

Mass Text for Second Sunday of Advent

Entrance Antiphon

O People of Sion, behold,
the people 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: Baruch 5:1-9

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 125

Response:

What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

Second Reading: Phillipians 1:4-6, 8-11

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: Luke 3:1-6

Communion Antiphon:

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

MASS TIMES

Saturday 8th December

Vigil Masses for the Second of Advent

St John's: 5:00pm Christopher Almeida's
Intentions (Almeida family)

English Martyrs: 6.30pm Pro Populo

SUNDAY 9th December

Second Sunday of Advent

English Martyrs: 9:00am Francis and
Margaret McLoughlin RIP (P & T McLoughlin)

St John's: 11am Pro Populo

Mass times for the coming week

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

MONDAY 10th December

No Mass in Didcot or Wallingford (please refer
to East Hendred newsletter
(www.thamesisis.org.uk) for details of Mass times
at St Mary's)

TUESDAY 11th December

No Mass Today

WEDNESDAY 12th December

No Mass this morning

English Martyrs: 7.30pm Extraordinary Form
Latin Mass Michael David Roberts RIP (C Roberts)

THURSDAY 13th December—St Lucy

St John's: 9.30am Marvyn Pimenta RIP (Almeida
family)

FRIDAY 14th December—St John of the Cross

English Martyrs: 9.30am John and Antonia Beard
RIP (Foundation)

SATURDAY 15th December

English Martyrs: 9.30am David Rye RIP
(N Clifford)

Vigil Masses for the Third Sunday of Advent

St John's: 5pm Pro Populo

English Martyrs: 6.30pm Lech Wiczorek RIP
(BK)

SUNDAY 16th December

Third Sunday of Advent

English Martyrs: 9am Pro Populo

St John's: 11am David Woodley's Intentions

Please remember to turn off your mobile
phone during Mass.



**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 Office in Presbytery open Tuesday to Friday mornings for all enquiries)
Fr Phillip's e-mail: ppharris@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

9th December 2018
Second Sunday of Advent (Yr C)

Today's Psalm paints a dream-like scene—a road filled with liberated captives heading home to Zion (Jerusalem), mouths filled with laughter, tongues rejoicing.

It's a glorious picture from Israel's past, a "new exodus," the deliverance from exile in Babylon. It's being recalled in a moment of obvious uncertainty and anxiety. But the psalmist isn't waxing nostalgic.

Remembering "the Lord has done great things" in the past, he is making an act of faith and hope—that God will come to Israel in its present need, that He'll do even greater things in the future.

This is what the Advent readings are all about: We recall God's saving deeds—in the history of Israel and in the coming of Jesus. Our remembrance is meant to stir our faith, to fill us with confidence that, as today's Epistle puts it, "the One who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it" until He comes again in glory.

Each of us, the Liturgy teaches, is like Israel in her exile—led into captivity by our sinfulness, in need of restoration, conversion by the Word of the Holy One (see [Baruch 5:5](#)). The lessons of salvation history should teach us that, as God again and again delivered Israel, in His mercy He will free us from our attachments to sin if we turn to Him in repentance.

That's the message of John, introduced in today's Gospel as the last of the great prophets (compare [Jeremiah 1:1-4, 11](#)). But John is greater than the prophets (see [Luke 7:27](#)). He's preparing the way, not only for a new redemption of Israel, but for the salvation of "all flesh" (see also [Acts 28:28](#)).

John quotes Isaiah ([40:3](#)) to tell us he's come to build a road home for us, a way out of the wilderness of sin and alienation from God. It's a road we'll follow Jesus down, a journey we'll make, as today's First Reading puts it, "rejoicing that [we're] remembered by God."



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, Joan Russell, Audrey Edwards, Rosa Maria Santos, Laurence Turner, Margaret Healy and all the sick and housebound of the parishes.



Please pray for our First Holy Communion and Confirmation candidates who continue their faith journeys. Also for their families, and for our wonderful team of catechists and volunteers who support them.

Christmas Mass Times

Advent Penitential Service: Tuesday 18th December, 7pm, English Martyrs

Christmas Eve (24th December):

St John's, 8pm (Vigil Mass)

English Martyrs, 10.30pm carols, 11pm (Midnight Mass)

Christmas Day (25th December):

English Martyrs, 9am

St John's, 11am

St Stephen's Day (26th December):

English Martyrs, 10am

Feast of St John the Evangelist (27th December):

St John's, 9.30am



Thank you to the organisers of the wonderful wreath making workshop that took place last weekend. A very productive time was had by all who attended!

Have you signed up for Bishop Philip's weekly e-News?

Bishop Philip invites you to sign up for his FREE weekly e-Newsletter to keep in touch with the latest news and forthcoming events around the diocese. Visit www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/enews to sign up.

Portsmouth Diocese Don Bosco Camp 2019:

28th July - 3rd August 2019 an opportunity for secondary school boys to have an exciting, activity-packed camping holiday in a safe but challenging countryside setting. Further information: www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/youth/donbosco and contact: dbcamps@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - Weds 15th-22nd May 2019. Cost: £1360pp. Flights from Heathrow. Deposit £250pp. Led by Canons John O'Shea & Michael Dennehy. Apply to St James Church, Reading on 0118 957 4171 or email stjames@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. **ONLY 4 PLACES LEFT.**

Parish Safeguarding Rep

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

CWTA Prayer Cycle

The Free Church, Brightwell

Christmas Raffle—tickets will be on sale on 24th November, 1st and 8th December and will be drawn on 15th December, cost £1. Prizes on display in the church porch at English Martyrs.

Cake Sale -In support of the Confirmation Programme currently taking place.....we have twelve candidates in the parish and we are hoping to fund the educational resources to help them prepare for Confirmation in May 2019.

We will be holding a cake sale after 9 a.m. Mass at EM and after 11.a.m. Mass at St John's on Sunday 16th December. All contributions welcome, or please come and buy !

Advent Penitential Service—Tuesday 18th December at 7pm, at English Martyrs. Please put the date in your diaries.

Christmas Hampers—Didcot Baptist Church are organising the Christmas hampers this year and have asked for donations of chocolates no more than 500g in weight. We need a total of 55 boxes. They would also be happy to have help for packing of the hampers, which will take place on 14th December at Didcot Baptist Church. Thank you in advance.

Churches Together Didcot and District—We currently need parishioners to represent English Martyrs on the Churches Together team in Didcot. Please contact the parish office if you think you can help. Thank you.

SVP – Donation of Toiletries for Nursing homes in Didcot and Wallingford

The SVP will be distributing toiletries to local nursing homes in Didcot and Wallingford to give a gift to the residents for Christmas. Donations such as a bar of soap, toothbrush, tooth-paste, shampoo, shower gel, men's toiletries etc. will be much appreciated. Boxes for donated items will be at the back of church at English Martyrs and St John's from 24th November until December 16th. Thank you for your generosity.

The next Men's Group will be held on Wednesday 19th December at English Martyrs after the evening Latin Mass.

There are still some 2019 diaries left at the back of both churches. These are free of charge—please pick one up.

My Day by Day currently available from the back of church, cost £1.50.

Heavenly Harrods Repository has many new Christmas items in stock from candles, advent calendars to cards and small gifts. Come and have a browse after weekend Mass.

Telephone Number for SVP

If you know of anyone in need please call
01235 812338

*Last week's Collection:
£1345*

Thank you for your donations