

Mass Text for the Ascension of the Lord

Men of Galilee, why gaze
in wonder at the heavens?

This Jesus whom you saw ascending into heaven
will return as you saw him go, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 1:1-11

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 46:2-3, 6-9

Response:

God goes up with shouts of joy;
the Lord goes up with trumpet blast.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:17-23

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Go, make disciples of all the nations;
I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.
Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

Communion Antiphon:

Behold, I am with you always,
even to the end of the age, alleluia.

MASS TIMES for the coming week**Saturday 27th May****Vigil Masses of The Ascension of the Lord**

St John's: 5pm

(Sacrament of Reconciliation from 4.30pm)

English Martyrs: 6.30pm Pro Populo

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

SUNDAY 28th May**The Ascension of the Lord**

English Martyrs: 9am Lillie O'Brien RIP
(A O'Brien)

St John's: 11am Pro Populo

Mass times for the coming week**MONDAY 29th May**

Mass at St Mary's East Hendred, 9.15am

TUESDAY 30th May

No Mass this morning

**WEDNESDAY 31st May—The Visitation of the
Blessed Virgin Mary**

English Martyrs: 9.30am Ken and Don Henderson
RIP (K & D Henderson)
(Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
and Benediction)

English Martyrs: 7.30pm Extraordinary Form
Latin Mass

THURSDAY 1st June

St John's: 9.30am David Woodley's Intentions
(C Jeffery)

FRIDAY 2nd June

English Martyrs: 9.30am Nora Byrne RIP
(Foundation)

SATURDAY 3rd June—St Charles Lwanga & Comp

English Martyrs: 9.30am Mr and Mrs Elsley RIP
(Perp)
(Followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation and
reciting of the rosary)

*Weekend Masses as usual plus Extraordinary
Form Latin Mass at English Martyrs, Sunday 4th
June at 7.30am*



Thames ISIS
Catholic Pastoral Area

**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

28th May 2017

The Ascension of the Lord (Yr A)

Our First Reading today – the beginning of the Acts of the Apostles – gives us a vivid account of Our Lord's Ascension into heaven. St Luke first tells us that Jesus was "lifted up" and then that "a cloud took him from [the Apostles'] sight". To be lifted up, in biblical language refers to Jesus being exalted; of his sharing in God's majesty, reigning over all.

The cloud, though, is none other than the sign of God's presence: in the Old Testament God led his people through the wilderness by a pillar of cloud by day; when the Temple was consecrated, a cloud filled it with God's presence; and when Jesus was Transfigured, a cloud came over the mountain as the voice of God was heard proclaiming him to be his Son. So when Jesus is taken from sight by a cloud at the Ascension, he is seen to be God, enveloped in the cloud of the presence, with all things under him, ruling over all.

Let us joyfully proclaim our faith in Jesus, the Son of God and our Saviour. May our lives bear witness to him, day by day, our risen, ascended and glorified Lord.

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.

**World Communications Day 2017**

World Communications Day 2017 is celebrated on Sunday 28 May. The theme is '**Communicating Hope and Trust in our Time**' and its inspiration comes from Scripture - Isaiah 43:5 "Fear not, for I am with you." On this day, Catholics are encouraged to pray for all those professionals who work in the field of Communications. A particular intention for prayer is for those who are responsible for communicating on behalf of the Catholic Church in this country through the Catholic Communications Network. The CCN is the media office of the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales and seeks to support the Bishops in their role as teachers both of the Catholic community and the wider world. The office is the central point for media enquiries and is a key resource for national and international media professionals. It also plays an important role in developing the public profile of the Church through word and image, online and offline. In addition to this, CCN work on carefully selected proactive campaigns to promote the Catholic Faith in public life such as the <http://www.artofdyingwell.org/>
Please help us continue this work through contributing generously to the collection on the day.

Novena to the Holy Spirit

The Great Feast of Pentecost will soon be upon us, when we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit given to Mary and the Apostles, and so also to the early Church. After Ascension, those first disciples were told by Jesus not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there "for what the Lord had promised" (Acts 1:4). We too, then, are invited to "wait for what the Lord has promised us", namely the Holy Spirit. Please would you consider offering a Novena to the Holy Spirit from **Friday 26th May to Saturday 3rd June** for the New Evangelisation in our diocese. *Thy Kingdom Come* is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray at this time for more people to come to know Jesus Christ. As Catholics, we can support this initiative with our Pentecost Novena, Prayer of the Faithful and an encouragement for us to pray, as we normally do, with the particular intention for our loved ones to come to faith in Jesus Christ.

Sharing the Joy of the Gospel – Day of Prayer for the New Evangelisation

Sat 3rd June, 10am-3pm at St. Edward's Church, 191-193 Winchester Road, Chandlers Ford SO53 2DU

The diocese will be hosting a day of prayer for the New Evangelisation, beginning with mass at 10am. Throughout the day, there will be the opportunity to pray before the blessed sacrament. There will also be a prayer workshop either side of lunch (please bring your own), centred on the theme of "using the gifts of the Holy Spirit". You are welcome to come for all or just some of the day. Even if you cannot join us, please take time that day to pray for the New Evangelisation in our diocese – it is essential that all our efforts are founded on a firm bedrock of prayer.

Heavenly Harrods—We have a selection of confirmation cards and gifts and a selection of statues of Our Lady specially for the month of May, come and have a browse.

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
Cholsey Free Church

Didcot Meet the Candidates 2017

Your chance to quiz the General Election Candidates in Didcot. Didcot Churches have organised an Election Forum for anyone in the constituency to hear from and question the candidates standing in the General Election. It will take place at Didcot Civic Hall on Friday 2nd June - doors open 7:00pm for a 7:30pm start, and the session will last two hours.

PENTECOST VIGIL LIVE FROM ROME, Saturday 3rd June 3pm to approx 7pm
St Edmund's Parish Centre, Corner of Oxford Rd & Radley Rd Abingdon OX14 3PL
Pope Francis has invited Christians worldwide to join him in the Circus Massimus to celebrate 50 years of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal. We shall be streaming the event live in the Parish Centre. All welcome, come for all or part. Refreshments provided. Details from Abingdon parish office, 01235 520375

Cleaners at English Martyrs—Thank you to those who previously kindly volunteered to help clean the church. Please speak to Connie Lyall after Mass at the weekend so that a rota can be arranged.

SVP Tea and Chat this Wednesday 31st May, 2-3pm, at St John's Parish Hall. All welcome.

Administrator Required—A vacancy has arising for a part-time Administrative Secretary to work for Fr Phillip Harris, Parish Priest at the churches of English Martyrs, Didcot and St John the Evangelist, Wallingford. The successful applicant will be located at the Parish Office in the Presbytery at Didcot.

Hours of work: 28 per week, hours each day to be agreed

Salary: £9.19 - £11.34 per hour

Experience and Qualifications required for the role:

Experienced Administrator with excellent secretarial skills, time management and prioritisation skills

Computer literate, skilled in word processing, desktop publishing, spreadsheets, database management and use of the internet

Experienced in book-keeping and knowledge of accounts

Experience of website management (training will be given)

Personal Attributes:

Sympathetic to the Ministry and Mission of the Catholic Church

Self motivated and flexible, with ability to work on own initiative and using own judgement without supervision, able to cope with change and work under pressure.

Diplomatic, discreet with a sympathetic nature and emotional resilience.

Closing date for applications: 5th June

Application forms can be downloaded from <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/vacancies/> or available from the parish office. Please return to Fr Phillip Harris, English Martyrs Church, 15 Manor Crescent, Didcot OX11 7AJ, Telephone 01235 812338

Gift Aid Certificates—If you would like a gift aid certificate for the tax year 2016/17, please contact the parish office.

Telephone Number for SVP

If you know of anyone in need please call
07580539765.

Last week's Collections:

£1256

**Second Collection this week:
World Communications Day**

Thank you for your donations