

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

**Entrance Antiphon**

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,  
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;  
let the earth be opened and bring forth a Saviour.

**First Reading:** Micah 5:1-4

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 79:2-3, 15-16, 18-19

**Response:**

God of hosts, bring us back;  
let your face shine on us and we shall be saved.

**Second Reading:** Hebrews 10:5-10

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Alleluia!

I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
Let what you have said be done to me.  
Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 1:39-45

**Communion Antiphon:**

Behold, a Virgin shall conceive and bear a son;  
and his name will be called Emmanuel.

**MASS TIMES**

**Saturday 22nd December**

**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)

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

**English Martyrs:** 6.30pm Pro Populo

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

**SUNDAY 23rd December**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**English Martyrs:** 9:00am Deceased members  
of the Gaynor family (P 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 24th December—**

**The Nativity of the Lord**

No Mass this morning

**St John's:** 8pm Vigil Mass Pro Populo

**English Martyrs:** 11pm Midnight Mass  
(10.30pm carols) Pro Populo

**TUESDAY 25th December—**

**The Nativity of the Lord**

**English Martyrs:** 9am Pro Populo

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

**WEDNESDAY 26th December—St Stephen**

**English Martyrs:** 10am (For all Altar Servers)

**THURSDAY 27th December—**

**St John the Evangelist**

**St John's:** 9.30am Armelle Belcher's Intentions  
(A Gray)

**FRIDAY 28th December**

**No Mass Today**

**SATURDAY 29th December**

**No Mass this morning**

**Vigil Masses for The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary  
and Joseph**

**St John's:** 5pm Valmai Atsoparthis RIP (Perp)

**English Martyrs:** 6.30pm Pro Populo

**SUNDAY 30th December**

**The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**English Martyrs:** 9am Eithne Naughton RIP  
(Naughton family)

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

**Please note: No weekday Masses in either church  
between Monday 31st December and Friday 4th  
January**

**SATURDAY 5th January**

**No Mass this morning**

**Vigil Masses for The Epiphany of the Lord**

**St John's:** 5pm Pro Populo

**English Martyrs:** 6.30pm Lech Wieczorek RIP(BK)

**SUNDAY 6th January—The Epiphany of the  
Lord**

**English Martyrs:** 7.30am Extraordinary Form  
Latin Mass Pro Populo

**English Martyrs:** 9am Michael O'Brien RIP  
(A'Brien)

**St John's:** 11am Phyllis and Tony Green's  
Intentions (D & J Woodley)

**Mass times and texts continue overleaf**



Thames ISIS  
Catholic Pastoral Area

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

[www.didcotandwallingfordcatholicchurches.org](http://www.didcotandwallingfordcatholicchurches.org)

Parish Priest: Fr Phillip Harris, 15 Manor Crescent, Didcot OX11 7AJ

Telephone: 01235 812338

Office e-mail: [didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:ppharris@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**23rd December 2018—6th January 2019**

**Fourth Sunday of Advent (Yr C), Christmas, Feast of the Holy Family  
and The Epiphany of the Lord**

*Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee. Blessed art Thou among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us  
sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.*

I wonder, how many times in your life have you prayed the *Hail Mary*? These very familiar words reflect the angel Gabriel's message to Our Lady and her cousin, Elizabeth's greeting to her shortly afterwards. For, upon receiving and accepting the news from the angel that she would conceive and bear a son, Mary went to visit Elizabeth who, despite her age, was also bearing a son – a son who would grow up to be John the Baptist. Elizabeth recognised how blessed Mary is and what a wonderful gift she was carrying in her womb: *Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of Thy womb* she exclaims.

Shortly, in a stable in Bethlehem, with a star shining overhead and shepherds and angels gathering round, Jesus was born. God burst into our world bringing new hope and new life. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, with all the excitement, the shopping, decorations and presents, let us also find time like Elizabeth to recognise what a wonderful gift God has given us in Jesus, our Lord and Saviour. And, let us especially at this time, turn to his holy mother, and our mother, Mary, and ask for her prayers for our loved ones, for the Church and for peace in this world.

May you all have a truly blessed Christmas and New Year,  
celebrating the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Fr Phillip



Mass Times Continued...

MONDAY 7th January

No Mass in Didcot or Wallingford

TUESDAY 8th January

**St John's:** 9.30am John Massey RIP

(L Nester-Smith)

WEDNESDAY 9th January

**English Martyrs:** 9.30am Tess Daukes RIP

(R Frearson)

(Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction)

THURSDAY 10th January

**No 9.30am Mass**

**St John's:** 12.30pm Requiem Mass for Sophia

Farmer RIP

FRIDAY 11th January

**English Martyrs:** 9.30am

SATURDAY 12th January

**English Martyrs:** 9.30am

**St John's:** 5pm Pro Populo

**English Martyrs:** 6.30pm Lech Wiczorek RIP

(M Logan)

SUNDAY 13th January—The Baptism of the Lord

**English Martyrs:** 9am Pro Populo

**St John's:** 11am Robins family Ints (D Woodley)

Thank you to all those who contribute towards making our churches look so beautiful for the Christmas season. Thank you also to all our musicians, readers, sacristans, flower arrangers cleaners, altar servers, and all who help to make our parishes so welcoming throughout the year.

A very big thank you also to everyone in both parishes for their kindness and generosity, for so many Christmas cards, best wishes and gifts.

*Fr Phillip*

**Cake Sale**—A huge thank you to all those who supported the cake sale last Sunday, both with the making of cakes and the purchasing! Proceeds will be donated towards resources for our Confirmation candidates.

**Flower Collection**—This weekend the second collection will be for the Christmas flowers in both churches. Please give generously if you can. Thank you in advance.

**NEW WEBSITE**—We have launched a new parish website which can be found here:

**[www.didcotandwallingfordcatholicchurches.org](http://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.

**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.

The Mass on St Stephen's Day (26th December) is traditionally dedicated to the altar servers of the parish. This is the time when new altar servers are presented with their medals. If your child is an altar server in either parish, please try to bring them to this special Mass at 10am.

**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/>.

**Carmelite Spirituality Group**—next meeting 4th January at 2pm in the tea room at English Martyrs. All welcome.

The Connolly family would like to thank you all for your kind words, prayers and Mass offerings following the death of Martin.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Sophia Farmer, who died this week.

*Telephone Number for SVP*

**If you know of anyone in need please call  
01235 812338**

*Last week's Collection:*

**£1389**

*Second Collection this week:  
Christmas Flowers*

*Thank you for your donations*

**Mass Text for the Feast of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph**

**Entrance Antiphon**

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

**First Reading:** Ecclesiasticus 3:3-7, 14-17

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 127:1-5

**Response:**

O blessed are those who fear the Lord and walk in his ways.

**Second Reading:** Colossians 3:12-21

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Alleluia!

May the peace of Christ reign in your hearts; let the message of Christ find a home with you.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Luke 2:41-52

**Communion Antiphon:**

Our God has appeared on the earth, and lived among us.

**Mass Text for The Epiphany of the Lord**

**Entrance Antiphon**

(Vigil) Arise, Jerusalem, and look to the East and see your children gathered from the rising to the setting of the sun.

(Day) Behold, the Lord, the Mighty One, has come; and kingship is in his grasp.

**First Reading:** Isaiah 60:1-6

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 71:1-2, 7-8, 10-13

**Response:**

All nations shall fall prostrate before you, O Lord.

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 3:2-3, 5-6

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, Alleluia!

We saw his star as it rose and have come to do the Lord homage.

Alleluia!

**Gospel:** Matthew 2:1-12

**Communion Antiphon:**

(Vigil) The brightness of God illumined the holy city of Jerusalem, and the nations will walk by its light.

(Day) We have seen his star in the East, and have come with gifts to adore the Lord.

**In your prayers, please remember:**

Jenny Evans, Christopher Almeida, Anna Pearce, Mary Guinan, Maureen Logan, Mary McCrystal, Margaret Goldsworthy, 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.



**Parish Safeguarding Rep**

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

**CWTA Prayer Cycle**

St John's, Wallingford