

Mass Text for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.

First Reading: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145:7-10

Response: How happy are the poor in spirit;
theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Second Reading: Cor 1:26-31

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Blessed are you, Father,
Lord of heaven and earth,
for revealing the mysteries of the kingdom
to mere children.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12

Communion Antiphon:

Let your face shine on your servant.
Save me in your merciful love.
O Lord, let me never be put to shame,
for I call on you.

MASS TIMES for the coming week

Saturday 29th January

Vigil Mass of the Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

St John's: 5pm All souls of purgatory, especially
deceased members of FOSS (D Kennedy)

(Sacrament of Reconciliation available from
4.30pm)

English Martyrs: 6.30pm Pro Populo

(Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at
English Martyrs 5.50pm—6.20pm)

SUNDAY 30th January

The Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time

English Martyrs: 9am Terry Hobin RIP
(H Hobin)

St John's: 11am Pro Populo

Mass times for the coming week

MONDAY 30th January

Mass at St Mary's East Hendred, 9.15am

TUESDAY 31st January—St John Bosco

St John's: 9.30am David Kearney RIP (Perp)

WEDNESDAY 1st February

English Martyrs: 9.30am
(Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
and Benediction)

English Martyrs: 7.30pm Extraordinary Form
Latin Mass

THURSDAY 2nd February—The Presentation of the Lord

St John's: 9.30am Willis and Patricia Capp, in
thanksgiving for 60 years of marriage (D Kennedy)

FRIDAY 3rd February

English Martyrs: 9.30am
(Church open all day for private prayer)

SATURDAY 4th February

English Martyrs: 9.30am Tess Daukes RIP
(R Frearson)
(Followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation and
reciting of the rosary)

Weekend Masses as usual



**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 Secretary: Mrs Joanna Robins
(Parish Office in Presbytery open Tuesday to Friday mornings for all enquiries)
Fr Phillip's e-mail: ppharris@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

29th January 2017
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Yr A)

Today we listen to Jesus' most famous sermon; a list of promises to the poor, the meek and the merciful that we now call 'The Beatitudes'. "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven," promises Jesus, "Blessed are the meek, blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness." Is Jesus telling us we can only be blessed if we make ourselves poor? Is he telling us to sit back meekly and let others walk all over us? Is Jesus encouraging us to go out and actively invite persecution and insult?

It's difficult to embrace Jesus' values because we have been brought up to value everything that Jesus does not. From an early age we have been taught to work hard at school so that we will get a good job and earn lots of money. We are scolded for not speaking up for ourselves and applauded for pushing ourselves forward. Our culture is all about winning, prestige and material success.

The challenge we find in the Beatitudes is to work contrary to our human instincts in order to find true happiness and fulfilment. Our instincts are to amass wealth, earn fame, and bask in our perceived self-importance. It is often our cowardly instinct to turn a blind eye to injustice or to fail to stand up for what we believe because we are afraid of ridicule. It is the instinct of governments to engage in conflict in the pursuit of material gain and power. In his sermon, Jesus was not suggesting we live in dire poverty or become human doormats for the sake of it. Rather Jesus is asking us to look again at our values. We are asked to look at the things that we think will bring happiness. Jesus challenges us to think again.



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.



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.

Pastoral Area Youth Events

The New Kid on the Block!

Calling all young people! Please come and join the celebration as we launch the new youth group in North Hinksey! On **Sunday 5th February**, there will be a Mass of thanksgiving at **4:15pm** at **Our Lady of the Rosary R.C. Church in Oxford** (Yarnells Hill, OX2, 9BD), followed by refreshments in the Rosary Room. This will be followed by a talk on the relationship between **Science and Catholicism** for all teenagers and young adults (14-25) in the pastoral area and their friends, from **5:30-6:30pm**. We look forward to welcoming you! For more information please contact **Melanie** at leader.tipa@gmail.com

St Edmund's Youth Group, Abingdon - meeting on **Saturday 4th February**

8-10 yr olds - from 1:30 - 2:30pm

11-12 & 13-14 yr olds - from 3 - 4:30pm

15+ from 5-7pm

For more information, please contact Melanie at leader.tipa@gmail.com

Consecration of English Martyrs Church, Saturday 18th February at 12 Noon

The Consecration of the church is one of the most important events in its lifetime. Fifty years ago, Bishop Warlock came to English Martyrs in Didcot and blessed the church, but because it was not fully paid for, it could not be consecrated at the time. We are really pleased that Bishop Philip is going to be coming to Didcot on the anniversary of English Martyrs' blessing, to actually consecrate the church. This is going to be on Saturday 18th February at 12 noon. We hope that everybody will be able to attend from both churches in order to make this a wonderful celebration. Because this is such an important event, **this will be the only Mass on that Saturday.** Saturday evening vigil Masses take place at nearby churches of St John Vianney, Wantage (6pm), and St Birinus, Dorchester (6pm).

Safeguarding Officer required—The voluntary post of Safeguarding Officer for both parishes has become available. If you can help in this role, please contact the parish office. Full training will be given. A big thank you to Kath Oldham for all her efforts over recent years.

**Presentation of the Lord (Candlemas)
February 2nd**

Simeon had waited all his life to see Jesus. The Holy Spirit had promised him that he would live long enough. When Mary and Joseph presented the baby at the temple, Simeon said, "Now, Lord, you have kept your promise, and you may let your servant go in peace. With my own eyes I have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples."

**St Blaise
February 3rd**

St. Blaise's name is invoked for throat ailments. Blaise earned this reputation for saving a young boy from choking to death on a fish bone. The blessing of throats takes place on his Feast Day, February 3rd.

Exchange family wanted to host a French student for a month over the summer period. If this is something you would like to do, contact the parish office for further details.



WALKING THE CAMINO from Reading, 13th – 20th September 2017. Flight: Stanstead – Santiago. 30+ people: For new & former walkers, 20 – 25km per day. Thousands of people do this walk every year, the most famous pilgrimage after Jerusalem & Rome. Information evening on Thursday 9th Feb in St James Church in Reading RG1 3FD at 7.30pm.

**World Day for Consecrated Life
February 2nd**

In 1997, Pope Saint John Paul II instituted a day of prayer for women and men in consecrated life. This celebration is attached to the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd. This Feast is also known as Candlemas Day; the day on which candles are blessed symbolizing Christ who is the light of the world. So too, those in consecrated life are called to reflect the light of Jesus Christ to all peoples. Although the World Day for Consecrated Life is celebrated on February 2nd, it is also celebrated on the following Sunday in order to highlight the gift of consecrated persons for the whole Church. Please pray for all those who have made commitments in the consecrated life,

Telephone Number for SVP

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

*Last week's Collections:
£1513*

Thank you for your donations

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

CTWA Prayer Cycle
Please pray for
The Friends Meeting House, Wallingford