

**Mass Text for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Entrance Antiphon**

Turn your eyes, O God, our shield;  
and look on the face of your anointed one;  
one day within your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

**First Reading:** Isaiah 56:1,6-7

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 66:2-3,5-6,8

**Response:** Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.

**Second Reading:** Romans 11:13-15,29-32

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Alleluia, alleluia!  
Jesus proclaimed the Good News of the kingdom,  
And cured all kinds of sicknesses among the people.  
Alleluia.

**Gospel:** Matthew 15:21-28

**Communion Antiphon:**

With the Lord there is mercy;  
in him is plentiful redemption.

**MASS TIMES for the coming week**

**SATURDAY 19th August**

**Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4.30-4.50pm**

**St John's: 5pm Pro Populo**

**English Martyrs: 6.30pm Private Intentions**

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

**SUNDAY 20th August**

**Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**English Martyrs: 9am Pro Populo**

**St John's: 11am Pat Watts R.I.P.**

**Mass times for the coming week**

**MONDAY 21st August**

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

**TUESDAY 22nd August The Queenship of Mary**

**St John's: 9:30am Peg Chiswick Intentions (D Woodley)**

**WEDNESDAY 23rd August**

**English Martyrs: 9:30am Janet Krokowska in Thanksgiving (K. Henderson)**

*(Followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction)*

**English Martyrs: 7:30pm St Rose of Lima**

*Extraordinary Form Latin Mass Annie & George Pennington-Harris R.I.P.*

**THURSDAY 24th August St Bartholemew**

**St John's: 9:30am Alice Doyle R.I.P. (SVP)**

**FRIDAY 25th August**

**English Martyrs: 9:30am Margaret Houston R.I.P. (C. Lyall)**

**SATURDAY 26th August Blessed Dominic Barberi**

**English Martyrs: 9:30am Charles Hinchliffe Anniversary of Baptism (A. Johns)**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: 10:00-10:30am**

*Weekend Masses as usual*



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

*www.thamesisis.org.uk*

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**20th August 2017**  
**20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (Year A)**

In today's Gospel Our Lord encounters a Canaanite woman. The Canaanites were pagans, so did not believe in God, yet this woman in the gospel begs Jesus to heal her daughter. At first Jesus seems not to be listening and it's only after the disciples' intervention and the woman boldly showing that she is capable of believing that he heals her daughter. His comment that "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the house-dogs" actually elicits the woman's humble confession of faith that "... even the house-dogs can eat the scraps that fall from their master's table". She recognised in Jesus someone who could save her daughter and, although a pagan, she takes a step of faith! In doing so, she is answering God's call in her life – and her situation is radically transformed by him.

Jesus says he has been sent "only to the lost sheep of the House of Israel". He knew he had to preach the message of the Kingdom of God according to his Father's design: firstly to his own people, the people of the Old Testament covenants. This we can understand if we reflect on it in the light of Gethsemane, Good Friday and Easter Day – it was the Father's will that he should be sent to them, but, he would be rejected, betrayed and put to death with sinful men – in order to reconcile us – all of us, Jews and pagans, to God and open the path of life with the dawning of the first Easter Day when death itself was defeated. In this way the Father's will was done and at the end of Matthew's gospel the risen Jesus can give the commission to the disciples to go and preach the gospel to all nations.

Twenty-three years after the events of the gospel, St. Paul is doing exactly that as the "Apostle of the pagans". He reflects on the mystery of how his own people rejected the Good News so that something much greater could happen: "the reconciliation of the world". The Church proclaims that reconciliation: God's love has been offered to everyone through Jesus' sacrifice for us on the cross and celebrated again and again at every Mass down through the ages. The Lord calls each one of us to respond to this. For some this may mean a radical response, a "conversion" like St. Paul, for some it may mean discerning a vocation to the priesthood, the diaconate or religious life, for some it may be the call to marry, or to service in other ways... For all it is a daily call to enter more fully into that love which God has offered us in Jesus Christ.

*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, Ian Bosely, Audrey Edwards and all the sick of the parish.

**We are all Witnesses (Acts 2:32) Essential Training for Catechists** This course, sponsored by our Diocese, has been arranged for the following Fridays in Lent in the hall behind St John Vianney Church, Charlton Rd, Wantage, OX12 8ER from 7:30-9:00pm. Limited spaces so early registration is recommended. Contact Jacky at jackymattam@btinternet.com. No charge, but a donation will be appreciated.

Friday 23rd February  
Friday 2nd March  
Friday 9th March  
Friday 16th March  
Friday 23rd March

**St John's Music Group** will be taking a break for the summer and will resume on Sunday 10th September. We welcome new singers and musicians. If you can play a musical instrument or would like to sing please come and join us. We especially need another soprano, so if you can hold a tune in your head and sing in tune please do come along. Our practice nights are Fridays at 7.15pm in the hall at the back of the church, commencing 8th September. Please contact Sue Hunt on 01491 835787 or Mary Hill on 01491 836078

**Mass Intentions**

One of our rich Catholic traditions is having a Mass said for a particular intention, maybe for a loved one or a deceased family member. Do consider asking to have a Mass celebrated for your intentions.

**English Martyrs Church** is open for prayer Monday to Friday mornings until 1pm. (All day with Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 3.00-4.00 on the 1st Friday of each month) **If you have a key please do not lock the church.**

**CAFOD Portsmouth Harvest Briefing**

Join us at a special Harvest Briefing on Thu 7 Sep 7:30-9:00pm at English Martyrs' Church Hall, 64 Liebenrood Road, Reading RG30 2EB to hear more about CAFOD's work in El Salvador, the focus of Harvest Fast Day. Please book a place in advance via 01252 329385 or portsmouth@cafod.org.uk

**Ride and Stride Saturday 9th September** Full details on Noticeboards. It's all in a very cause, so please sign up to participate. If you're unable to do that then volunteers are needed at both our churches to help man them throughout the day—please call Douglas Henderson 01235 for English Martyrs and email lilandia\_abad@hotmail.com or raymondjameseaton@yahoo.com for St John's.

**Parish Safeguarding Rep**  
Kate Keating  
07816 170360

**CWTA Prayer Cycle**  
Please pray for St John's Church,

**Fatima Relics to visit our Cathedral** During this Centenary Year, the World Apostolate of Fatima statue of Our Lady of Fatima is on a journey around the cathedrals of England and Wales along with relics of recently canonised St Jacinto and St Francisco Marto. The statue and relics will be visiting St John's Cathedral in Portsmouth from Saturday 26th to Sunday 27th August.

**Diocesan Day for Altar Servers** Bishop Philip invites all altar servers from across the diocese to join him for a special 'Day for Altar Servers' on Saturday 9th September. More details to follow but please keep the day free in your diary.

**Young Catholic Adult Weekend @ Douai Abbey 20th -22nd Oct 2017** Are you 18-40, do you want to deepen your knowledge of the Catholic faith, learn its devotions and meet like minded people? Young Catholic Adults are organizing a weekend at Douai Abbey with Lawrence Lew O.P., and Canon Poucin ICKSP. You'll be able to hear catechetical talks, learn how to sing Gregorian Chant, say the Rosary, socialize and have fun. Book soon as places are limited! All Masses are in the Old Rite. To book go to <http://www.youngcatholicadults.co.uk/events.htm>.

**CTS read of the month – A retreat for everyday Life** Summer is the perfect time to spend a little extra time with God, relaxing in the garden or even on the beach! CTS are doing one Read of the Month for July, August and September - A Retreat for Everyday Life. It's the ideal book to slip into a handbag or take on holiday, to help us deepen our relationship with Christ. Copies available from 'Heavenly Harrods' for the discounted price of £1.00.(please leave monies at Heavenly Harrods)

**Certificate in Parish Mission and Ministry** -In conjunction with Maryvale Institute and FFM the Diocese is running a special one year certificate course for anyone involved in parish ministry. This would be particularly beneficial for catechists, members of the pastoral council, youth leaders, those working with families, youth, and ministers of Holy Communion. It involves a study of various aspects of the parish mission such as youth, families and the mission to the sick and housebound and helps people to understand the mission of a parish and the practicalities of reaching out in the task of evangelization. Details on church noticeboards.

**Childrens' Sunday Liturgy at English Martyrs & St John's** is now taking a break for the summer and will start again in September when the children go back to school

**Fanning the Flame** 21st-25th August 2017 - Hampshire Camp. 'An exciting week of Faith, Fun and Fellowship, for young people aged 10-25!' For more information or to register please

*Telephone Number for SVP*

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

**Last week's Collections:  
£1410  
Thank you for your donations**