

## Mass Times 4th - 12th January 2025

Sat 4th 10am NO MASS

Sat 4th 6pm *Philip Hickey R.I.P.*

Sun 5th Epiphany of the Lord Solemnity

9am *Ugwu Family Ints.*

Sun 5th 11am *Pro Populo (Lambourn)*

Mon 6th to Friday 10th NO MASS

Sat 11th 10am NO MASS

Sat 11th 6pm *Chief Matthew AGV UGWU R.I.P.*

Sun 12th 9am *Ros Eltham R.I.P.*

Sun 12th 11am *Pro Populo*

NO WEEKDAY MASSES DURING THE WEEK BEGINNING 13TH JANUARY.

No Confessions on 4th or 11th January.

Nearest Confessions: English Martyrs Didcot. Saturday after 9:30am Mass.



In your prayers, please remember all who have died recently especially Paul Ghersi, and those whose anniversaries occur around this time - Robin Pope, Terence Murrell, Helen (Ros) Eltham, Patrick Callaghan, Denis Buckley, Beth Monaghan, Michael O'Connor, Mary Derbyshire, Jeanne Taylor, Edward Purcell, Colin Kirkham, Marie Pert, Vera Picken, Philip Kent, Mary Smith, Gabrysia Anderson, Wojciech Dubenski, Mary O'Sullivan, John Prove, Marjorie Whitaker, Anthony Windsor, Geoffrey Whitehead, Audrey McCaffrey, Mary Black, Edward Moran, Richard Corkery, Jack Kneafsey, John McCaffrey. Also pray for all who are sick, in hospital or housebound especially Nancy Walsh, Dagmar Couchman, Mary and Desmond McNichol, Richard Heron, Jessica Buist, Ann Cole, Isabel Smith, 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 :

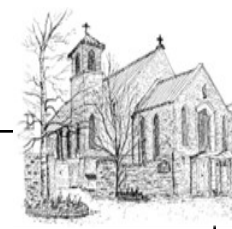
**CDP Wantage St John Vianney**

**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](mailto:wantage@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Fr David's e-mail: [dosullivan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:dosullivan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

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

## Year C Epiphany of the Lord 5th January 2025



### That Epiphany Moment

Funny how we're all a bit nicer on Christmas Day. Is it a pretence in order to get on with Great Aunt Ethel, or does Christmas really make us better people? For one day in the year we are a little more giving, a little kinder a little more tolerant. For one day in the year we are a bit closer to what God means us to be. Then we pile Christmas into the recycling bins, go back to work and revert to type. If there was a star for us to follow, we've quickly confined it to the loft with the tinsel and fake tree. Perhaps the three wise men arrive after Christmas to make us think again, to teach us a lesson in keeping our Christmas star alive.

The wise men in the Epiphany gospel were visionaries with a star that they were determined to follow whatever the obstacles. They began their quest with a hunger for the truth and a determination to find answers. When they finally found Jesus lying in a lowly stable, they came away happier and wiser men as a result. Following the star had given them a focus in their life and new meaning. We don't know what happened to them next, but it's likely they spent their lives sharing the good news with everyone they met, Jews and Gentiles alike. Following the star helped the Magi to be the people God had meant them to be. Can the same be said for our own lives? We live our lives trying to be all things to all people, dizzy with trying to live up to other people's expectations. We very rarely get time to be ourselves. We very rarely get that Epiphany moment of our own or get to know what God really wants of us.

So how do we follow our star? Firstly we have to have a vision. The new year stretches ahead like a clean sheet of paper. What does God want of us? Some people agonise over this question, but for many of us it's simply a case of looking at our talents and using them to make the world a better place. For others it might be about looking around and choosing one other person to build up. If we have impossibly busy jobs our vision might be a small one, if we have lots of free time, we might be able to set a life changing goal. Having a vision is all well and good, but then we have to make plans and put those plans into action. This might involve sitting down and identifying obstacles. Remember that obstacles aren't always put in our way by other people, they often exist in our own minds and in our own character traits. As we travel towards our goal, we have to determine in whom and in what to trust. When things get tough, it is easy to listen to a well-meaning friend encouraging us to take an easy way out, or to adopt a more comfortable goal. "King Herods" don't always come in the obvious guise of a pantomime baddie. Lastly, we have to be able to recognise Jesus in our lives, and once we have found him, allow him to navigate.

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention For January - For the right to an education.**  
Let us pray for migrants, refugees, and those affected by war, that their right to an education, which is necessary to build a better world, might always be respected.

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

**Children's Liturgy will begin again on Sunday 12th January.**

**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.

**Look After Your Neighbour** - As the temperatures plummet give a second thought to an elderly neighbour. Offer to do some shopping. Offer to salt a neighbour's front step. Make sure elderly family members have got an up to date hot water bottle. (Hot water bottles have a shelf life of two to three years.)

**A Huge Thank You from SVP** for all the toiletries donated for our Care Home Appeal. We delivered gift bags to 34 residents at Stirlings Care Home in Wantage and excess items were donated to Little People. Many thanks for your generosity which is always greatly appreciated.

**Calling all knitters!** Stella Maris the worldwide Catholic seafarers charity is asking knitters to make hats for them to distribute to the seafarers arriving in our local ports. Working in cold and difficult conditions, and away from families for up to 9 months at a time, this simple gift not only keeps Seafarers warm but also shows them that they are remembered and cared for. For patterns and instructions visit <https://stellamaris.org.uk/knitting/> and when finished send to Stella Maris Southampton, c/o St Joseph's and St Edmund's Parish Office, St Edmund's Lodge, The Avenue, SO17 1XJ.  
**A great project for knitting clubs and hats welcomed all year round! Thank you.**

**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 Thank you for your support.



**Thank You to Mgr Andrew Burnham** who will be celebrating weekend Masses for us over the next two weeks.

**For those doing First Saturday Devotions** - Nearest Confessions and Mass at Our Lady and St. Edmund, Abingdon or English Martyrs, Didcot.

**Weekday Masses in our Pastoral Area**

**St Mary's East Hendred:** Tuesday to Thursday inclusive 9am (St. Mary's) Friday 8:30am (Hendred House Chapel)

**Our Lady and St. Edmund Abingdon:** Monday 9am, Wednesday 7pm, Thursday 9:30am, Friday 7pm.

**Pope Francis has designated that 2025 is a year of Jubilee**, something which happens every 25 years. This is a time to re-establish a proper relationship with God, with one another, and with all of creation. The theme for this jubilee is "Pilgrims of Hope" and is a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, the ongoing effects of COVID-19 pandemic, and a climate crisis.

The following shrine churches in our diocese, have been chosen by Bishop Philip as particular places of pilgrimage, and for the granting of the indulgence in the Year of Jubilee 2025: St Thomas, Jersey; Bournemouth Oratory; St John's Cathedral, Portsmouth; St Edmund's, Southampton; St James. and St William of York, Reading; St Joseph's, Guernsey.

**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 07427181090

Ann Strickland is the contact for Lambourn 01488 71580

**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)