

Mass Times 11th - 18th March

Sat 11th 10am

Sat 11th 6pm *Tommy Hurley R.I.P.*

Sun 12th 9am *Pro Populo*

Sun 12th 11am (at Lambourn)

Mon 13th No Mass

Tues 14th 10am *Theresa Eltham's Ints.*

Weds 15th 10am *Charlotte Green's Ints.*

Weds 15th 12 Noon (at Lambourn)

Weds 15th 7pm Adoration

Thurs 16th 10am

Fri 17th 10am

Sat 18th 10am *John Mollo R.I.P.*

Sat 18th 6pm *Patrick Bergin & Brian Green R.I.P.*

Cold and flu -

If you feel unwell or are displaying symptoms please test for covid before coming to Mass so that we can protect the vulnerable. Thank you.

CONFESSIONS:

SATURDAYS
10:30 to 11am
or by appointment



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

Year A 3rd Sunday in Lent 12th March 2023

Breaking Down Barriers.



"Are you hiding anything?" It's an uncomfortable question that probably invites a heated denial from most of us; yet most of us are probably hiding something. We might be trying to shrug off a nagging guilt or an unforgiving sin. We might be trying to forget an episode in our lives where we behaved unwisely. We might be trying to cover up the

agony of a failed relationship or putting a brave face on a lifetime of loneliness and rejection. How many of us are covering up weaknesses and flaws in our character? Most of us are trying to hide something, yet we would all acknowledge that burying something isn't the best way to find healing or improvement.

The woman at the well in today's gospel was struggling through life with a great deal of baggage. Firstly she was a woman with a lesser role in society, not only that, but a woman without a husband and to add insult to injury, a woman with a bad reputation. Secondly the woman was a Samaritan, a foreigner, and as such, regarded by most as a person to be avoided altogether. Jesus puzzles the woman. He is a man and he is a Jew, in other words, the very last person she would have expected to strike up a conversation. Life had taught the woman to expect something very different. Life had taught her to expect contempt and rejection. Is this why we keep our own failings under wraps? Do we, like the Samaritan woman expect our friends family and work mates to be unforgiving and uncompromising if they knew the real us?

God's love is like a sprinkler system spreading Christ's unconditional life-giving water without prejudice or judgement. Lent is the time to unravel all our hidden pain and set it before God. Lent is the time to take a leaf out of Jesus' book, to see the pain in the lives of others and break down the barriers that society has built.

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

Masses on Sunday at 11am and Wednesday at Noon are at Sacred Heart Lambourn



In your prayers, please remember all who have died recently especially Jim Lynch, Bob Dore, Cath Walwyn, Ros Eltham, Judith Kershaw, and those whose anniversaries occur around this time - Richard Wells, Syb Murphy, Patrick Bergin, Harry Whitworth, Romero Urcelay, Kath Roberts, Isolina Durrant, Judy House, Diana Wasborough, Tania Tompkins, Alphonsus Hill, Mary Johnson, Stella Gardiner, Maria Coates. Also pray for all who are sick, in hospital or housebound especially Kathy Child, Michael Petterson, Dot Armstrong, Pete Gray, Margaret Joyce, Peter Shaw, Wendy Purslow, Sue Maher, Tom Carney, 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 March -For victims of abuse. We pray for those who have suffered harm from members of the Church; may they find within the Church herself a concrete response to their pain and suffering.

Free Online Lenten Retreat run by the Carmelites at Boars Hill on Thursday evenings during Lent. *A Time of Grace and Prayer*. More information and to register - <https://www.carmelite.uk.net/online-talks-retreats/lenten-retreat-2023/>
This Thursday's talk 16th March Lent ~ A Path of Meaningful Suffering – *Matt Blake OCD*

The Sponsored Rowing Challenge - Great news from the rowers - they have passed the half way mark albeit Cambridge is taking up much of the UCC slack. Even though it's "not a race" as Fr. D says, Matt is so far ahead he'll be eating hot cross buns at home before Fr. D reaches Paris. All Fr. D can muster is tortoise and hare quips. Thankfully I can sit back and enjoy the view sipping some lovely French wine and eating my delicious jambon sandwiches and French baguette. Sadly Fr. D is off bread, wine and meat for Lent so sharing is out of the question. Nothing to do with all the times he was cruel to me during our lockdown trip! Don't forget to sponsor them!



Bishop Philip's Lenten Reflection at 7.30pm on Thursday 16th March. Information at <https://mailchi.mp/portsmouthdiocese/from-the-bishop-three-lenten-reflections>



Holy Hour of Prayer and Eucharistic Adoration
at St. John Vianney
Wednesday Evenings 7– 8pm

Society of Saint Vincent de Paul (SVP) - helping people struggling with the cost of living or with loneliness and isolation. You can make contact 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.

Scripture Study - Tuesday evenings at 7pm on Zoom.

Refreshments after 9am Mass
every Sunday

Little People - Donations of food and clothing can be left in the Church porch clearly marked "Little People". Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

St. John Vianney Food Bank - Donations of non-perishable items can be left in the box marked "Food Bank" in the Church porch.

Soup lunch Fridays during Lent - at 12:30. Thank you to all who have volunteered to make soup. Please come along. Donations will go to CAFOD

A warm welcome to Bishop Philip who will be visiting us on Saturday and celebrating the 6pm Mass at St. John Vianney. Please join the Bishop in the hall after Mass where there will be a finger buffet with wine and soft drinks.

St. Patrick Feast Day 17th March - A Lesson from St Patrick—What can we learn from Saint Patrick? Well, not unlike Jesus, Patrick was a great storyteller. He had a great story to tell about his faith to the people of Ireland, and he had to figure out how to tell his story of faith to an audience that had never heard such a story before. Plus, he had to do it in such a way that people would be inclined to listen and believe.



Bishop Philip's Six Holy Habits - Number 5 - To go to Confession once a month. Confession "is a beautiful, life-changing encounter with the merciful Heart of Jesus ...Indeed, the regular confession of our venial sins helps us form our conscience, fight against evil tendencies, let ourselves be healed by Christ and progress in the life of the Spirit" (*Catechism* 1458). Regular confession helps fight the temptations we struggle with".

Toilet Twinning www.toilettwinning.org

1.7 billion people in the world don't have somewhere safe and hygienic to go to the toilet. (WHO/Unicef) Our toilets in the Church porch and hall, have collecting boxes to buy toilets for those in countries with few facilities. Please donate your spare pennies to help.

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
Other Priests in the area :
Mgr Andrew Burnham East Hendred Tel: 01235 835038
Fr Zbigniew at Wash Common Tel: 01635 40332