

Mass Text for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

Entrance Antiphon:

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

First Reading: II Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 136:1-6

Response:

O let my tongue cleave to my mouth
if I remember you not!

Second Reading: Ephesians 2:4-10

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!
God loved the world so much that he gave his only
Son;
everyone who believes in him has eternal life.
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

Gospel: John 3:14-21

Communion Antiphon

Jerusalem is built as a city bonded as one together.
It is there that the tribes go up,
the tribes of the Lord,
to praise the name of the Lord.

MASS TIMES for the coming week

SATURDAY 10th March

Vigil Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

St John's: 5:00pm Fr Eric Nimmo RIP

English Martyrs: 6.30pm Pro Populo

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

SUNDAY 11th March

Fourth Sunday of Lent

**English Martyrs: 9:00am Eileen O'Brien RIP
(A O'Brien)**

St John's: 11:00am Pro Populo

Mass times for the coming week

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

MONDAY 12th March

Mass at St Mary's East Hendred, 9.15am

TUESDAY 13th March

St John's: 9.30am John Nolan RIP

Followed by Station of the Cross

WEDNESDAY 14th March

**English Martyrs: 9.30am Val Claridge's Intentions
(A Furlong)**

English Martyrs: 7.30pm Extraordinary Form

Latin Mass Canon Terence Healy RIP

THURSDAY 15th March

St John's: 9:30am Mike Smith's Intentions

(A Watson)

FRIDAY 16th March

**English Martyrs: 9.30am Val Claridge's welfare
(M Logan)**

Followed by Stations of the Cross

SATURDAY 17th March

**English Martyrs: 9.30am Patricia Welch RIP
(Foundation)**

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

Weekend Mass times as usual



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

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**11th March 2018
Fourth Sunday of Lent (Laetare Sunday) (Yr B)**

The Sunday readings in Lent have been showing us the high points of salvation history—God's covenant with creation in the time of Noah; His promises to Abraham; the law He gave to Israel at Sinai.

In today's First Reading, we hear of the destruction of the kingdom established by God's final Old Testament covenant—the covenant with David (see [2 Samuel 7](#); [Psalm 89:3](#)). His chosen people abandoned the law He gave them. For their sins, the temple was destroyed, and they were exiled in Babylon. We hear their sorrow and repentance in the exile lament we sing as today's Psalm. But we also hear how God, in His mercy, gathered them back, even anointing a pagan king to shepherd them and rebuild the temple (see [Isaiah 44:28–45:1, 4](#)).

God is rich in mercy, as today's Epistle teaches. He promised that David's kingdom would last forever, and that David's son would be His Son and rule all nations (see [2 Samuel 7:14–15](#); [Psalm 2:7–9](#)). In Jesus, God keeps that promise (see [Revelation 22:16](#)).


Moses lifted up the serpent as a sign of salvation (see [Wisdom 16:6–7](#); [Numbers 21:9](#)). Now Jesus is lifted up on the Cross to draw all people to himself (see [John 12:32](#)).

Those who refuse to believe in this sign of the Father's love condemn themselves—as the Israelites in their infidelity brought judgment upon themselves.

But God did not leave Israel in exile, and He does not want to leave any of us dead in our transgressions. We are God's handiwork, saved to live as His people in the light of His truth.

Midway through this season of repentance, let us again behold the Pierced One (see [John 19:37](#)) and rededicate ourselves to living the "good works" that God has prepared us for.

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, Ann Tomline, Terry Appleyard, Val Claridge, Joan Russell, Audrey Edwards, Martin Connolly, Rosa Maria Santos, and all the sick and housebound of the parish.



First Holy Communion Classes—Please continue to pray for the children of both parishes currently on the First Holy Communion programme.

Diocesan Youth Events

Youth 2000 Retreat

Youth 2000 will be returning to the Diocese for a weekend retreat from 27 - 29 April at St Jude's School, Fareham. These retreats offer an incredible opportunity for our young people (ages 16 - 35) to encounter with the Lord in both the Eucharist and in Confession, and are led entirely by young people with invaluable support from clergy and religious. The weekend will include 24 hour Eucharistic Adoration, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, praise and worship, social time, talks from diocesan and national speakers and a smorgasbord of workshops to deepen your knowledge of the Catholic faith.

Places cost £65, although participants are encouraged to contribute according to their means. Put the dates in your diary, and booking will be available on Eventbrite very soon!

Lourdes Youth Pilgrimage/Portsmouth Diocese Mission Experience

This June we will be welcoming twenty young students together with a group of FOCUS missionaries from the USA, who will engage in a week of missionary work and formation in our diocese, and especially with our young people.

Bishop Philip would like to invite all those who will finish their exams this summer to join him and this group of students and leaders from the USA for a week of prayer, formation and fun on pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Journeying from the diocese, you will learn the story of St Bernadette, how the Virgin Mary appeared to her, and how since then, many hundreds of thousands have knelt at the Grotto in prayer. In addition, you can expect a retreat style experience, with the opportunity for the Sacraments, as well as time to explore the sights around town and relax while making new friends.

The pilgrimage will run from 12th - 16th July and costs £550 (full board) with flights from Southampton. Please contact youth@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk for details of any of the above.

Missio Boxes—Please bring your Missio boxes to church over the next few weeks for collection. If you would like to sign up for a box, please see Charles Hunt (Wallingford) or Brian McNamee (Didcot). Thank you.



Laetare Sunday—The Fourth Sunday of Lent is traditionally called Laetare Sunday, a celebration very much like Gaudete Sunday in Advent. For each of those Sundays, we can use rose-colored vestments, and both Latin words can be translated, "rejoice." Both also announce to us that we are drawing ever closer to the feast for which we are preparing (Christmas for Gaudete Sunday, and Easter for Laetare Sunday). This day has also come to

be known as 'Mothering Sunday'. Four hundred years ago, people made a point of visiting their nearest big church (the Mother Church) on the fourth Sunday of Lent. Young girls and boys 'in service' were only allowed one day to visit their family each year, and this was usually Mothering Sunday. 'Mothering Sunday' does not have the same origins as 'Mother's Day', but it has become a tradition to show our mothers our appreciation on this Sunday.

Parish Safeguarding Rep

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

CWTA Prayer Cycle

Please pray for
The Free Church, Brightwell



Chrism Mass—Once again we have booked a bus to take parishioners to the Chrism Mass in Portsmouth this year, on Tuesday 27th March. The bus will leave Our Lady and St Edmund's in Abingdon at 7.45am and English Martyrs in Didcot at 8.15am, returning at 3pm. Tickets are £12 each, payment on booking. Please call the parish office to book, or email didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

SVP SOUP LUNCHES

The dreadful famine in South Sudan continues. To help alleviate the suffering of children the SVP are once more running the Lenten Soup Lunches with the proceeds going to the Baby Feeding Centres in the Sudan. These lunches continue every Friday in Lent from 11.30am. at St John's. Please support if you are able to.



Volunteers wanted to help run the CTWA **Good Friday event** in Wallingford. CTWA are currently looking for help during the service with readings, narrations and the leading of prayers. They also require support in the running of children's activities, and help with refreshments. If you think you could help in any way with the running of this important witness event, please contact Rev Katherine Pickering on 01235 813242.

Easter Raffle at English Martyrs—Tickets will be on sale for the Easter Raffle 10/11th and 17/18th March. It will be drawn on the 18th March.

Heavenly Harrods

New season stock has arrived including cards and gifts for Mothering Sunday on March 11; St Patrick's day and Easter. There is also a selection of CTS booklets on a Lenten theme. Come and have a browse after mass.

Significant Wedding Anniversaries Mass 2018

Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years? If so Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. This will take place at St Bede's Church in Basingstoke on **Saturday 30th June 2018**. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage. If you would like to come, please visit the Cathedral website <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/anniversaries> and complete the on-line form, or send an email to anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Please note this address is not monitored daily and you may have to wait for a reply, so please be patient. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact your Parish office, who will have the form you need to complete. To help celebrate the occasion please could you provide a **COPY** of your Wedding photograph, you can upload it when you complete the form online. Alternatively scan and send via email to above email address. Again if you have no access to the internet you can post a **COPY** along with completed form by post to the following address: St Bede's Parish Office, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX. Please mark envelope: Significant Wedding Mass.

Telephone Number for SVP

If you know of anyone in need please call
07580539765.

Last week's Collection:
£1367

Thank you for your donations