

Mass Times 1st - 8th March 2025

Sat 1st 10am

Sat 1st 6pm *Kathleen Green R.I.P.*

Sun 2nd 9am *Isabel Smith R.I.P.*

Sun 2nd 11am *Pro Populo (Lambourn)*

Mon 3rd 10am

Tues 4th 10am Shrove Tuesday

Weds 5th Ash Wednesday

6:45am

10am

12 Noon *(Lambourn)*

7pm

Thurs 6th 10am *Elaine Kealy's Ints.*

Fri 7th 10am *Tom O'Connor R.I.P.*

Sat 8th 10am

Sat 8th 6pm *Tania Tompkins R.I.P.*

Confessions on Saturdays 10:30—11am at St. John Vianney. Or by appointment



In your prayers, please remember all who have died recently especially Isabel Smith, Paul Ghersi, and those whose anniversaries occur around this time - Patricia Halifax, Douglas Frewer, Teresa Hicklin, Nora O'Malley, Michael Eyre, Mary Robinson, Patricia Senior, James Lynch, Becky Holt, Edward Moss, Bridget Madden, Richard Wells, Sybill Murphy, Patrick Bergin, Romero Urcelay, Kathleen Roberts, Isolina Durrant, Patricia Baigrie, Judy House, Diana Wasborough, Patricia Wellington, Tania Tompkins, Alphonsus Hill, Mary Johnson, James McCarthy, Stella Gardiner, Maria Coates. Also pray for all who are sick, in hospital or housebound especially Kevin Maher, Monique Regan, Cathy, Longworth, Nancy Walsh, Dagmar Couchman, Mary and Desmond McNichol, Richard Heron, Jessica Buist, Ann Cole, 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

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Find us at www.wantagecatholicparish.org



Year C 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2nd March 2025



Flawed Treasure

We all know those people who are so crippled inside that they seem incapable of bringing a fair or rational perspective to a situation. Perhaps we are one of those people ourselves but totally fail to see it? Perhaps we are all crippled inside to lesser or greater degrees but would strongly argue it, bringing to bear all those flawed arguments we have stored in our hearts for as long as we can remember.

Our hearts are where our treasure is stored. If we have a good heart our words and actions will be good. It follows if our hearts are flawed our treasure will be flawed too, and our thoughts and actions will be misguided.

So how should we care for our hearts? Just as in our physical diet, we get out what we put in. If we live on a diet of pulp fiction, pulp fiction is all we will know. If we listen only to those with selfish agendas, greedy and selfish motives are all we will know. If we do only what is comfortable and safe, 'comfortable and safe' is all we will ever know. It is more than easy to become egocentric without ever seeing it coming. To those closest to us, our faults will be screamingly obvious. Sadly we will be the last to see what other people see.

Today's gospel is an invitation to start challenging the views that blind us to the possibility of becoming better and more productive people. Do we complain or gossip too often? Do we fail to forgive and forget? Do we hold views about groups of people of whom we know nothing at all. Do we spend too much time working and too little time with those we love? Do we have very set or narrow views on religion, politics, money, or society as a whole?

It is hard to change our beliefs, especially if we don't even recognise them as 'planks'. A good starting point might be to open our eyes to someone we hugely admire and model our thinking on theirs. What starts off as an exercise could quickly become a life changing habit.

Pope Francis' Prayer Intention For March - For the elderly, that they may be supported and cared for in their needs.

Pray for the recovery of Pope Francis - We are asked to pray for the recovery of Pope Francis. We ask God, "Have mercy on Pope Francis in his illness now, we pray, and guide the medical staff who are caring for him. Grant him peace and healing. Through Christ our Lord."

Scripture Study Tuesdays 7-7:30pm on Zoom

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

Catechists Lent Days of Prayer and Formation - The Vicariate for Evangelisation will be hosting three online events during Lent for Catechists across the diocese, offering a chance to connect with other catechists, share experiences, and find inspiration to hand on the faith in our parishes. Each event begins at 7:30pm and lasts for one hour. Catechists can choose from the three events based on their area of catechesis: **Thursday 13th March (Children's Liturgy and First Holy Communion)**
Thursday 20th March (Marriage Preparation and Baptism)
Thursday 3rd April (Confirmation and RCIA)

To sign up for these events, please go to <https://forms.office.com/e/VkCdj1SWzA>.

World Day of Prayer - 7th March. Dating back to the 19th century WDP is "a worldwide ecumenical movement of Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action". This year the theme is "I have made you wonderful" and has been prepared by women in the Cook Islands.

Our services will be held at **St. John Vianney at 2pm** with refreshments in the hall afterwards.

Sacred Heart Lambourn at 3pm followed by refreshments.

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.

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.



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.

Lent Soup Lunches - Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on 5th March.

We are hoping to start soup lunches on Friday 7th March.

If you would like to make soup, please sign up on the form in the porch. All are welcome to come along. Donations—recipients to be decided.

Shrove Tuesday 4th March - Please join us in the hall after 10am Mass for tea/coffee and hot cross buns.



Ash Wednesday is the start of Lent when we are invited for forty days to set aside more time for prayer and fasting in preparation for Easter. The Ashes, made in the sign of the cross on our foreheads on this day, are an outward sign of penitence and hope and of our commitment to Jesus as Our Lord and Saviour.

Three Things To Do For Lent

Fasting and Abstinence:- The thinking behind fasting and abstinence is that we strengthen our spiritual life by weakening physical pleasures. Fasting means reducing the amount of food that we would normally eat. Abstinence means not eating a particular food (meat). **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are to be observed as special days of Fasting and Abstinence.**

Almsgiving:- We are bombarded with requests for money from a huge number of charities. Identify a charity that means something to you find out what they do and make a contribution. If you can't afford to give money, give your time.

Prayer:- Our lives are so hectic that we often forget to set aside a few quiet moments in which to talk to God. During Lent, postpone breakfast television for a few moments and make a short prayer. In the evening encourage your children to say a night time prayer before bed.

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
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

St. Amand's School [01235 833342](tel:01235833342) . website: www.st-amands.oxon.sch.uk or email office.3855@st-amands.oxon.sch.uk