

Mass Text for Third Sunday of Advent

Entrance Antiphon

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

First Reading: Zephaniah 3:14-18

Responsorial Psalm: Is 12:2-6

Response:

Sing and shout for joy for great in your midst is
the Holy One of Israel..

Second Reading: Phillippians 4:4-7

MASS TIMES

Saturday 16th December

Vigil Masses for the Third Sunday of Advent

St John's: 5pm Pro Populo

(Preceded by Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament and Sacrament of Reconciliation from
4.30pm)

English Martyrs: 6.30pm Lech Wiczorek RIP

(BK)

(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: 11am David Woodley's Intentions

Mass times for the coming week

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

MONDAY 17th 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 18th December

St John's: 9.30am Peg Chiswick's Intentions

(D and J Woodley)

English Martyrs: 7pm Penitential Service

WEDNESDAY 19th December

English Martyrs: 9.30am Deceased relatives and
friends of the O'Connor and Mee families

(M O'Connor)

(Followed by Exposition of the Blessed
Sacrament and Benediction)

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: Luke 3:10-18

Communion Antiphon:

Say to the faint of heart:

Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come,

and he will save us.

WEDNESDAY 19th December continued

English Martyrs: 3.30pm Reception of the body of
Val Claridge RIP

English Martyrs: 7.30pm Extraordinary Form

Latin Mass John Daly's welfare

THURSDAY 20th December

St John's: 9.30am Arthur and Constance Harris

RIP

English Martyrs: 12 Noon Requiem Mass for

Val Claridge RIP

FRIDAY 21st December

English Martyrs: 9.30am Val Claridge RIP

(M & J Elsley)

SATURDAY 22nd December

English Martyrs: 9.30am June Hewes' welfare

Vigil Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

St John's: 5pm For all our friends in both

parishes at Christmas time (Joyce and David
Woodley)

English Martyrs: 6.30pm Pro Populo

SUNDAY 23rd December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

English Martyrs: 9am Deceased members of the

Gaynor family (P McLoughlin)

St John's: 11am Pro Populo

Please remember to turn off your mobile
phone during Mass.



**PARISHES OF
THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Didcot
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, Wallingford**
www.didcotandwallingfordcatholicchurches.org

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(Parish Office in Presbytery open Tuesday to Friday mornings for all enquiries)
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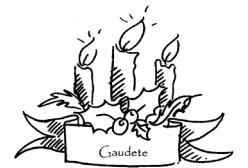
16th December 2018
Third Sunday of Advent (Yr C)

Today John the Baptist points his finger at the scribes and the Pharisees. As religious leaders, the scribes and the Pharisees might have thought they were beyond repentance, but John makes no distinction between the sinners and the religious.

Repentance is a challenge for each and every one of us to take a good long look at ourselves. We might be nice people; we might have kind and caring dispositions; we might have values and good intentions, but what legacy do we leave in practical terms? How important is it to a starving child on the other side of the world that we go to church on Sunday? How much does it matter to someone lonely, sick poor or marginalised that we sit and read our bibles each night? Today we are being asked to put our money where our mouths are. Our faith is void if we don't live by it. We are asked to share by giving up our time and our money. We are asked to share by not exploiting others.

Before we can firmly celebrate the joy of Christmas we are asked to ensure that the less well off are also experiencing the joy of Christmas in practical terms, food warmth and security. We have all experienced the joy of giving a gift. Today we are asked to experience the same pleasure in sharing what we have with those who have nothing.

Most importantly this Christmas, we remember that happiness comes from being content with what we've got.



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, Nina Oakes, Jacob Oakes 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 (for all altar servers)

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

St John's, 9.30am



Christmas Cards—please note that all Christmas cards placed at the back of both churches will be removed if not collected by 27th December. Please check to see if there are cards in the church porches with your name on.

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.

For Vocations...

Do you rejoice in the Lord? Is He asking you to consider a vocation as a priest, deacon or in the consecrated life? To explore further, contact Fr. John Cooke. vocations@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or call 01329 318 869

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

St Mary's Church, Cholsey

Christmas Raffle—Congratulations to our winners as follows: 1st John Elsley, 2nd Nicola Williams, 3rd Mauren Monkhouse, 4th M Hobin, 5th Daniel Delaney, 6th Bassam Asmala, 7th Tony McLoughlin. Please collect your prizes from the tea room. Thank you to everyone for your support.

Cake Sale this Sunday—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.

Christmas Hampers—A huge 'thank you' from Didcot Baptist Church for your support in the providing of chocolates for their Christmas hampers. They have been very gratefully received.

NEW WEBSITE—This weekend we launch our new parish website which can be found here:

www.didcotandwallingfordcatholicchurches.org

Please take a look around the new site—the weekly newsletter can be found here along with other information, including Mass times.

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

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, toothpaste, 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.

Thames Isis Pastoral Area Youth—Everyone (no age limit) can join us at 16:00 on 5th January at Freedog in Swindon for an afternoon of trampolining fun! Parents will need to bring their children to the venue and stay with them. Tickets for the session can be booked online or bought on the day (booking online is better to ensure they have a place). For more information and book tickets and jump socks go to <https://freedog.com/swindon/>.

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 at English Martyrs.

Telephone Number for SVP

If you know of anyone in need please call
01235 812338

*Last week's Collection:
£1360*

Thank you for your donations