

Mass Times 22nd - 29th March 2025

Sat 22nd 10am *Jill Hopkins' Ints.*

Sat 22nd 6pm *Colin Gray R.I.P.*

Sun 23rd 9am *Anthony & Muriel Moran R.I.P.*

Sun 23rd 11am *Ryan Family Ints. (Lambourn)*

Mon 24th 10am *Pro Populo*

Tues 25th 10:00am *Doug Frewer R.I.P.*

Weds 26th 10am

Weds 26th 12 Noon *(Lambourn)*

Weds 26th 7pm Station of the Cross and Benediction

Thurs 27th 10am *Ray (Raphael) Kenward R.I.P.*

Fri 28th 10am

Sat 29th 10am

Sat 29th 6pm *Pro Populo*

Confessions on Saturdays 10:30—11am at St. John Vianney. Or by appointment



In your prayers, please remember all who have died recently especially **Theresa Appleyard, Florence Heath, Eugene Lambe, Isabel Smith, and those whose anniversaries occur around this time - Patricia Halifax, Douglas Frewer, Teresa Hicklin, Nora O'Malley, Michael Eyre, Mary Robinson, Patricia Senior, James Lynch, Becky Holt, Edward Moss, Bridget Madden, Richard Wells, Sybill Murphy, Patrick Bergin, Romero Urcelay, Kathleen Roberts, Isolina Durrant, Patricia Baigrie, Judy House, Diana Wasborough, Patricia Wellington, Tania Tompkins, Alphonsus Hill, Mary Johnson, James McCarthy, Stella Gardiner, Maria Coates.** Also pray for all who are sick, in hospital or housebound especially **Richard and Pat Taylor, Kevin Maher, Monique Regan, Cathy Longworth, Nancy Walsh,, Mary and Desmond McNichol, Richard Heron, Jessica Buist, Ann Cole, Dot Armstrong, Maureen Hendricks, Margaret Joyce, Sue Maher, Gloria Allen, Pam Morgan and all those suffering at this time. Please contact the office if you would like someone to be added to our sick list .**

Collections Thank You

If you would like to continue supporting the Church your weekly/ monthly offering can be made online using this name and account number :

CDP Wantage St John Vianney

Sort Code: 30-93-04 Account Number: 01720016

Please remember that you can always drop your donation into the Presbytery letterbox. Same Account for Wantage and Lambourn.



St John Vianney Wantage Sacred Heart Lambourn



Parish Priest: Fr. David O'Sullivan

Telephone: 01235 762374

Mobile: 07554427063

Office e-mail: wantage@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Fr David's e-mail: dosullivan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Find us at www.wantagecatholicparish.org

Year C 3rd Sunday in Lent 23rd March 2025



The Gardener, the Fig Tree and the Promise

When people die, especially in tragic or premature circumstances, we are left with a sense of injustice. There are some who will question what kind of God we have who can allow such unfairness. But the bottom line is that life simply isn't metered out to us in equal proportions. We don't die in order. Death simply happens. There is no intent behind a natural disaster or a critical illness, and because there is no intent there can certainly be no injustice. In biblical days people imagined that fatal disasters and terminal illnesses were sent as some kind of punishment from God. Had the victims brought about their own fate by living sinful lives? What will Jesus' answer be? No, of course untimely death is not sent as a punishment! But whilst we are pondering the fragility of our lives, Jesus reminds us that any one of us could die in similar circumstances. We only have to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. None of us can bank on living to a ripe old age, and so we must consider how well we are prepared to live and how well we are prepared to die.

At first, today's reading feels uncomfortable. The parable of the fig tree reads like a threat. The tree is not bearing any fruit and so the master commands that it should be axed. A compassionate gardener begs that the tree be given a second chance, and so the master grants another year. It feels like a threat... bear fruit or else! But Jesus knows that threats don't bring out the best in us. Like the gardener who tends the tree and nurtures it, so Jesus is there for all who need a second chance. For those of us who make a commitment to live life in a better way, Jesus is there to support and guide us towards our goals. The parable has moved from something that sounds like a threat to something that sounds like a promise.... something inspirational!

Lent is a time to address some begging questions. How many years have we spent making the same old mistakes? What must we do to make life different? It sounds obvious, but to achieve different results, we must do something different. We are invited to ask God for help in setting new priorities, and we must achieve results that reflect God's love for us, and our love for God.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention For March - For the elderly, that they may be supported and cared for in their needs.

Pray for the recovery of Pope Francis - We pray for the recovery of Pope Francis. We ask God, "Have mercy on Pope Francis in his illness now, we pray, and guide the medical staff who are caring for him. Grant him peace and healing. Through Christ our Lord."

Join us in the hall for refreshments after 9am Mass.

**Stations of the Cross
St. John Vianney
Wednesday Evening 7pm, followed by Benediction**

Lent Talks BBC Radio 4 - Every year on BBC Radio 4 during Lent, six people well known in their fields reflect on the story of Jesus' ministry and Passion from the perspective of their own personal and professional experience. Broadcast on Sunday 19.45 or Saturday at 5.45am.

Choir News - The choir will be practicing every Friday evening at 7:30pm in the hall, to prepare for the Masses and services of Holy Week and Easter. If you like singing and would be interested to join the choir, just speak to Neville after Mass.

Little People - We are in need of baby clothes ages 0 - 3yrs and boys clothes ages 5 - 8 yrs. Any items can be left in the food bank box in the porch. Many thanks.

Care Not Killing - Important Petition - The Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill would make vulnerable people - including the elderly and disabled - feel a burden on family or carers resulting in pressure to end their lives. Please consider signing the Care Not Killing petition which calls on MPs to vote against legalising assisted suicide in England and Wales. Forms are at the back of Church. See the poster on the noticeboard if you prefer to access via the QR code.

Safeguarding Notice - Children should be accompanied by a parent when using the toilets at Church. This is for their own safety. Thank you for your cooperation.

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP) - If you know of anyone who needs support, if you have friends or relatives who would like a visit, you can make contact through the parish office. Donations to SVP can be made to this account: Sort Code 60-60-04 ac no. 48001074 or on the card machine. Thank you for your support.



Lent Soup Lunches - Every Friday during Lent, starting at 12:30pm. If you can help by making soup, please sign up on the form in the porch. All are welcome to come along. Donations—recipients to be decided.

The Feast of the Annunciation 25th March

On March 25th, nine months before Christmas, we celebrate one of the Church's most important feast days, the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord. It is interesting to reflect that God did not need any human being in order to do his work, however, he chose to redeem us in a way that included human participation through a humble young woman's consent.

Holy Thursday - Volunteers needed for Washing of the Feet. Sign-up sheet is on the noticeboard in the porch.

Good Friday Walk of Witness - Will begin at Community Church Kingsgrove Primary School, visit Holy Trinity, St. John Vianney, the Methodist Church and finish at St. Peter and St. Paul. Please consider supporting this event as a way to witness to our faith. Start time to be arranged.

Easter Mass Times

Holy Thursday 7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper

Good Friday 12 Noon The Passion (Lambourn)

Friday 3pm The Passion and Veneration of The Cross

Saturday 8pm Easter Vigil Mass

Sunday 9am Easter Sunday

Sunday 11am (Lambourn)

Office Hours - Tuesday 11am to 1:30pm. Thursday and Friday 11am to 2:30pm. Please email any items for the newsletter to the office by 1:30 pm on Thursday.

Important Contacts.

Hospital / Home visits. Sick Communion, If you are sick or going into hospital and would like a visit or Holy Communion, call the office on **01235 762374**

Parish Safeguarding Rep: Barbara Jarrett 07427181090
Ann Strickland is the contact for Lambourn
anne.strickland@mail.com

Baptisms and other Sacraments—Firstly, speak to Fr. David after Mass on any Sunday email wantage@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Other Priests in the area :

Fr. Matthew Topham. East Hendred. Tel: 01235 835038

Fr. Dominic Adeiza. Didcot. Tel: 01235 812338

St. Amand's School [01235 833342](tel:01235833342) . website: www.st-amands.oxon.sch.uk or email office.3855@st-amands.oxon.sch.uk