

Mass Times 18th - 25th November

Sat 18th 10am *Diarmuid Mannion's Ints.*

Sat 18th 6pm *Michael, Alice & John Roche R.I.P.*

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

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

Mon 20th 10am

Tues 21st 10am *Dot Armstrong's Ints.*

Weds 22nd No Mass at Wantage or Lambourn

Thurs 23rd 10am *Those Persecuted for Their Faith*

Fri 24th 10am *Mervyn & Ruby Hill R.I.P.*

Sat 25th 10am *Patrick & Linah Mambo R.I.P.*

Sat 25th 6pm *Pro Populo*

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

Confessions St. John Vianney Saturdays 10:30 - 11am or by appointment.

Keep Christ in Christmas. Buy and send Religious Christmas Cards.



In your prayers, please remember all who have died recently especially Wendy Purslow, Maureen Mulvanny, Chris Nugent, Paul Burgoyne, Tom Carney, Chris Baker, Valerie Moulton, Ian Smith and those whose anniversaries occur around this time - Fr Robin Sanders, Barrington Vaughan, Joan Urridge, Sir Frank Williams, Walter Flanagan, Gary Oglesby, Dick Cole, Nora Tarry, Desmond Murtagh, Ela Ozbayraktar, Michael Dunning, Jessie & Keith Harrison, Joan Longworth, Michael Dorrian. Also pray for all who are sick, in hospital or housebound especially Ann Cole, Isabel Smith, Jane Andrews, Dot Armstrong, Maureen Hendricks, Pete Gray, Margaret Joyce, Peter Shaw, 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.

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth registered charity number 1199568



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Year A 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time 19th November 2023



No Pain No Gain

The third servant in today's parable was trying to bury a responsibility that he wished to avoid. The treasure he had been given was an opportunity for him to invest and please his master, but instead of putting himself out, he buried the treasure where he could forget about it and go about his own affairs. Buried deep, the treasure was no longer an uncomfortable reminder of his master's expectations. Meanwhile, the other two servants, realising that there is no gain without pain, risked everything on their master's account. They invested and multiplied their gifts, and their master was pleased by their efforts.

Like the three servants in this story we too have been given talents and gifts, and with those talents comes a responsibility to use those talents as an opportunity to make the world a better place. Our talents are varied, some great some small but we are all gifted in some way. Some have high profile and very obvious talents ... there are those who are great musicians, surgeons, sports people and scientists. The rest of us might have less obvious talents. We might have a talent for caring, listening, speaking, growing things or solving practical problems. Whatever our particular gift we are urged to step out with it ... stick our neck on the line and invest our gifts in God's cause. God will not be so impressed if we are too afraid, embarrassed or lazy to use our talents. Ever heard the expression 'Use it or lose it.' If we ignore our gifts long enough, there will come a time when we can no longer rely upon them. This is what happened to the third servant.

One of the excuses that the third servant made for not investing his gift was that he was fearful of losing it. But the message today is not to be fearful. God never asks us to do something we are not capable of doing, and he is not judging us by our levels of productivity. The master in the story did not judge the third servant for producing nothing from his gift, but rather for being lazy and for his bitter indifference to his master's generosity. The master would not have judged him harshly, if he had tried his best but failed.

Today we are invited to look again at what gifts we have been given and how we are using them for the benefit of all. We are asked to examine what gifts we might be ignoring because we are too embarrassed or afraid, and we are asked to live a little dangerously and invest more of ourselves in God's cause.

