

## Mass Times 21st - 28th February 2026

Sat 14th 10am Murial and Anthony Moran RIP

Sat 14th 6pm

Sun 15th 9am Pro Pop

Sun 15th 11am Elizabeth Preece RIP

Mon 16th 10am David Lambeth's ints

Tues 17th 10am

Weds 18th 10am Patrick Bergin RIP

Weds 18th 12 Noon Private Int

Weds 18th 7pm Stations of the Cross and Benediction

Thurs 19th 10am

Fri 20th 10am Peace in our troubled world

Sat 21st 10am Roy Kemp RIP (This is a special memorial requiem Mass)

Sat 21st 6pm

**Scripture Study this week is on Monday night at 7pm**



QR Code to  
Register



## St John Vianney Wantage

### Sacred Heart Lambourn

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Find us at [www.wantagecatholicparish.org](http://www.wantagecatholicparish.org)



## Year A 4th Sunday in Lent 8th March 2026 Laetare



### Insights

Today Jesus cures a man who has been blind from birth, but it is not the blindness of the man himself that is central to this story but the blindness of those around him. The Pharisees are pretty sure they know who Jesus is and they are fairly certain that he is not of God. Consequently, they are completely non-plussed by Jesus' miracle. They question the cured man over and over as though seeking some other explanation. The

Pharisees are unable to believe the evidence before their eyes. They are just as blind as the blind man once was. They are blind to the truth because they refuse to see it.

Jesus chose to cure the blind man, not simply because he felt a sympathy for him but because he wanted to display how God can work through any one of us. Jesus could see that the blind man would make a persuasive evangelist, and he was right. The cured blind man, unlike his frightened parents, spoke out boldly and persistently first proclaiming Jesus as a prophet, and then as he gained more insight, that this man was the Son of God. Even so, the short-sighted Pharisees were not convinced. Their belief that only Moses could act as spokesperson for God, rendered them totally myopic when it came to Jesus. Perhaps there is a lesson here for all of us. Are we so blinkered in what we believe and how we worship, that we are unable to see the broader picture that would allow our faith to move forwards?

Jesus' miracle and choice of subject teaches that God can work through any one of us. In the circumstances of our lives we can show others how God works. In our skills and talents we too can be evangelists, we just need the vision and a little bit of lateral thinking.

### Laetare Sunday

Lent means 40 days of fast, abstinence, and penitential works, but on the fourth Sunday of Lent there's a change. On Laetare (Rejoice) or Rose Sunday, we look beyond the sorrows of Lent to the rejoicings of the coming Easter.

**Confessions: Saturdays 10:30—11am or by appointment.**



**In your prayers**, please remember all who have died recently especially Ellen Bailey, and those whose anniversaries occur around this . Also pray for all who are sick, in hospital or housebound especially Canon Peter, Terry O'Hara, Rebecca O'Hara ,June Toley, Richard and Pat Taylor, Monique Regan, Cathy Longworth, Nancy Walsh, Mary and Desmond McNichol,

**Parish Office - Please note that the parish office is now temporarily closed. All correspondence/phone calls and emails should be directed to Fr. David's numbers. Available on the front of the newsletter. Please be patient with us.**

### 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.**



## Mothering Sunday

Mothering Sunday has been celebrated in the UK on the fourth Sunday in Lent from the 16th century. On this Sunday it was expected that families should attend their 'Mother Church'. This history is largely forgotten, but it remains an opportunity for us to show our mothers just how much we appreciate and love them.

On Mother's Day we pray especially for all mothers and thank God for the care and love they give to their children.

We ask God's blessing especially for mothers who struggle to protect their children

### *A Lesson from St Patrick 17th March.*

*What can we learn from Saint Patrick? Well, not unlike Jesus, Patrick was a great storyteller. He had a great story to tell about his faith to the people of Ireland, and he had to figure out how to tell his story of faith to an audience that had never heard such a story before. Plus, he had to do it in such a way that people would be inclined to listen and believe. Today we have a similar challenge, to tell people about our faith in a way that will engage and involve, that will impact attitudes and ultimately lead to meaningful change. Happy Saint Patrick's Day.*

### *Saint Joseph Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary 19th March*

*Even in today's climate of equality, it can often fall on the shoulders of mothers to bring up children. The flip side of this is that fathers can find themselves taking a back seat, whether they like it or not!*

*Today is a day we can celebrate fatherhood. Today is a day dads everywhere can emulate St Joseph in his endeavours*



### Exciting Job Opportunity

**We are now recruiting for a Parish Administrator**

**Salary: £8,642.40 (FTE £27,007.50)**

**Contract: Permanent, Part-time working 12 hours per week**

**Location: Parish Office. More info from Fr David or Diocesan Website**

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



### Lent devotions

Stations of the Cross Wednesday evenings at 7pm followed by Benediction.

Stations of the Cross Friday after 10am Mass.

Scripture study Tuesday evenings during Lent 7pm.

Why not join us?

**Invitation To Volunteer Catechists** – as our parish continues to grow, our Pastoral Area Formation Team are seeking to recruit more volunteers to serve as catechists. In particular, we need more volunteers to work with our Children's Liturgy group. Catechists support learners in exploring scripture, the sacraments, prayer and Christian living. If you would like to know more, please just add your name to the list on the notice board and Gabriella will contact you.

**Choir News!** The practice on 15th March will be after 9am Mass at 10am. If you want to sing in the Easter Services you are welcome - so just come along!

### Care for Our Common Home More Carbon Fast

Look for opportunities this week to leave the car at home. Cars make us lazy. Without a car we feel very badly done to making that ten-minute walk to the supermarket. We live our lives by the clock, and 'wasting' an extra half an hour walking to work makes us 'jittery'. Walking is a lovely way to calm the mind, save money and reduce pollution.

Are you good with Websites? Could you give some time to the Parish as we work with the Area in our new Digital Strategy. Speak to Fr. David

### 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 ministry:** Barbara Jarrett 07427181090  
Ann Strickland is the contact for Lambourn [anne.strickland@mail.com](mailto:anne.strickland@mail.com)

**Baptisms and other Sacraments**—Firstly, speak to Fr. David after Mass on any Sunday email [wantage@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto: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](http://www.st-amands.oxon.sch.uk) or email [office.3855@st-amands.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3855@st-amands.oxon.sch.uk)