

Mass Times 18th - 25th March

Sat 18th 10am *John Mollo R.I.P.*

Sat 18th 6pm *Patrick Bergin & Brian Green R.I.P.*

Sun 19th 9am *Muriel and Anthony Moran R.I.P.*

Sun 19th 11am (at Lambourn) *Elizabeth Preece R.I.P.*

Mon 20th 10am *Gareth Koch's Ints.*

Tues 21st 10am *Dec'd of McAvoy & Fitzgerald Families R.I.P.*

Weds 22nd 10am *Kathy Child's Ints.*

Weds 22nd No Mass at Lambourn

Weds 22nd 7pm Adoration

Thurs 23rd 9am

Thursday 23rd 11:30 *Funeral of Patrick Callaghan (at Lambourn)*

Fri 24th 9am

Fri 24th 11am *Funeral of Bob Dore (at Lambourn)*

Sat 25th 10am

Sat 25th 6pm *Pro Populo*

Cold and flu -

If you feel unwell or are displaying symptoms please test for covid before coming to Mass so that we can protect the vulnerable.

All Masses at St. John Vianney are on Zoom. Masses at Sacred Heart Lambourn are not available on Zoom.

CONFESSIONS: SATURDAYS 10:30 to 11am or by appointment



In your prayers, please remember all who have died recently especially Patrick Callaghan, Jim Lynch, Bob Dore, Cath Walwyn, Ros Eltham, Judith Kershaw, and those whose anniversaries occur around this time - Richard Wells, Syb Murphy, Patrick Bergin, Harry Whitworth, Romero Urcelay, Kath Roberts, Isolina Durrant, Judy House, Diana Wasborough, Tania Tompkins, Alphonsus Hill, Mary Johnson, Stella Gardiner, Maria Coates. Also pray for all who are sick, in hospital or housebound especially Kathy Child, Michael Petterson, Dot Armstrong, Pete Gray, Margaret Joyce, Peter Shaw, Wendy Purslow, Sue Maher, Tom Carney, 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

Year A 4th Sunday in Lent 19th March 2023



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.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March -For victims of abuse. We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

Thank you to all who came to meet Bishop Philip at Mass last Saturday evening and to Ann and helpers for organising the buffet afterwards which was very well attended. Bishop Philip has written about his visit in e-news—link below <https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/st-john-vianneys-wantage>

The Sponsored Rowing Challenge - This week has been challenging! Not because of the rowing but because Fr D decided it was a week of celebration. He had to celebrate the Rugby victory and then he had to celebrate St Patrick's Day. I tried to remind him that it was Lent but always the 'know it all' he had the excuse ready to hand. This means of course the rowing suffered. Cambridge is now so far ahead not even an outboard motor would catch him up. All Fr D can say is, "Its not a race". Easy to say when you're so far behind. He reminds me of the ancient fable of the tortoise and the hare. Aesop won't help him now. My suggestion of less celebrating and more rowing didn't go down well. I dread this weekend's sporting events. At least by Sunday Fr D will be on 333K . No one knows where Cambridge is.



Date for your diary - Sunday 7th May
We will be celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III after the 9am Mass at St. John Vianney. Further information in due course.



**Holy Hour of Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration
at St. John Vianney
Wednesday Evenings 7– 8pm**

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP) - helping people struggling with the cost of living or with loneliness and isolation. You can make contact through the parish office or on this number 07842271596. Donations to SVP can be made to this account: Sort Code 60-60-04 ac no. 48001074 Thank you for your support.

Scripture Study - Tuesday evenings at 7pm on Zoom.

**Refreshments after 9am Mass
every Sunday**

Little People - Donations of food and clothing can be left in the Church porch clearly marked "Little People". Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

St. John Vianney Food Bank - Donations of non-perishable items can be left in the box marked "Food Bank" in the Church porch.

Soup lunch Fridays during Lent - at 12:30. Thank you to all who have volunteered to make soup. Please come along. Donations will go to CAFOD

Second Collection this weekend is for the Clergy Assistance Fund. This is the principal mechanism through which the Bishop looks after the well-being of the clergy. Donations can be placed in the basket at the back of Church. If you would like us to collect gift aid on your donation, please put your name on an envelope with your donation. You can also give online using the account number at the end of this Newsletter.

St. Joseph Solemnity 20th March - Patron of the Universal Church. "As once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven".

Bishop Philip's 6 Holy Habits

1. To keep Sunday special, a family day, by attending Mass
2. To spend 5 minutes a day in prayer using the Scriptures
3. To do penance on Fridays, and to serve the poor and needy
4. Every fortnight to come and visit the Bl. Sacrament
5. To go to Confession once a month
6. To join a small group for formation, prayer and fellowship.

Toilet Twinning www.toilettwinning.org 1.7 billion people in the world don't have somewhere safe and hygienic to go to the toilet. (WHO/Unicef) Please donate your spare pennies in the boxes in Church and Hall toilets.

Office Hours -Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11am to 1:30pm. 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 is our contact for all adult and child safeguarding issues. Please contact Barbara through the parish office.
Baptisms and other Sacraments—Firstly, speak to Fr.David after Mass on any Sunday
email wantage@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Other Priests in the area :
Mgr Andrew Burnham East Hendred Tel: 01235 835038
Fr Zbigniew at Wash Common Tel: 01635 40332