

**Mass Text for the Fifth Sunday of Lent**

Give me justice, O God,  
and plead my cause against  
a nation that is faithless.  
From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
for you, O God, are my strength.

**First Reading:** Ezekiel 37:12-14

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 129

**Response:**

With the Lord there is mercy  
and fullness of redemption.

**Second Reading:** Rom 8:8-11

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord:  
whoever believes in me will never die.  
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

**Gospel:** John 11:1-45

**Communion Antiphon:**

Everyone who lives and believes in me  
will not die for ever, says the Lord.

**MASS TIMES for the coming week**

**Saturday 1st April**

**Vigil Mass of the Fifth Sunday of Lent**

*St John's: 5pm Pro Populo*

*English Martyrs: 6.30pm Joseph Hughes Snr  
RIP (T Hughes and family)*

**SUNDAY 2nd April**

**The Fifth Sunday of Lent**

*English Martyrs: 7.30am Extraordinary Form  
Latin Mass Richard Guinan RIP*

*English Martyrs: 9am Pro Populo*

*St John's: 11am John Hubler RIP (J Edwards)*

**Mass times for the coming week**

**MONDAY 3rd April**

*Mass at St Mary's East Hendred, 9.15am*

**TUESDAY 4th April**

*St John's: 9.30am Marjorie Lockyer RIP  
(J Turner)  
(Followed by Stations of the Cross)*

**WEDNESDAY 5th April**

*English Martyrs: 9.30am Jenny Evans' Intentions  
(C Stemp)  
(Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
and Benediction)*

*English Martyrs: 7.30pm Extraordinary Form  
Latin Mass Fr Michael Clifton RIP*

**THURSDAY 6th April**

*St John's: 9.30am Easter blessings to all friends at  
English Martyrs and St John's (D & J Woodley)*

*English Martyrs: 7pm Penitential Service*

**FRIDAY 7th April**

*English Martyrs: 9.30am Muriel Roy RIP  
(Almeida family)  
(Followed by Stations of the Cross)*

**SATURDAY 8th April**

*English Martyrs: 9.30am Mrs Matilda Pereira RIP  
(S Francis)  
(Followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation and  
reciting of the rosary)*

*Weekend Masses as usual*



Thames ISIS  
Catholic Pastoral Area

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

[www.thamesisis.org.uk](http://www.thamesisis.org.uk)

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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](mailto:ppharris@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

**2nd April 2017**

**The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Yr A)**

Sisters, Martha and Mary send word to Jesus to tell him that his beloved friend Lazarus is seriously ill. When Jesus hears this news, her remains another two days where he is before setting off to Judea. Jesus' delay is essential to the story.

Jesus is about to deepen the faith of his good friends Martha, Mary and Lazarus and all those who know them. It is because he loves his friends and not because he is indifferent to them that he allows Lazarus to die before returning. It is through Lazarus' death that Jesus is about to display indisputable proof of God. Jesus is about to work the ultimate miracle. Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead.

It is not just that Lazarus got his life back that makes this miracle so exciting, it's that everybody who witnessed it or heard about it had their lives changed as a result. The raising of Lazarus reminds us not only that we are to inherit eternal life, but also that our lives can be miraculously enriched by our faith in Jesus.



**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.

**Pope Francis’ Monthly Prayer Intention for April 2017**

Back in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, Pope Francis had a message for young Christians everywhere. Pope Francis had urged young people living in situations of “war, extreme poverty, daily troubles and loneliness” to not lose hope and not be taken in “by the messages of hatred or terror all around us.” He added, “You are preparing to be Christians capable of making courageous choices and decisions, in order to build daily, even through little things, a world of peace,” This month we are invited to join in Pope Francis’ prayer intention “...**That young people may respond generously to their vocations and seriously consider offering themselves to God in the priesthood or consecrated life.**”

**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](mailto:katholdham@hotmail.co.uk)

**CTWA Prayer Cycle**  
Please pray for  
The Methodist Church, 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). All bookings must be received by Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March.

**Deputy Head Vacancy - St Edmund's Catholic Primary School, Abingdon**

Our governors wish to appoint a committed, practising Catholic to join the established leadership team in our warm and welcoming school from September 2017, following the retirement of our current Deputy Head. Further details are available on the school website or contact Mrs Berny Pratt, School Business Manager, for an application pack (01235 521558 or [bpra2676@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:bpra2676@st-edmunds-rc.oxon.sch.uk)). Closing date for applications is 27th April 2017.

**A Day of Recollection for Ministers of the Eucharist**—will be held at Stonehill House OX14 4AA on Saturday 27th May. Please email [pcarroll@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:pcarroll@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) if you would like to attend.

**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:  
£1474*

*Thank you for your donations*