

Mass Times 26th April - 3rd May 2025

Sat 26th 8am *Agnes Mambo's Ints. In Thanksgiving*

Sat 26th 6pm *Norman Green R.I.P.*

Sun 27th 9am *Pro Populo*

Sun 27th 11am *Dermot Ffrench R.I.P. (Lambourn)*

Mon 28th 10am *Martin Kealy's Ints.*

Tues 29th 10am *Peter Green R.I.P.*

Weds 30th 10am *Michael Purcell R.I.P.*

Weds 30th 12 Noon *(Lambourn)*

Weds 30th 7pm *Holy Hour and Benediction*

Thurs 1st May 10am *Christine Hill's Ints.*

Fri 2nd 10am *Living & Dec'd Members Bergin and Green Families*

Sat 3rd 10am *Bishop Daniel Kalonga's Ints.*

Sat 3rd 6pm *Ruby & Mervyn Hill R.I.P.*

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



In your prayers, please remember all who have died recently especially **Michael Purcell, Michael Vaughan, Theresa Appleyard, 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 2nd Sunday of Easter, Divine Mercy 27th April 2025



Finding Faith

Poor old Thomas! Condemned to go down in history as 'Doubting Thomas', for demanding proof of the risen Jesus. Yet how many of us would admit to a sneaking sympathy for Thomas? How many of us would have done exactly the same thing in his shoes? In our defence we come to the story from a slightly different angle to that of Thomas's; we come with a twenty first century agenda. We have been brought up in a culture where science rules the day and physical proof is all important. We live in a society where belief in the spiritual is viewed as naive; eccentric even. Yet we are expected to believe.

The story of 'doubting Thomas' is comforting to our twenty first century ears and perhaps that's what John, the gospel's writer, intended. Surely John must have known that faith, or lack of it, would be an issue especially for those without the benefit of first hand evidence. So what are those of us who are struggling with our faith to take from this story?

The most important thing to notice is that Jesus doesn't condemn Thomas for not believing. He simply offers himself as proof. He helps Thomas to believe. Perhaps Jesus does not rebuke Thomas because he knows how much Thomas loves him, and how badly he wants to believe. Doubt might feel like a very negative emotion, but in actual fact, doubt is a sign that we are struggling to find answers and that has to be better than apathy or outright disbelief. Very often doubt is a prelude to firm faith. In fact, a faith besieged by doubt but based in a deep train of thought can be ultimately better than a faith built on little or no thought whatsoever.

In our struggle to find faith we should first take heed of today's story and acknowledge that doubt is 'normal' and not necessarily a bad thing. Next we should acknowledge that the faith others have isn't just some warm and fuzzy feeling, but a conviction and a commitment. It's all too easy when we cannot determine a faith of our own to decry the faith of others as delusion, but this is to simply dismiss out of hand the thinking of centuries of intelligent and gifted men and women.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention For April: For the use of the new technologies Let us pray that the use of the new technologies will not replace human relationships, will respect the dignity of the person, and will help us face the crises of our times.

At 9:45am Rome time, on Monday 21st April, Cardinal Kevin Farrell announced the death of Pope Francis: *"Dearest brothers and sisters, with deep sorrow I must announce the death of our Holy Father Francis. At 7:35 this morning, the Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the house of the Father. His entire life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and of His Church. He taught us to live the values of the Gospel with fidelity, courage, and universal love, especially in favour of the poorest and most marginalized..."*

On the death of a Pope there follows nine days of official mourning during which time the funeral will take place. Pope Francis' funeral will be on Saturday 26th April at 9am UK time.

As Carmelengo of the Apostolic Chamber, Cardinal Farrell is now acting head of the Vatican and will announce the time of Conclave, traditionally fifteen days after the death of a Pope, when Cardinals from around the world will gather and under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, will elect a new Pope.



Right to Life - as we share our deep respect and sadness at the death of Pope Francis, we remember his words at his New Year homily "May we learn to care for every child born of a woman, above all by protecting, like Mary, the precious gift of life: life in the womb, the lives of children, the lives of the suffering, the poor, the elderly, the lonely and the dying."

Scripture Study

Tuesdays 7-7:30pm on Zoom

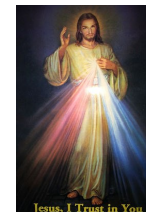
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP) - If you know of anyone who needs support, if you have friends or relatives who would like a visit, you can make contact through the parish office .

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.



Divine Mercy Sunday - 27th April 2nd Sunday after Easter

What does God's mercy actually mean? On this day we are reminded that there is no sin so great that God cannot forgive. We may have put our own weaknesses to the back of our minds, but today is an invitation to put all our troubles before God.



Divine Mercy Devotions with the Sacrament of Reconciliation will be held at: English Martyrs Didcot at 3pm

St. Edmund and St. Frideswide (Greyfriars) Iffley Rd OX4 1SB starting at 2:30pm.
Oxford Oratory 2:30pm

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

Thank you - to all who helped to make our Easter celebrations so beautiful. Those who prepared the Church by cleaning, the flower group who decorated so beautifully, to all the readers and our choir and musicians and special thanks to the Altar Servers who gave generously of their time over all of the Easter Masses. My thanks as always for your kindness to me in your Easter offerings which is very much appreciated.

A big thank you to all parishioners for your generosity and support of our parish, to those of you who contribute on-line or via Dona and to all who give their time in many and various ways throughout the year.

Date for your diary - Pilgrimage in honour of St. Edmund Campion Sunday 11th May. Gathering at Tithe Barn Lyford Grange (OX12 0EQ) at 3:30 for Mass at 4pm.

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