

Mass Text for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

Entrance Antiphon:

Sing a new song to the Lord,
for he has worked wonders;
in the sight of the nations
he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 9:26-31

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 21:26-28, 30-32

Response:

You, Lord, are my praise in the great assembly.

Second Reading: I John 2:1-5

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.
Whoever remains in me bears fruit in plenty.
Alleluia!

Gospel: John 15:2-8

Communion Antiphon

I am the true vine and you are the branches,
says the Lord.
Whoever remains in me, and I in him,
Bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

MASS TIMES for the coming week

SATURDAY 28th April 2018

Vigil Masses for the Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

St John's: 5:00pm

Alexander Mackenzie-Low RIP (A Webster)

English Martyrs: 6.30pm Pro Populo

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

SUNDAY 29th April

Fifth Sunday of Easter

English Martyrs: 9:00am Patricia Meadow's
Intentions (C Lyall)

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 30th April

Mass at St Mary's East Hendred, 9.15am

TUESDAY 1st May—St Joseph the Worker

St John's: 9.30am Eithne Naughton's intentions
and welfare

WEDNESDAY 2nd May—St Athansius

English Martyrs: 9.30am Mrs Sang N Lam RIP
(D & K Henderson)

(Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
and Benediction)

English Martyrs: 7.30pm Extraordinary Form

Latin Mass Anne Elizabeth Johns Snr RIP
(A Johns)

THURSDAY 3rd May—SS Philip & James

St John's: 9.30am Peg Chiswick's Intentions
(D Woodley)

FRIDAY 4th May—The English Martyrs

English Martyrs: 9.30am Ted Fisher RIP
(C Wheatley) (church open all day for private
prayer, adoration 3-4pm)

English Martyrs: 7.30pm Extraordinary Form
Latin Mass (Missa Cantata—Schola Abelis)
Bert William Johns RIP (A Johns)

SATURDAY 5th May

English Martyrs: 9.30am George Krokowski and
deceased members of family (J Krokowska)

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

Weekend Mass times as usual plus Extraordinary
Form Latin Mass on Sunday 6th May at 7.30am,



Thames ISIS
Catholic Pastoral Area

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

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29th April 2018

Fifth Sunday of Easter (Yr B)

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us that He is the true vine that God intended Israel to be—the source of divine life and wisdom for the nations (see [Sirach 24:17-24](#)).

In baptism, each of us was joined to Him by the Holy Spirit. As a branch grows from a tree, our souls are to draw life from Him, nourished by His word and the Eucharist.

Paul in today's First Reading seeks to be grafted onto the visible expression of Christ the true vine—His Church. Once the chief persecutor of the Church, he encounters initial resistance and suspicion. But he is known by his fruits, by his powerful witness to the Lord working in his life (see [Matthew 7:16-20](#)).

We too are commanded today to bear good fruits as His disciples, so that our lives give glory to God. Like Paul's life, our lives must bear witness to His goodness.

Jesus cautions us, however, that if we're bearing fruit, we can expect that God will "prune" us—as a gardener trims and cuts back a plant so that it will grow stronger and bear even more fruit. He is teaching us today how to look at our sufferings and trials with the eyes of faith. We need to see our struggles as pruning, by which we are being disciplined and trained so that we can grow in holiness and bear fruits of righteousness (see [Hebrews 12:4-11](#)).

We need to always remain rooted in Him, as today's Epistle tells us. We remain in Him by keeping His commandment of love, by pondering His words, letting them dwell richly in us (see [Colossians 3:16](#)), and by always seeking to do what pleases Him. In everything we must be guided by humility, remembering that apart from Him we can do nothing.

As we sing in today's Psalm, we must fulfill our vows, turning to the Lord in worship, proclaiming his praises, until all families come to know His justice in their lives.



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.

First Holy Communion 2018—will take place on Sunday 17th June during the 9am Mass at English Martyrs. Please be aware that we have 30 candidates this year, along with their families and guests, so the church is likely to be very full for the occasion. It is worth putting this date in your diaries now and if you can possibly arrange to attend one of the other Masses on this weekend to avoid the crowds, please do so.

Sherry Weddell, author of *Called and Gifted*, and *Forming Intentional Disciples*, is coming to the diocese next month. There are two events for laity, held at the Basingstoke Country Hotel. On Friday 18th May 2pm - 7pm she will be speaking about parish renewal and a few of our parishes will be sharing what they are doing. On Sat 19th May 9.30am - 4.30pm Sherry will be focusing on the personal spiritual journey and how each of us can develop our love and relationship with the Lord. For more details and to book free places, please email Clare at csimpson@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Portsmouth Diocese Eucharistic Conference Saturday 5th May, New Theatre Royal, Portsmouth—This is a free event for you.

Have you taken time out of your busy schedule to pause? When was the last time you stopped and took time to think, to discern? When was the last time you came face to face with Jesus Christ? When was the last real encounter you had with your faith? This event is an opportunity to engage with likeminded families in prayer, fellowship and joy. Come and spend time with Jesus, friends, inspiring speakers and interactive workshops. Develop your faith. Develop your relationship with Jesus.

The conference will be supported by Fr Stephen Wang a philosopher, theologian and popular author, Pippa Baker an evangelist, Focus a worldwide renowned organisation for evangelisation, Y2K who will lead our worship with inspirational music and our own Bishop Philip.

Book your ticket now by either booking through eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/portsmouth-diocesan-eucharistic-conference-tickets-44506853196?aff=es2>, emailing congress@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or phoning 07780221686

ENCOUNTER THE HOLY SPIRIT

from the WILD GOOSE video series produced by the Franciscan Friars
St Edmund's Church Parish Centre, 1 Radley Road, Abingdon OX14 3PL

Saturday afternoons 2 – 3:30pm

28th April The Breath of God

5th May Baptism in the Spirit & Fire

12th May Gifts of the Holy Spirit

All welcome, no charge! Refreshments at 1:45 pm. Free study guides

For details phone Abingdon 528528

Parish Safeguarding Rep

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

CWTA Prayer Cycle

Please pray for St Agatha's, Brightwell

MISSIO BOXES—If you have a box at home, please return it to church now for counting. Thank you.

Summer Event Preparation meeting—Tuesday 1st May, 7.30pm at English Martyrs. Please come along to this meeting if you can help out with the plans for the summer BBQ this year. We need help with the organisation of all aspects of this fun joint parish event, so everyone is welcome from both churches.

Next Fund Raising meeting, 1st May at 11am in the tea room at English Martyrs.

Nuns from St Elisabeth's Convent in Minsk, Belarus will be visiting St John's Church this **Thursday 3rd May**, selling their religious articles to raise money for their orphanage and homeless shelter. They will be available at the coffee morning for those who might be interested in making a purchase.

Friday 4th May is the Feast of The English Martyrs, our Patronal Feast Day. Mass will be at 9.30am along with an extra Mass that day at 7.30pm, an Extraordinary Form Latin Mass (Missa Cantata (sung Mass) accompanied by Schola Abelis). All are welcome.

Flower Workshop—12th May 11am—1pm, cost £10, payment on booking please. Details on the noticeboard, please sign up on the sheet if you would like to attend, and give your money to Connie or Camilla at English Martyrs, or send to the parish office.

Churches Together in Didcot Pentecost Event—will take place at St Matthew's Church, Harwell on Sunday 20th May at 6pm. All welcome.

The Youth Club at Abingdon is organising an event at Youlbury Activity Centre, Boars Hill on 19th May. They will meet at Our Lady and St Edmund's Church at 9.30am and walk to Boars Hill, where there will be a variety of activities for the young people to participate in. Fr Rob will say Mass at 2pm and pick up time is 4.30pm. All participants need to bring a packed lunch and waterproof clothing. If you would like to take part in this event, please contact Our Lady and St Edmund's parish office, email Abingdon@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. Online booking is also available, where you can decide on the activities that you'd like to take part in.

Gift Aid boxes—There are still number of boxes left at the back of both churches. Please remember to pick up your box after Mass. Thank you.

Telephone Number for SVP

If you know of anyone in need please call 07580539765.

Last week's Collection:

£1345

Thank you for your donations