



## St John Vianney Wantage Sacred Heart Lambourn



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### Year A 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time 17th September 2023



### Time to Forgive

Forgiveness is difficult. We read about the victims of horrendous crimes and wonder how those people could ever begin to forgive - we even question why they should have to. Most of us know how hard it is to forgive even a small grudge once it has been left to fester. Many of us know what it is like to excuse ourselves with "...Well she

started it so she should really apologise first," or, "It's his problem not mine."

There are limits on our forgiveness. Why should we accept the apology of someone who has let us down repeatedly? Why if we have given someone every last chance should we be expected to forgive yet again? Yet Jesus tells us that we must forgive "...not seven times, but seventy seven times."

If there should be no limits to our forgiveness perhaps we should begin by looking at what makes it so difficult to grant genuine forgiveness. Anger probably comes top of the list. We don't want people to get away with hurting us. Pride often stands in our way too. Forgiving someone often involves an element of 'climbing down'. Also close to the top of the list of obstacles comes a lack of understanding. When we hear of a crime, whether it is small or large, we always ask "Why?" It seems that in order to forgive, we must first understand what has made the other person do what they have done.

Today's readings suggest that in order to make it easier to forgive others, we should look at how often we have asked God to forgive us, often for the same failing. This is the lesson in today's gospel, Jesus is reminding the servant who was unable to forgive that he himself was forgiven. How could the servant expect his master's forgiveness if he could not forgive others? Remembering how we have been forgiven makes us more compassionate when it is our turn to forgive.

### Mass Times 16th - 23rd September

Sat 16th 10am No Morning Mass

Sat 16th 6pm Sharon Dawson's Ints.

Sun 17th 9am Bridget and Joseph Boyce R.I.P.

Sun 17th 11am Pro Populo (Lambourn)

Mon 18th to Thurs 21st incl - No Weekday Masses

Fri 22nd 10am Gordon & Ve Talbot R.I.P.

Sat 23rd 10am

Sat 23rd 6pm Edna Green and Lorraine Fernandez R.I.P.

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

Welcome to Canon Peter who will be celebrating Masses for us this weekend.

### No Confessions on Saturday 16th September

Confessions will be available on Saturdays at Our Lady and St. Edmund in Abingdon 11-11:30am



In your prayers, please remember all who have died recently especially Tom Carney, Chris Baker, Valerie Moulton, Ian Smith and those whose anniversaries occur around this time - Mary Rowlands, Daniel Riley, Aldo Piras, Tina Ann Turner, Bridget Boyce, Olafur Smith-Jonsson, Bernard Hale, Henry Little.

Also pray for all who are sick, in hospital or housebound especially Dot Armstrong, Maureen Hendricks, Pete Gray, Margaret Joyce, Peter Shaw, Wendy Purslow, 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.**

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for September - For people living on the margins**

We pray for those persons living on the margins of society, in inhumane life conditions; may they not be overlooked by institutions and never considered of lesser importance.

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



**First Holy Communion** - If you would like to enrol your child for the course beginning at the end of September, please email the parish office or pick up a registration form from the back of Church. Classes on Wednesdays 3:45—5pm.

**Children's Liturgy** - for children between the ages of 4 and 8. Older children and those preparing for First Holy Communion should remain in Mass.

**Thank you so much for your generosity!** I'm delighted to tell you that based on the cards filled out by parishioners at Mass, our parish stands to receive an additional **£7,000!** To allow us to draw a line under the campaign we need to make sure that all pledges have been recorded properly. If you completed a small card at Mass recently, you will have received a pledge form for completion in the post or by email this week. I ask that you return the form at your earliest convenience to either the parish office, or through the post. You may not wish to start your pledge immediately, so I ask that you return your form, indicating a start date and method of payment that is convenient to you. . While we are guaranteed to receive one third of our initial target of £45,000, our parish will receive 50% of everything raised over this and so we have much to benefit from. Thank you for your support and please pray for the continued success of the **Closer to Christ** Campaign in our parish.

**Bitesize** - To forgive is to set a prisoner free and discover that the prisoner was you.  
*Lewis B. Smedes*

**Important Safeguarding Notice** - we are committed to ensuring that all are safeguarded while attending Mass and other activities in our Church. Our main toilet is just inside the Church door and not visible to us during Mass, so please could parents accompany their child if they need to use the facilities.

**Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP)** - helping people struggling with the cost of living or with loneliness and isolation. Contact us through the parish office or on this number 07842271596. Donations to SVP can be made to this account: Sort Code 60-60-04 ac no. 48001074 Thank you for your support.

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**DIOCESAN YEAR OF THE HOLY SPIRIT 2023**

**May the Holy Spirit guide us all to bring people closer to Jesus Christ through His Church.**



**Second Collection this weekend is for Home Mission.** Evangelisation is an essential work of the Church. We are called to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our neighbours and within our local communities. The Home Mission Office helps the local Church to share the joy of the Gospel. You can donate online at <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/home-mission-sunday-second-collection> or in the basket at the back of Church.

**Ten Year Plan** - you can download a copy of the final Ten Year Mission Plan by copying and pasting this link into your browser <https://portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/you-will-be-my-witnesses/> Copies of the Bishop's letter are available at the back of Church or on our website [www.wantagecatholicparish.org](http://www.wantagecatholicparish.org)

**New Date for Your Diary**

**Rescheduled Date For Thanksgiving Mass For Judy Gibbons' Music Leadership**

The Thanksgiving Mass has now been rescheduled for Friday October 6th, 7pm. All welcome. There will be drinks and nibbles afterwards in the Church Hall. All donations already received will be kept safe and put towards the refreshments on the day.

If you know of anyone who would like to attend, please do let them know.

**Ethnic Mass - In honour of San Lorenzo Ruiz** (1st Filipino/Chinese Saint) Saturday 23rd September at 1:30pm St. John's Cathedral Portsmouth



**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 is our contact for all adult and child safeguarding issues. Please contact Barbara through the parish office.

**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 Zbigniew Budyn at Wash Common Tel: 01635 40332