

Mass Text for the Third Sunday of Advent

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always;
again I say, rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

First Reading: Isaiah 61:1-2, 10-11

Responsorial Psalm: Lk 1:46-50, 53-54

Response:

My soul rejoice in my God.

Second Reading: 1 Thes 5:16-24

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord has been given to me.
He has sent me to bring good news to the poor.
Alleluia!

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Communion Antiphon:

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong
and do not fear.
Behold, our God will come,

MASS TIMES for the coming week

SATURDAY 16th December

Vigil Masses of the Third Sunday of Advent

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

St John's: 5:00pm Pro Populo

English Martyrs: 6:30pm Maureen and John
Logan on their 70th wedding anniversary

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

SUNDAY 17th December

Third Sunday of Advent

English Martyrs: 9:00am Pro Populo

St John's: 11:00am Janet Grant's Intentions (D
Woodley)

Mass times for the coming week

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

MONDAY 18th December

Mass at St Mary's East Hendred, 9.15am

TUESDAY 19th December

St John's: 9.30am Naughton family's Intentions (D
Woodley)

WEDNESDAY 20th December

English Martyrs: 9.30am Joanna's Intentions
(M Logan)

*(Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
and Benediction)*

English Martyrs: 7:30pm Extraordinary Form
Latin Mass—Michael Daly's Intentions

THURSDAY 21st December

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

FRIDAY 22nd December

English Martyrs: 9:30am Steven Leightel's
Intentions

SATURDAY 23rd December

No Mass this morning

St John's: 5pm Stefan Kaminski's Intentions

English Martyrs: 6.30pm Pro Populo

SUNDAY 24th December

English Martyrs: 9am Fr Anthony Glaysher's In-
tentions

St John's: 11am Pro Populo

Christmas Mass times as shown overleaf



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 Office in Presbytery open Wednesday and Friday mornings for all enquiries)

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

16th December 2017

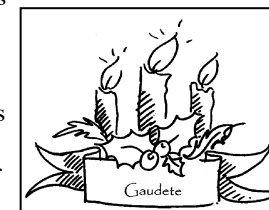
Third Sunday of Advent (Yr B) (Gaudete Sunday)

Gaudete! – Rejoice, shout for joy! Advent is a joyful season of preparation for the Lord's coming and on this Third Sunday of Advent we find that joy clearly expressed. This Sunday is sometimes called Gaudete Sunday from the opening Latin word of the Introit at Mass which is also used at the beginning of the Second Reading, meaning "Rejoice!" – something lost in translation with the rather weak, "Be happy," which we have in our lectionary.

In English Martyrs we can certainly rejoice because after a long time of waiting, our stained glass windows of the martyrdom of St Edmund Campion and the three Carthusian Fathers have at last been installed. I hope that Bishop Philip might come and bless them in the New Year. Light shines through the beautiful glass and transforms what would otherwise be dull coloured pieces into a radiant uplifting experience. So too it should be with us. Christ is the light that has come into the world and he calls us to let him shine through our lives. Letting his light into our lives is very much part of our Advent preparation for Christmas, for Advent is a time of joy that looks forward to the Lord's coming and all that his coming means. Joy, because Christ, born at Christmas, is the Saviour who frees us from all our fears and from sin and death. Joy also that looks forward to the end of time when he will come again in glory – then all his promises and all our hopes in him will be fulfilled in eternal life. We have much to rejoice over!

Our joy comes from faith in the Lord Jesus and this is the same faith and joy which John the Baptist showed as he prepared a way for him, recognising in him, one who is more powerful, whose sandal straps he was not even fit to undo. John's faith and his whole life pointed others always to Christ: he was a joyful witness to speak for the light, Jesus Christ.

As our preparations for Christmas advance in Didcot and Wallingford, let us try to keep hold of the joy that comes from our faith in Jesus Christ. In the midst of the hustle and bustle, the queues and the last minute shopping for presents, let us remember the joy of the coming of our Saviour: for our true joy, our lasting joy is our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. May we always



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 also at Our Lady and St Edmund's, Abingdon, on Thursday 21st December at 7pm



Sunday 24th December

Usual Sunday morning Mass times
(9am English Martyrs, 11am St John's).

Then:

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

Christmas Day (Monday 25th December)

9am Mass at English Martyrs
11am Mass at St John's

St Stephen's Day (Tuesday 26th December)

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!

'Science and Faith: The View Up, In and Out' - The 2018 CIS Student Conference focussing on how being Christians and scientists sahep the way we think, work, speak and worship. Sunday 17th February, 9.30am—4.30pm. Booking through www.cis.org.uk/

Joyce and David Woodley would like to thank all their friends for their love and support over the last year, and wish everybody a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

Parish Safeguarding Rep
Stefanie Harford

CWTA Prayer Cycle
Please pray for
The Free Church, Brightwell

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.

Gaudete Sunday

Celebrated on the Third Sunday of Advent, this day takes its common name from the Latin word Gaudete ("Rejoice"), the first word of the introit of this day's Mass. In churches which have an Advent wreath, the rose coloured candle is lit in addition to two of the violet coloured candles. Despite the otherwise sombre readings of the season of Advent, which has as a secondary theme the need for penitence, the readings on the third Sunday emphasize the joyous anticipation of the Lord's coming.



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 continue to 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.

Please note that this Sunday's session is the last of this term. Classes resume on Sunday 7th January.

Thank you to those parents who spend time cleaning the church whilst waiting for their 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.

The Good Counsel Network—Recently there has been considerable media interest regarding the Good Counsel Network's peaceful daily prayer vigils outside abortion centres. Ealing Council have passed a motion trying to ban the vigils. Rupa Huq MP is calling on the Home secretary to ban all pro-life vigils, and has even demanded that 'silent prayer' needs to be banned within the vicinity of abortion centres. If buffer zones are introduced, thousands of unborn babies' lives will be lost who otherwise could have been saved. Please write to your MP asking them not so support the implementation of buffer zones outside abortion centres.

Telephone Number for SVP

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

**Last week's Collection:
£1385**

Thank you for your donations