

Mass Text for the 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for you, that your prophets be found true.

Hear the prayers of your servant, and of your people Israel.

First Reading: Ecclesiasticus 27:30-28:7

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 102:1-4,9-12. R. v.8

Response: The Lord is compassion and love, slow to anger and rich in mercy.

Second Reading: Romans 14:7-9

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

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

Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

Communion Antiphon:

How precious is your mercy, O God!

The children of men seek shelter in the shadow of your wings.

MASS TIMES for the coming week

SATURDAY 16th September
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4:30-4:50pm
St John's: 5pm Pro Populo

English Martyrs: 6:30pm Nigel & Rosamund Starmer-Smiths' Welfare (C Kay)

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

SUNDAY 17th September
24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

English Martyrs: 9:00am Pro Populo

St John's: 11:00am Doris Morris R.I.P. (D Kennedy)

Mass times for the coming week

MONDAY 18th September

Mass at St Mary's East Hendred, 9.15am

TUESDAY 19th September

St John's: Cyril Verling R.I.P. (A Johns)

WEDNESDAY 20th September St Andrew Kim
Taegon

English Martyrs: 9:30am Fr Harry Henry R.I.P. (30th Anniversary) (Naughton family)

English Martyrs: 7:30pm

Extraordinary Form Latin Mass Audrey Richie's Welfare (A Johns)

THURSDAY 21st September St Matthew

St John's: 9:30am Santa Korobiecki R.I.P. (D Kennedy)

FRIDAY 22nd September

English Martyrs: 9:30am Dara Fitzpatrick R.I.P. (M Guinan)

SATURDAY 23rd September St Pio of Pietrelcina

English Martyrs: 9:30am Mavis O'Donnell Intentions (J O'Donnell)

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**

www.thamesisis.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Phillip Harris, 15 Manor Crescent, Didcot OX11 7AJ

Telephone: 01235 812338

Office e-mail: didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Administrator: Charles Kay

(Parish Office in Presbytery open Monday to Friday mornings for all enquiries)

Fr Phillip's e-mail: ppharris@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

17th September 2017

24th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

Forgiveness is difficult. We read about the victims of horrendous crimes and wonder how those people could ever begin to forgive - we even question why they should have to. Most of us know how hard it is to forgive even a small grudge once it has been left to fester. Many of us know what it is like to excuse ourselves with "...Well she started it so she should really apologise first," or, "It's his problem not mine." There are limits on our forgiveness. Why should we accept the apology of someone who has let us down repeatedly? Why if we have given someone every last chance should we be expected to forgive yet again? Yet Jesus tells us that we must forgive "...not seven times, but seventy seven times."

If there should be no limits to our forgiveness perhaps we should begin by looking at what makes it so difficult to grant genuine forgiveness. Anger probably comes top of the list. We don't want people to get away with hurting us. Pride often stands in our way too. Forgiving someone often involves an element of 'climbing down'. Also close to the top of the list of obstacles comes a lack of understanding. When we hear of a crime, whether it is small or large, we always ask "Why?" It seems that in order to forgive, we must first understand what has made the other person do what they have done.

Today's readings suggest that in order to make it easier to forgive others, we should look at how often we have asked God to forgive us, often for the same failing. This is the lesson in today's gospel, Jesus is reminding the servant who was unable to forgive that he himself was forgiven. How could the servant expect his master's forgiveness if he could not forgive others? Remembering how we have been forgiven makes us more compassionate when it is our turn to forgive.

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 and Cyril Tomline, Terry Appleyard, Charlotte Pyatt, Val Claridge, Joan Russell, Audrey Edwards, Martin Connolly and all the sick of the parish.

Volunteers are urgently needed for leading the First Holy Communion programme

Please contact the Parish Office. A DBS check will be arranged.

We are all Witnesses (Acts 2:32) Essential Training for Catechists

This course, sponsored by our Diocese, has been arranged for five Fridays in Lent, starting on Friday 23rd February, in the hall behind St John Vianney Church, Charlton Rd, Wantage, OX12 8ER from 7:30-9:00pm. Limited spaces so early registration is recommended. Contact Jacky at jackymattam@btinternet.com. No charge, but a donation will be appreciated.

The Catholic Disability Fellowship

Invites you to our Annual Mass on Saturday 23rd September at 2:30pm at the Church of the Sacred Heart and St Peter Apostle, 356 London Road, Waterlooville, PO7 7SR. The Mass is chiefly for people with disabilities of any kind, their families and friends but everyone is invited so..... PLEASE COME AND JOIN US!
Any queries? Contact Dinah Kennedy 01252 842665 or Rev Peter Hollins 01730 262292

Have you ever considered a vocation as a Deacon?

Oscott Seminary have introduced a preparatory year for men discerning a call to the Permanent Diaconate. This Propaedeutic year consists of three sessions (Friday-Saturday) and commences on 10th/11th November. The other dates for this academic year are 26th/27th January and 16/17th March. Its aim is to help candidates better understand the reality of a vocation to Holy Orders and to discern whether this is what God is calling them to. There will be Parish based pastoral elements, spiritual formation and intellectual input given through teaching, seminars and discussions. Wives of prospective candidates will also be supported during these days and are encouraged to attend. Attendance at these days does not commit an individual to beginning the formation program, but is part of the overall selection process.
For further information, please e-mail Fr Peter Hart as soon as possible, or complete the Preliminary enquiry form here. Application deadline is 1st November.

Time for prayer and reflection at English Martyrs

The church is open for prayer Monday to Friday mornings until 1:00pm and all day with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 3.00-4.00pm on the 1st Friday of each month

St John's Music Group

Urgently looking for volunteers, particularly sopranos and tenors. If you can hold a tune in your head and also sing in tune, please do come along. Practice nights are Fridays at 7.15pm. Contact Sue Hunt on 01491 835787 or Mary Hill on 01491 836078 for further information

Parish Safeguarding Rep
Kate Keating
07816 170360

CWTA Prayer Cycle
Please pray for St John's Church,

Music Co-ordinator/Music Director

This position was proposed during the 'Our Parish's Future' programme and funds are now available to support it. The ideal person will be able to help co-ordinate the music in Didcot and Wallingford, work with and encourage the existing musicians and play keyboard/organ in Didcot

Diocesan Day for Catechists Saturday 14th October 2017 at St John's Cathedral Portsmouth

For everyone involved or interested in Catechesis and Children's Liturgy of the Word. The day will consist of:

- Mass of Thanksgiving for all Diocesan Catechists;
- 'Scripture in Catechesis' by fr Richard Ounsworth, OP;
- 3 forums on using Scripture in children, youth and adult Catechesis;
- Presentation of Scriptural resources for all ages and contexts;
- Times of prayer, discussion and fellowship;
- Lunch provided. Register at fm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or 01590681874

Posters for Church Notice Boards and leaving leaflets

If you want to put up a poster or leave leaflets at the back of our churches please pass them through the Parish Office first.

Young Catholic Adult Weekend @ Douai Abbey 20th -22nd Oct 2017

Are you 18-40? Do you want to deepen your knowledge of the Catholic faith, learn its devotions and meet like minded people? Young Catholic Adults are organizing a weekend at Douai Abbey with Lawrence Lew O.P., and Canon Poucin ICKSP. You'll be able to hear catechetical talks, learn how to sing Gregorian Chant, say the Rosary, socialize and have fun. Book soon as places are limited! All Masses are in the Old Rite. To book go to <http://www.youngcatholicadults.co.uk/events.htm>. Prices start from £18.50.

SVP Awareness Month—Welcoming the Stranger

Each week this month there will be a new poster at the back of church. Please read it.
"Social Isolation is the main poverty of our time. When combined with any other kind of poverty, social isolation makes any kind of difficulty much bigger."
"Let us be evangelised by the poor." This is the very strong message of the Pope, which we consider is the core of our Vincencian commitment. (Bertrand Ousset, Former National President of SVP France.) SVP members are called to go out and seek those in need and put their own personalities and life experience into the friendships they develop

Telephone Number for SVP

**If you know of anyone in need please call
07580539765.**

Last week's Collections:

**£1275
Second Collection this week:
Home Mission Sunday**

Thank you for your donations