

Mass Text for the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God;
be not far from me!

Make haste and come to my help,
O Lord, my strong salvation!

First Reading: Malachi 1:14-2:2, 8-10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 130

Response: Keep my soul in peace before you,
O God.

Second Reading: Thess 2:7-9, 13

Gospel Acclamation:

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

Gospel: Matthew 23:1-12

Communion Antiphon:

You will show me the path of life,
the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

MASS TIMES for the coming week

SATURDAY 4th November

Vigil Masses of 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

St John's: 5:00pm

English Martyrs: 6:30pm Eithne Naughton's Intentions

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

SUNDAY 5th November

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

English Martyrs: 7.30am Extraordinary Form Latin Mass

English Martyrs: 9:00am James Perera RIP (R Perera)

St John's: 11:00am Pro Populo

Mass times for the coming week

(English Martyrs is open Wednesday and Friday mornings for private prayer)

MONDAY 6th November

Mass at St Mary's East Hendred, 9.15am

TUESDAY 7th November

St John's: 9:30am Marie Clare Trevor RIP (Perp)

WEDNESDAY 8th November

English Martyrs: 9.30am All Souls (K Henderson)

English Martyrs: 7:30pm Extraordinary Form

Latin Mass—George William Dipple RIP (A Johns)

THURSDAY 9th November—The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

St John's: 9:30am Valmai Atsoparthis RIP (Perp)

FRIDAY 10th November—St Leo the Great


English Martyrs: 9:30am Deceased friends and relatives of Connie Daly

SATURDAY 11th November—St Martin of Tours

English Martyrs: 9:30am Deceased members of David Daly's family (C Daly)

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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5th November 2017
31st SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)

Though they were Moses' successors, the Pharisees and scribes exalted themselves and made their mastery of the law a badge of social privilege. Worse, they lorded the law over the people (see [Matthew 20:25](#)). Like the priests Malachi condemns in today's First Reading, they caused many to falter and be closed off from God.

In a word, Israel's leaders failed to be good spiritual fathers of God's people. Moses was a humble father figure, preaching the law but also practicing it—interceding and begging God's mercy and forgiveness of the people's sins (see [Exodus 32:9-14](#); Psalm 90). Jesus reminds us today that all fatherhood—in the family or in the people of God—comes from the our Father in heaven (see [Ephesians 3:15](#)).

He doesn't mean we're to literally call no man "father." He himself referred to Israel's founding fathers (see [John 7:42](#)); the Apostles taught about natural fatherhood (see [Hebrews 12:7-11](#)) and described themselves as spiritual fathers (see [1 Corinthians 4:14-16](#)). The fatherhood of the Apostles and their successors, the Church's priests and bishops, is a spiritual paternity given to raise us as God's children. Our fathers give us new life in Baptism, and feed us the spiritual milk of the Gospel and the Eucharist (see [1 Peter 2:2-3](#)). That's why Paul, in today's Epistle, can also compare himself to a nursing mother.

God's fatherhood likewise transcends all human notions of fatherhood and motherhood. Perhaps that's why the Psalm chosen for today includes one of the rare biblical images of God's maternal care (see [Isaiah 66:13](#)).

His only Son has shown us the Father (see [John 14:9](#)) coming to gather His children as a hen gathers her young (see [Matthew 23:37](#)). We're all brothers and sisters, our Lord tells us today. And all of us—even our spiritual fathers—are to trust in Him, humbly, like children on our mothers' laps.



(Scott Hahn)

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, Charlotte Pyatt, Val Claridge, Joan Russell, Audrey Edwards, and all the sick and housebound of the parish.

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.

Forthcoming Youth Events in the Pastoral Area

Sunday 5th November - All pastoral area youth groups invited! **11-16 yr olds.** 9:30-11am - Holy Rood R.C. Church (38 Abingdon Rd. Oxford OX1 4PD) - **'What's the deal with Penance and Penitential Seasons?'** A frank discussion with Fr. Daniel Lloyd. Mass follows at 11:15am.

Saturday 18th November -Pastoral Area Laser Kombat Oxford (Kassam Stadium) Trip for **Yr. 5 and over**, 3-5pm (TBC). Final prices for the group will be based on the number of people who sign up. RSVP at tipayouth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk and pay by **Saturday 11th November** please if you'd like to come along.

Advent Retreat Days

Saturday 2nd December (St Edmund's) - **2-4.30pm** - 'Waiting for the coming of the Lord' - with Monsignor Andrew Burnham.

Sunday 3rd December (Holy Rood) - **9-11am** - 'Waiting for the coming of the Lord' - with Brother Isaac Maria Wharton OP.

St Amand's RC Primary School East Hendred

We have a vacancy for a part-time teacher (0.4) to teach in a mixed Reception/Yr 1 class from January 2018

We are committed to safeguarding children and all posts are subject to an enhanced DBS check Part-time (0.4) permanent, Thursday & Friday

Closing Date for applications Friday 3 November 2017

Applications must be on the CES application form : <http://www.st-amands.oxon.sch.uk/vacancies>

Interviews will take place on Tuesday 14 November

Visits to school are encouraged and our headteacher, Helen Ellery, is looking forward to showing you around. Please contact the headteacher to arrange an appointment or find out further details: office.3855@st-amands.oxon.sch.uk

Please return **Missio boxes** to church as soon as possible for counting. Thank you.

Parish Safeguarding Rep
To be announced

CWTA Prayer Cycle
Please pray for
St Agatha's Church, Brightwell

CAFOD Memorial Mass

A mass of remembrance for all those CAFOD supporters, family and friends who have passed away will be held on Sunday 19th November at 10am at St Michael & All Angels Church,

First Holy Communion

If your child is going to be aged eight next year then it is time to enrol for the First Holy Communion course which will be beginning in November. Please register via the parish office by phone or email leaving contact details. If you have registered already, please watch this space for details of the programme starting. A date will be announced shortly.

Day of Reflection—A Day of Reflection will be held at Littlemore on 9th December, led by Fr Paul King. If you would like to attend please pass your name to the parish office.

Forthcoming Events in the Parish

Quiz Night Friday 17th November at 18.30 for 19.00 at the Bowling Club behind the Civic Hall. (See poster outside kitchen)

Christmas Raffle tickets will be on sale on 12th November—If you can donate prizes for the raffle, please complete the sheet at the back of church.

Also on the noticeboard at English Martyrs...The Baptist Church are asking for 54 'Christmas' boxes of biscuits for their Foodbank Donations. Please sign up on the sheet if you can help.

Pope Francis's Intentions for November 2017

Sad to say that even in our tolerant 21st Century there still exists misunderstandings, mistrust, doubts and prejudices between religions. To overcome these tensions, and to establish a lasting understanding and peace between Christians and other religions, dialogue must play a key role. This is particularly important in Asia, home to many world religions." With this in mind we are asked to join in Pope Francis's prayer intention **"...That Christians in Asia, bearing witness to the Gospel in word and deed, may promote dialogue, peace, and mutual understanding, especially with those of other religions."**



Next Sunday, 12th November, is Remembrance Sunday. Please remember that Mass at St John's will start a little late following the Remembrance Service in the Market Square in Wallingford.

A very sincere thank you for the wonderful response to the SVP appeal. The collection raised £720. 37 for the work of the SVP.

Telephone Number for SVP

If you know of anyone in need please call 07580539765.

Last week's Collection: £1367

Second collection this week Bamenda