

Mass Text for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

Rejoice, Jerusalem,
and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning;
exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.

First Reading: I Sam 16:1,6-7

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22

Response:
The Lord is my shepherd;
there is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: Eph 5:8-14

Gospel Acclamation:
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
I am the light of the world, says the Lord;
anyone who follows me will have the light of life.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Communion Antiphon:

The Lord anointed my eyes:
I went, I washed,
I saw and I believed in God.

MASS TIMES for the coming week

Saturday 25th March

Vigil Mass of the Fourth Sunday of Lent

St John's: 5pm Pro Populo

English Martyrs: 6.30pm Chris Wilson RIP

SUNDAY 26th March

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

English Martyrs: 9am Pro Populo

St John's: 11am The Govan family's Intentions

Mass times for the coming week

MONDAY 27th March

Mass at St Mary's East Hendred, 9.15am

TUESDAY 28th March

St John's: 9.30am

(Followed by Stations of the Cross)

WEDNESDAY 29th March

**English Martyrs: 9.30am Kathy Dougan RIP
(D Healy)**

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

**English Martyrs: 7.30pm Extraordinary Form
Latin Mass**

THURSDAY 30th March

**St John's: 9.30am Catherine Staunton RIP
(C Wheeler)**

FRIDAY 31st March

**English Martyrs: 9.30am Peter Jacobs RIP
(Almeida family)**

(Followed by Stations of the Cross)

SATURDAY 1st April

**English Martyrs: 9.30am Freda Wickens RIP (1st
anniv) (A Guiry and R Wickens)**

*(Followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation and
reciting of the rosary)*

*Weekend Masses as usual plus additional
Extraordinary Form Latin Mass on Sunday 2nd
April, 7.30am at English Martyrs*



Thames ISIS
Catholic Pastoral Area

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

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26th March 2017

The Fourth Sunday of Lent (Yr A)

Laetare Sunday

St John's Gospel abounds with images that contrast the darkness and the light. Today's account of Jesus healing a man born blind uses this imagery to the full. The man, having been born blind, had never seen light, so his encounter with Jesus introduced into his life a totally new experience. Something he could only previously have guessed at from other people's descriptions, through Jesus' healing, he could now experience first-hand in all its glory.

Whilst the Gospel recounts a physical healing, it is also quite clear that there has been a dramatic spiritual healing of the man - a growing through seeing the true Light, who is Christ - in recognising first of all that Jesus is "a prophet", then later "from God" through to belief and worship: " 'Lord, I believe', and [he] worshipped him". All this may be contrasted with the darkness of the Pharisees who could not, or would not, see the light. Very quickly their closed hearts and minds act as a thick veil, preventing them to recognise Jesus as the Light.

We are children of light through our encounter with Jesus Christ. At our baptism we receive the Light of Christ into our lives: like the man born blind, our lives are open to that Light. As we continue our journey through Lent, let us open our lives more and more to our Lord Jesus Christ, the one true Light.

Fr Phillip



In your prayers, please remember...

Cyril Verling, Jenny Evans, Amanda Gender, Christopher Almeida, Anna Pearce, Mary Guinan, Maureen Logan, Mary McCrystal, Margaret Goldsworthy, Sophia Farmer, Janina Krokowska, Ann and Cyril Tomline, Terry Appleyard, Charlotte Pyatt, Val Claridge, Joan Russell and all the sick of the parish.



Lenten Penitential Service—Our parish Penitential Service this year will be on Thursday 6th April at 7pm, at English Martyrs. The Penitential Service at Our Lady and St Edmund’s in Abingdon will be on Tuesday 4th April at 7pm.

Mothering Sunday has been celebrated in the UK on the fourth Sunday in Lent from the 16th century. On this Sunday it was expected that families should attend their ‘Mother Church’. This history is largely forgotten, but it remains an opportunity for us to show our mothers just how much we appreciate and love them. On Mother’s Day we pray especially for all mothers and thank God for the care and love they give to their children. We ask God’s blessing especially for mothers who struggle to protect their children against poverty and injustice.



Laetare Sunday

Lent means 40 days of fast, abstinence, and penitential works, but on the fourth Sunday of Lent there’s a change. On Laetare (Rejoice) or Rose Sunday, we look beyond the sorrows of Lent to the rejoicings of the coming Easter.

Heavenly Harrods has a new selection of gifts for first Holy communion including silver jewellery; rosaries and missals, There is also a selection of children’s books and missals. Come and have a browse after weekend Masses.

Diocesan Formation for Mission Team—This Lent, join the Formation for Mission Wednesday Gospel Webinar, every Wednesday from 7 to 8 pm, to discover the depths of the Sunday Gospel.

Find out more about God, about yourself and about the Church. Take the time to ponder the Word of God and to ask the questions you cannot ask in church during the homily! You can join the webinar wherever you are, from a computer with a good internet connection and the sound turned up.

Here are a few steps to join the webinar:

1. Register: <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/formation/webinar>
2. You will receive a confirmation email, and reminder emails after that.
3. On Wednesday at 7pm, join the webinar by clicking on the link in your confirmation/reminder email.

English Martyrs Church is open for prayer Tuesday to Friday mornings until 1pm. **If you have a key, please do not lock the church during these times.** Thank you.

Parish Safeguarding Rep
Kath Oldham—katholdham@hotmail.co.uk

CTWA Prayer Cycle
Please pray for
St Mary’s and St Leonard’s Churches, Wallingford

SOUP LUNCHES AT ST JOHN'S

Each Friday in Lent the SVP will be serving bread and homemade soup from 11.30am - 2.30pm. Money received from donations will go to the Baby Feeding Centres in the Sudan, both North and South. We hope you will support this venture and bring along your friends.



A choice of delicious soups guaranteed!

Gift Aid Envelopes—If you donate to the church using Gift Aid, your box of envelopes for the coming year is now available for collection from the back of church. If you use direct debit, there will be a box of second collection envelopes for you instead of a standard box.

Chrism Mass, St John’s Cathedral, Portsmouth – Tuesday 11th April 2017

The Pastoral Area is once again running a bus to the Cathedral for the Chrism Mass this year. The bus will leave Our Lady and St Edmund’s, Abingdon at 7.45am and English Martyrs, Didcot at 8.15am, returning at around 3pm. The cost of a seat is £12, payment required on booking. Please call Didcot parish office to book a place on 01235 812338, email didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. All bookings must be received by Friday 31st March.

Parish Youth Group—On Friday 31st March 7pm-9pm the Youth Group will be having an Easter Eggstravaganza in the church hall at Wallingford. All youth of 10+ are welcome to come along and have some fun. For further information or if you have not been to Youth Group before, please contact Andy Robins via the parish office.

APF/Missio—Thank you to all contributors and promoters for their ongoing support of Missio. Throughout the last year parishioners at English Martyrs have raised £1598 and St John’s £1133 for the cause. If you are interested in contributing, please see Brian McNamee (Didcot) or Charles Hunt (Wallingford) for a red box. Details on church noticeboards.

Mission boxes—Please remember to bring your mission boxes to church for counting over the next couple of weeks. Thank you.

Advance notice

The Carmelite day pilgrimage to Walsingham is on 24 June 2017. Pick-ups: 06:30am at Redbridge park and ride; 07:00am at Peartree park and ride. Firm commitment and payment by 1 June. Cost depends on numbers- £27 up to £40 per person. All welcome! Contact Armelle Belcher via the Parish Office to book.

Telephone Number for SVP

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

**Last week’s Collections:
£1416**

Thank you for your donations