

**Mass Text for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Entrance Antiphon**

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

**First Reading:** Ezekial 18:25-28

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 24:4-9. R. v.6

**Response:** Remember your mercy, Lord.

**Second Reading:** Philippians 2:1-11

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
If anyone loves me he will keep my word,  
and my Father will love him,  
and we shall come to him.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 21:28-32

**Communion Antiphon:**

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord,  
by which you have given me hope.  
This is my comfort when I am brought low.

**MASS TIMES for the coming week**

**SATURDAY 30th September**  
**26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4:30-4:50pm**  
**St John's:** 5:00pm Takako Gunji R.I.P. (Anke Watson)

**English Martyrs:** 6:30pm Pro Populo

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

**SUNDAY 1st October**  
**26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**English Martyrs:** 7:30am Extraordinary Form Latin Mass Mary & Ron Haynes R.I.P. (K & D Henderson)

**English Martyrs:** 9:00am Fr Joseph Gabiola R.I.P. (D Lazarus)

**St John's:** 11:00am Pro Populo

**Mass times for the coming week**

**MONDAY 2nd October**  
**Mass at St Mary's East Hendred, 9.15am**

**TUESDAY 3rd October**  
**St John's:** 9:30am John & Christy Daly (Intentions & welfare)  
Followed by reciting of the rosary

**WEDNESDAY 4th October St Francis of Assisi**  
**English Martyrs:** 9:30am Fr Jim Fanning R.I.P. (D Lazarus)

**English Martyrs:** 7:30pm Arthur Roland Harris R.I.P. For the conversion of England  
Extraordinary Form Latin Mass

**THURSDAY 5th October**  
**St John's:** 9:30am

**FRIDAY 6th October**  
**English Martyrs:** 9:30am Aaron Parker Anniversary of Baptism (A Johns)  
English Martyrs open all day  
Adoration of Blessed Sacrament 3:00-4:00pm

**SATURDAY 7th October Our Lady of the Rosary**  
**English Martyrs:** 9:30am Celia Jones Intentions (M Logan)

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

*Weekend Masses as usual*



**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](mailto: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](mailto:ppharris@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**1st October 2017**  
**26th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)**

The Definition of Insanity

A father asks two sons to go and work in the vineyard. The first son says that he won't but changes his mind and does. The second son says that he will but somehow doesn't get round to it.

Which son do we identify with? The first son speaks to those of us who have embraced Christ's teaching late in life. Yet gain Jesus is telling us that those who have managed a change of heart are as important to him if not more important than those who think they've got everything right. The second son speaks to those of us who have lots of good intentions, but at the end of the day the evidence of discipleship amounts to little more than lip service.

Originally this parable was aimed at the Pharisees who didn't feel they needed to change how they lived. Like the Pharisees we might feel that we are upright church going people, but that doesn't mean there isn't plenty left that we need to address. We still live in a world where there's plenty to put right. God's vineyard needs workers who will say 'yes' to God's plan, and more importantly, roll up their sleeves and get stuck into the job.

Albert Einstein once said, "The definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results." Most of us struggle to escape repetitive behaviours only to face the same negative results. Like the second son, we might mean well but constantly fail to make a difference. Today's gospel is an invitation for us to look at what holds us back and what drives us forward, only when we can really understand and address what holds us back can we get stuck into God's work. The first son shows us that it's never too late to change.

**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, Rosa Maria Santos and all the sick of the parish.

**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

**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.

**A celebration of long and dedicated service to the Parish**

Anne O’Brien is retiring from Children’s Liturgy this term and Tony McLoughlin has retired from playing the organ at Sunday Mass. We will celebrate their many years of dedicated service to the Parish on Sunday 1st October in the tearoom at English Martyrs after the 9:00am Mass. All are very welcome.

**St Amand’s Catholic Primary School East Hendred**

The children and staff of St Amand’s have had a fun and busy start to the new academic year. We enjoyed a whole school Art project, painting butterflies which have been suspended from our school hall ceiling, thanks to the No Added Sugar Art team. The finished result is spectacular! We also celebrated Harvest Fast Day with the CAFOD theme: Brighten Up! Everyone came to school in bright clothes, each class recited/sang a Harvest song and we donated food to the Didcot and Wantage food banks and the School Council sold fresh produce to raise funds for CAFOD. Many new families have been welcomed to school and are settling in well. St Amand’s has a few places available for children in KS2 (Years 3-6) and will also be inviting families with children starting Reception in 2018, to visit our school over the autumn term. If you would like to know more please contact the Headteacher Mrs Ellery on 01235 833342 [www.st-amands.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.st-amands.oxon.sch.uk) St Mary’s Rd, East Hendred OX12 8LF

**My Day by Day—October**

Now available at the back of the church. £1 each in the collection box please.

**Parish Safeguarding Rep**  
Kate Keating

**CWTA Prayer Cycle**  
Please pray for St John’s Church,

**The Youth Group**

Is starting again after the summer holidays on Friday 29th September in the church hall in Wallingford. It will be a games evening 7pm-9pm. All youth from 10 years are welcome to come along and have some fun. For further information, please contact Andy Robins via the parish office."

**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](mailto:fm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) or 01590681874

**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](mailto:jackymattam@btinternet.com). No charge, but a donation will be appreciated.

**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**

This week the poster is highlighting hunger. St Vincent de Paul said "We should strive to keep our hearts open to the sufferings and wretchedness of other people and pray continually that God may grant us that spirit of compassion, which is truly the spirit of God." That is the Vincentian spirit, to be alongside those who are struggling and in difficulty, and neglected. (Monsignor Malachy Keegan, Prisons Chaplain)  
Please note that on the weekend of the 14/15th October there will be a second collection at both churches for the work of the SVP

**Date for the diary—Seniors’ Lunch at English Martyrs**

The next one will be served on Thursday 19th October at 12:00noon in the tea room. Menu and booking form at the back of the church.

*Telephone Number for SVP*

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

*Last week’s Collection:*

**£1329.00**

*Second collection this week  
Survive-Miva Appeal*

*Thank you for your donations*