

Mass Times 13th - 20th December 2025

Sat 13th 10am *Sr. Lucy's Ints.*

Sat 13th 6pm *Julie and Bartly Daly R.I.P.*

Sun 14th 9am *Pro Populo*

Sun 14th 11am *Harry Braidbery R.I.P. (Lambourn)*

Mon 15th 10am

Tues 16th 10am

Weds 17th 10am *Judith Kershaw R.I.P.*

Weds 17th 12 Noon *(Lambourn)*

Weds 17th NO HOLY HOUR


Thurs 18th 10am *Ron and Kath Dawson R.I.P.*

Fri 19th 10am

Sat 20th 10am

Sat 20th 6pm *Dec'd Members of Bennell Family and Friends R.I.P.*

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

 In your prayers, please remember all who have died recently especially Aileen Dunne, Margaret McKenna, Roger Morgan, Meriel Afia, Jinnie Brown, and those whose anniversaries occur around this time - Paul Gheri, Judith Kershaw, Joyce Clarke, Tim Fitzgerald, Maria McNiven, Noel Monahan, Basil England, Brynley Morris, Mark Barrett, Igor Chadzyski, Rose Hill, Maurice Rawlings, Therese Neale, Peter Badger, Emmie Cooke, Maisie Lovell, Patrick Kavanagh Also pray for all who are sick, in hospital or housebound especially June Toley, Richard and Pat Taylor, Monique Regan, Cathy Longworth, Nancy Walsh, Mary and Desmond McNichol, Richard Heron, Jessica Buist, Ann Cole, 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.

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth registered charity number 1199568



St John Vianney Wantage Sacred Heart Lambourn

Parish Priest: Fr. David O'Sullivan

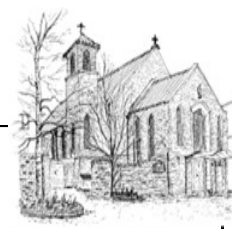
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Fr David's e-mail: dosullivan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Find us at www.wantagecatholicparish.org



Year A 3rd Sunday in Advent 14th December 2025

Myopic Expectation



It's at this time of year that our children are asking for every new toy they see on the TV. As discerning adults we know the castle that lights up, shoots arrows and transforms into a fire spouting dragon will just be a frustrating lump of plastic once we get it home, with batteries that give up after three minutes. Our children's expectations are unrealistic and it is up to us to buy a toy that we know will be more fun. Today's gospel is all about myopic expectation.

From his prison cell John the Baptist sends word to Jesus. "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" Jesus answers, "Go and tell John what you hear and see. The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them." It's interesting that Jesus doesn't send back a "Yes I am," kind of answer. Rather he sends a "Work it out yourself," kind of answer. He asks John to look at the evidence. It seems strange that John, normally so certain and so confident should declare a doubt, but perhaps we can understand his disappointment. John has been arrested and thrown into prison. He is feeling tired and disillusioned. It is likely that he'd had misguided expectations of Jesus. Perhaps he'd expected Jesus to come in the manner of a king or of a great warrior with the power to conquer the oppressor. John has some working out to do. John needs to understand that the work of a Messiah is to teach God's love, not just push a few Romans around. So what of our own expectations? Do we expect God to sort out all our problems and make our lives easy and comfortable? Or do we believe that God is there to help change us and guide us through our daily choices. Do we understand that God is preparing us for his kingdom or are we guilty of myopic expectation? Perhaps we have some working out of our own to do.

Pope Leo's Prayer intention for December - For Christians in areas of conflict. Let us pray that Christians living in areas of war or conflict, especially in the Middle East, might be seeds of peace, reconciliation, and hope.

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



There is a lovely old adage that says - Before Mass, talk to God and after Mass talk to your neighbour. While we all like to chat and catch up, before Mass is a time for God, a time to recollect ourselves and to prepare to celebrate devoutly. Quietness also helps others to prepare. So please be considerate and keep our conversations for after Mass.

Homelessness at Christmas. Any one could fall prey to an unscrupulous landlord, job loss or the breakdown of a relationship. Charities like Shelter, Crisis, or Salvation Army are equipped not just to support the homeless at Christmas, but support people back into a safe place to live. Think about making a donation this Christmas to one of the homeless charities to help put someone's life back on track.

Children's Christmas Party and Crib Celebrations

St. John Vianney Church Friday 19th December 5-7pm.
Come along to decorate the crib and Christmas trees
and join in other activities.

Friday 19th December 5-7pm.



A Huge Thank You to all who supported the Phoenix Brass Band Christmas Concert at Sacred Heart Hall last Sunday. We raised a total of £832.00. Thank you to all who organised and provided refreshments.

Advent Reading - *Advent of the Heart, Seasonal Sermons and Prison Writings 1941-1944 by Fr. Alfred Delp, Priest and Martyr.* A series of homilies written by Fr. Delp when Parish Priest in Munich. Also includes his powerful reflections from prison during the Advent season, about the profound spiritual meaning and lessons of Advent.

Scripture Study - An in-depth look at the weekend's Readings .
Tuesdays 7-7:30pm. On Zoom using same link as for Mass.

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.

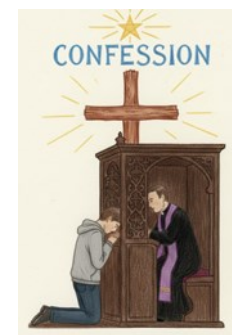


Gaudete Sunday - the third Sunday of Advent in the liturgical calendar. The Latin Gaudete is translated as Rejoice, the first word of the introit. The lesson we can take from this is that Christians ought to be the most hopeful and cheerful of people, bringing both joy and peace into their homes and families, workplaces, and social circles.

When did you last go to Confession? Was it a long time ago? The Church says that Catholics should go to Confession regularly. The Catechism says "upon reaching the age of reason, a Catholic is obliged to confess serious sins." The Church urgently advises the faithful to do this at least once a year. So, when did you last go to Confession?

Advent is a time for spiritual as well as practical

preparation. To help us, there will be a joint pastoral area **Advent Penitential Service at 7pm at English Martyrs, Didcot on Thursday 18th December at 7pm**, with an opportunity for individual Confessions. Alternatively, there are opportunities for Confession on Saturdays after 10am Mass or by appointment.



Carol Service at St. John Vianney
Sunday 14th December, 5pm

Followed by refreshments in the hall.
All welcome

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 ministry: 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

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