1312

**Second Collection this weekend:**  
Catholic Education Service

*Thank you for your donations*