

Mass Times 6th - 13th December 2025

Sat 6th 10am *Maria Walker's Ints.*

Sat 6th 6pm *Ve and Gordon Talbot R.I.P.*

Sun 7th 9am *Pro Populo*

Sun 7th 11am *Dermott Ffrench R.I.P. (Lambourn)*

Mon 8th 10am *The Feast of The Immaculate Conception*

Tues 9th 10am *Brian Charles Harris R.I.P.*

Weds 10th 10am *Miss Raab R.I.P. (f)*

Weds 10th 12 Noon *(Lambourn)*

Weds 10th 7pm *Holy Hour Adoration and Benediction*

Thurs 11th 10am

Fri 12th 10am *Margaret Eyre's Ints.*

Fri 12th 11:30am *Requiem Mass for Margaret McKenna*

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

Sat 13th 6pm *Julie and Barty Daly 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.



St John Vianney Wantage Sacred Heart Lambourn

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Find us at www.wantagecatholicparish.org



Year A 2nd Sunday in Advent 7th December 2025



Proof of the Pudding

Change is a difficult notion for most of us. Like the Pharisees and Sadducees we probably think we are okay just the way we are. In our youth we might have had a go at some 'character building' but as we age we tend to hope that others will accept us warts and all. Then along comes John the Baptist with his Advent message "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." It seems that staying just the way we are is not an option.

'Repentance' is an unfashionable word, but it simply means a 'change of direction'. It also implies that we should be sorry for our old way of

life. But as John points out, saying 'sorry' isn't enough. We must be able to provide the proof of the pudding. Lip service is all too easy. Saying that we are sorry and that we want to change is a good start, but unless we put any practical provision into place, our good intentions are going to remain exactly that.... good intentions.

John gives us a piece of very helpful advice for making our good intentions fruitful. In preparing a way for Christ in our lives we must "Make straight his paths." That means identifying the obstacles that have prevented us from getting things right in the past and removing them. If for instance our change of heart means giving more money to the poor we will first have to identify what has stopped us doing that in the past. If our change of heart involves spending more time with an elderly relative we must first delegate some of the work that keeps us from doing that in the here and now. If a character trait such as shyness, laziness or prejudice get in the way of things we would like to do, then perhaps now is a good time to devise some strategies that will help make change possible.

If we are serious about wanting to change, John has more advice to offer. "There is one who is more powerful who is coming after me. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." With the best will in the world our own lack of willpower can prevent us from realising our good intentions. This is where the Holy Spirit can help us. We need to ask the Holy Spirit to give us the vision and the will to produce the proof of the pudding.

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.

More Advent Reading - *The Essence of Prayer* by Sr. Ruth Burrows. When we find ourselves to be more Martha than Mary, Sr. Ruth encourages us to sit at the feet of Jesus in prayer, which "is not primarily something we are doing to God, something we are giving to God but what God is doing for us. And what God is doing for us is giving us the divine Self in love."



Church Flowers - Volunteers. No experience needed. We welcome beginners and seasoned arrangers alike. Training and guidance will be provided. If you can help, just talk to Anne Hodgson or email the office.



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.



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

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.



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.

First Saturday Devotions 6th December - will begin with The Holy Rosary at 9:30am in St. John Vianney.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary December 8th.

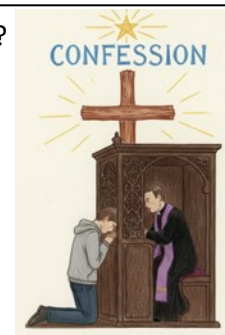
The dogma of Mary being conceived without sin was defined by Pope Pius IX in 1854. Mary was chosen for her innocence and goodness to be the mother of Jesus. The church teaches that she is our heavenly mother too.
We can pray to Jesus through Mary. She is a powerful intercessor, highly favoured by God ... immaculately conceived.

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.



Dates for your Diary -

Phoenix Brass Band Christmas Concert. Sunday 7th December 2:30pm Walwyn Hall. Drink and refreshments available. Tickets from Anne 0788 0742781 or Goodies café.

Carol Service at St. John Vianney - Sunday 14th December at 5pm. Followed by refreshments in the hall.

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

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