

18th July —25th July

Sat 18th 10am

Sat 18th 6pm *Dereck Wollard RIP*

Sun 19th 9am *James O'Connor RIP*

Sun 19th 11am *Robin Pope RIP*

Mon 20th 10am

Tues 21st 10am *Ann Widdecombe RIP*

Weds 22nd 10am *David Lambeth RIP*

Weds 22nd 12 noon (Lambourn) *Will Sullivan's int.*

Thurs 23rd 10am *Mary Hill and Family int.*

Fri 24th 10am *David Dawson's int.*

Sat 25th 10am

Sat 25th 6pm *Mark Green RIP*

Sun 26th 9am *ProPop*

Sun 26th 11am (Lambourn) *Chris Openshaw RIP*



QR Code to
Register as a
Parishioner

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



In your prayers, please remember all who have died recently and those whose anniversaries occur around this. Also pray for all who are sick, in hospital or housebound especially Canon Peter.

Parish Office - Please note that the parish office is now open on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 9am— 1pm. Please email any items for the newsletter to the office by 5:00pm on Thursday.

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

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Fr David's e-mail: dosullivan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Find us at www.wantagecatholicparish.org



Year A 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time 19th July 2026



Wheat and Weeds

Jesus compares the Kingdom of Heaven to a field in which the master has sown good seed. In the night, an enemy comes and plants weeds, so when the crop grows it is a mixture of wheat and weed. The servant's instinct is to pull the weeds out, but the master demands that the bad grow alongside the good, he himself will sort the wheat from the weeds at the final harvest.

It's a typical Palestinian problem, the darnel weed, which looks just like wheat in its early stages is a menace to the harvest. The roots of the darnel weed intertwine with the roots of the wheat. To pull the darnel out can jeopardise the harvest.

Similarly, just as it's hard to tell the difference between wheat and darnel, so it's not always easy for us to tell the difference between good and evil. A bad person can change and become good, and a seemingly good person might not be as virtuous as we imagine. It's best if we refrain from judging; this job is best left to God.

In films and novels, the good guys always win and the bad guys always get their come-uppance. Happy endings satisfy our human sense of justice, but in reality justice seems strangely elusive. We come up against evil time and time again. Sometimes we get so angry that we want to take justice into our own hands. Sometimes we are incensed that God can allow evil to grow alongside good, but before we get too irate, maybe we need to stop and take a good long look in the mirror. What makes us so sure that we're not weeds too? Where did we get that assurance that we are represented in the parable as the wheat?

Rarely is reality black and white. We all have good and bad inside us. We all need to change, and we all deserve the opportunity to make those changes. Perhaps this is the reason Jesus' advises us to leave the evil to grow alongside the good. As Martin Luther King Jnr. once said, "God's purpose is not wrathful judgement. God's purpose is redemption, and the road to redemption is by way of reconciliation."

Dates for your Diary:

FANNING THE FLAME SUMMER CAMP This popular camp is run by the

Dominican Sisters of St Joseph and will be on 17th to 21st August this year at St Cassian's Centre, Kintbury RG17 9SR for youths aged 11-17. For more information and to book, please visit: <https://www.fanningtheflame.co.uk/summer-camp-2026> or email contact@fanningtheflame.co.uk.

Mass and Confessions for Hong Kong Catholics in Oxfordshire

There will be a Saturday vigil mass celebrated in Cantonese by a visiting priest, Fr Robert Wong (SVD Taiwan), in English Martyrs Church Didcot, 15 Manor Crescent, Didcot OX11 7AJ on Saturday 8th August at 4pm. Confession time (in Cantonese) starts at 3pm. Tea and Refreshment will be served after mass. For registration and enquiries, please email to oxhkcaths@gmail.com, or contact Ada Chim in Didcot by 01235812338 or didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

Fairtrade Thankyou

As the school term draws to a close, remember to thank your school teachers, classroom assistants and all the other support workers with a 'Fairtrade thank you'. You will find the Fairtrade stamp on flowers, chocolates and wine.

Kim Leadbeater's '**Terminally Ill End of Life (Adults) Act**' having run out of time in the House of Lords, is being brought back by Lauren Edwards MP. The second reading will be on 11th September. It is vital that as many people as possible write to their MP asking him/her to oppose this Bill. There are several organisations which provide good information, which can be included in your letters. They include 'Right to Life'; www.righttolife.org.uk 'Not Dead Yet' www.notdeadyetuk.org and the 'Augustine Bioethics Network' www.abnethics.org. Every letter is important. Only 12 MPs need to change their minds for the Bill to be defeated.

**Holy Hour of Prayer
and Eucharistic Adoration**
St. John Vianney
Wednesdays 7-8pm

Scripture Study
Tuesday 7-7:30pm on Zoom

Calling parents and children for pre-registration for First Holy Communion. Classes will begin in September. If your child will be seven by 30 May 2027 please register. Classes will run on Saturday mornings from

Child Registration

We are now in the phase of adding children to our parish database. Please use the QR code here to register your children. This is very important for those who will be joining the First Holy Communion and Confirmation programmes next September.



Holiday Foodbanks

Foodbanks usually see an increase in demand for emergency food for children during the summer holidays. Over a third of all food distributed by the food-bank network throughout the year goes to children, but there is extra financial pressure during the school holidays for families who rely on free school meals during term time, amounting to between £30 and £40 a week per child.

Care for Our Common Home

Create clean air! You can never have enough house plants and certain plants are best for certain rooms: Peace Lilies and Boston Ferns thrive in rooms with high humidity and can reduce the mould spores in the air, making them ideal for bathrooms. Weeping Figs have been found to be the best plant for removing formaldehyde released from carpets and furniture, making them good for living areas.

Do You Have Experience in PR/Communications?

The Pastoral Area Design Team urgently needs support from someone with PR/communications experience to help improve parishioner communication and engagement at this important stage. If you have skills in this area and could offer even a few hours each month, your help would make a real difference. Please contact Fr. David, as soon as possible to find out more.

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

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