

**Mass Text for the Second Sunday of Advent**

**Entrance Antiphon**

O people of Sion, behold,  
the Lord will come to save the nations,  
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice  
heard  
in the joy of your heart.

**First Reading:** Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 84:9-14

**Response:**

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

**Second Reading:** II Peter 3:8-14

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Prepare a way for the Lord,  
make his paths straight,  
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Mark 1:1-8

**Communion Antiphon:**

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,  
and behold the joy which comes to you from God.

**MASS TIMES for the coming week**

**SATURDAY 9th December**

**Vigil Masses of the Second Sunday of Advent**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4:30-4:50pm**

**St John's:** 5:00pm For the conversion of  
England

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

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

**SUNDAY 10th December**

**Second Sunday of Advent**

**English Martyrs:** 9:00am John and  
Antonia Beard RIP (Foundation)

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

**Mass times for the coming week**

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

**MONDAY 11th December**

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

**TUESDAY 12th December—**

**Our Lady of Gaudalupe**

**St John's:** 9.30am Peg Chiswick's Intentions  
(D Woodley)

**WEDNESDAY 13th December—St Lucy**

**English Martyrs:** 9.30am Margaret and  
Cyril Verling RIP (P & T)

(Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
and Benediction)

**English Martyrs:** 7:30pm Extraordinary Form  
Latin Mass—Dominic Pavan (Discernment and  
Intentions)

**THURSDAY 14th December—St John of the Cross**

**St John's:** 9:30am Tony Wakeham (Intentions and  
welfare)

**English Martyrs:** 7pm Advent Penitential Service

**FRIDAY 15th December**

**English Martyrs:** 9:30am Antonia and  
John Beard RIP

**SATURDAY 16th December**

**English Martyrs:** 9:30am For the health and well-  
being of Martin Connolly

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

*Weekend Masses as usual*



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

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**10th December 2017**  
**Second Sunday of Advent (Yr B)**

Our God is coming. The time of exile—the long separation of humankind from God due to sin—is about to end. This is the good news proclaimed in today's liturgy.

Isaiah in today's First Reading promises Israel's future release and return from captivity and exile. But as today's Gospel shows, Israel's historic deliverance was meant to herald an even greater saving act by God—the coming of Jesus to set Israel and all nations free from bondage to sin, to gather them up and carry them back to God.

God sent an angel before Israel to lead them in their exodus towards the promised land (see Exodus 23:20). And He promised to send a messenger of the covenant, Elijah, to purify the people and turn their hearts to the Father before the day of the Lord (see Malachi 3:1, 23–24).

John the Baptist quotes these, as well as Isaiah's prophecy, to show that all of Israel's history looks forward to the revelation of Jesus. In Jesus, God has filled in the valley that divided sinful humanity from Himself. He has reached down from heaven and made His glory to dwell on earth, as we sing in today's Psalm.

He has done all this, not for humanity in the abstract, but for each of us. The long history of salvation has led us to this Eucharist, in which our God again comes and our salvation is near. And each of us must hear in today's readings a personal call. Here is your God, Isaiah says. He has been patient with you, Peter says in today's Epistle.

Like Jerusalem's inhabitants in the Gospel, we have to go out to Him, repenting our sins, all the laziness and self-indulgence that make our lives a spiritual wasteland. We have to straighten out our lives, so that everything we do leads us to Him.

Today, let us hear the beginning of the Gospel and again commit ourselves to lives of holiness and devotion.



**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 Tomline, Terry Appleyard, Val Claridge, Joan Russell, Audrey Edwards, Martin Connolly, Rosa Maria Santos and all the sick and housebound of the parish.

**Christmas Mass times at English Martyrs and St John the Evangelist**

*Advent Penitential Service, English Martyrs, 14th December at 7pm  
Advent Penitential Service also at Our Lady and St Edmund's, Abingdon, on Friday 21st December at 7pm*



**Christmas Eve**

Midnight Mass at 11pm at English Martyrs (carols from 10.30pm)

**Christmas Day**

9am Mass at English Martyrs

11am Mass at St John's

*Please note: Saturday Vigil Masses on 23rd December and Sunday morning Masses on 24th December as usual in both churches.*

**Dates coming up at English Martyrs...**

The Christmas clean will take place at English Martyrs on Tuesday 19th December. The church will be open all day, so please come along and help get our church looking its best for Christmas. All help welcome.



The Christmas flowers will be arranged at English Martyrs on the morning of 22nd December, after Mass. All are welcome to come and lend a hand. The more the merrier!

Thank you to everyone for your wonderful support of the raffle this year. Congratulations to the winners!

**Do you support Catholic schools and the right of Catholics enough to send their children to them?**

Then we need you to make your voice heard. The Government is making a critical decision on whether to overturn the admissions cap which prevents Catholic schools from allowing Catholic pupils to attend. They have acknowledged that this policy discriminates against Catholics and promised to abandon it, now we need you to tell them not to U-turn on their promise to Catholics. Visit <http://catholicnews.org.uk/> or search for 'Catholic Education' in your search engine to write to the Government and urge them to drop their policy which bans new Catholic schools.

**Parish Safeguarding Rep**  
Stefanie Harford

**CWTA Prayer Cycle**  
Please pray for  
St Mary's Church, Wallingford

**Help needed to deliver Mass times flyers to the new houses on Great Western Park in Didcot. Please mark the map at the back of church with the roads you can deliver to and take enough flyers to distribute. Thank you in advance for all your help.**

**Readers' Rota, St John's** - The next readers' rota will run from December 16th/17th to Easter. Could readers please pick up a form which has been left for each of them at the back of church, and fill in on there any dates on which they are NOT available during that period.

**Advent and Christmas at Heavenly Harrods at English Martyrs**



Advent and Christmas are in the air at Heavenly Harrods. There are a variety of cards boxed or single large or small. Advent calendars with or without glitter! Angels, scented candles and much more. Come and have a browse after mass.

**Please pray for our First Holy Communion** candidates and their families, as they continue the programme started a few weeks ago. Also please pray for the catechists and helpers who volunteer and put so much time and effort into preparing our children.

**Are you interested in becoming a Catholic?** If so, we are planning on starting an RCIA course very soon. Please contact the parish office or speak to Fr Phillip for more information.

**Peace Actions for December**

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?

**Live nativity at The Cornerstone Arts Centre, Didcot** on 16th December, 4.30pm.

A free event for the whole family with actors telling the story and singing carols.

*Telephone Number for SVP*

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

**Last week's Collection:**  
**£1382**

*Thank you for your donations*