



Thames ISIS
Catholic Pastoral Area

ENGLISH MARTYRS CHURCH
MANOR CRESCENT
DIDCOT



GUIDE TO THE PARISH

Priest in Charge: Fr David O'Sullivan

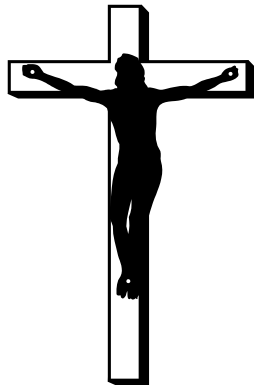
WELCOME

I give a very warm welcome to everyone who reads this Parish Information Handbook. I hope you find it useful as it gives an insight into the many and varied activities that take place within the Parish. Thankfully, the parish of English Martyrs is a vibrant community with many groups helping to build the Kingdom of God in our area. It is through these activities that the community of our parish is built up. Many of the organisations and activities are thriving and add to the great diversity that is our community. However, all the groups need constant new members, so I encourage you to get involved.

As Christians, we are all called to share our gifts for the good of the whole community. Whether it be reading at Mass, visiting the sick, or welcoming on Sunday, all are vital to the life of our community. I hope that as well as giving information, you will feel that this handbook is an invitation to those of you who are not involved to think seriously about how you could contribute more to parish life. This is your parish. There is no better way to get to know others in the community than by being an active member, and making your valued contribution to the parish.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this booklet.

Fr David O'Sullivan



HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS

John Radcliffe Hospital	01865 741166
Churchill	01865 741841
Helen & Douglas House	01865 794479
Sir Michael Sobell House	01865 225860
Ashurst Clinic, Fulbrook Centre & Littlemore	01865 778454
Warneford	01865 243694
Nuffield	01865 762433

CONTACTS

Priest in Charge: Fr David O'Sullivan
Address: 15 Manor Crescent
Didcot OX11 7AJ
Telephone: 01235 812338
E-mail: dosullivan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Mrs Joanna Robins
E-mail: Didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Parish Office: In the Presbytery,
open Tues-Fri mornings

Website: www.thamesisis.org.uk

Pastoral Council Chairperson: Yvonne Cutler-Greaves

Catholic Primary School: St Amand's Primary School
St Mary's Road
East Hendred
Oxon OX12 8LF
Telephone: 01235 833342
E-mail: office.3855@st-amands.oxon.sch.uk

Churches Together, Didcot: Nicola Williams
Website: www.ctdd.org.uk

CAFOD: Chris Clifford

Child Protection: Eileen McKeever

Fair Trade: Doug Henderson

Groundsman: John Elsley

Thames Isis Pastoral Area Co-ordinator: Fr Paul King
Telephone: 01865 247986/437066
Parish Representatives: Fr David, Camilla King

USEFUL INFORMATION

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil: 6.30 pm
Sunday: 9.00 am
(Coffee and refreshments served after 9.00 am Mass)

Holy Days: As announced

Weekday Masses: Wednesday 9.30 am
Friday 9.30 am
Saturday 9.30 am

Confessions: Saturday after 9.30 am Mass
Or by arrangement

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English Martyrs Church
15 Manor Crescent
Didcot
Oxon OX11 7AJ
Telephone: 01235 812338
E-mail: Didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Website: www.thamesisis.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Mrs Joanna Robins

THE PRAYER LIFE OF THE PARISH

“Where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I”.
(Matt 18:20)

Christ is the inspiration and the motivation of all that we do and are in the parish. We are called to build a personal relationship with Christ through our prayer life.

As a parish, we try to provide opportunities for prayer—the celebration of the Eucharist being the parish’s central prayer. In order to prepare for the Eucharist, we need to provide other opportunities for prayer. Throughout the year we gather to prepare for the major feasts of Advent and Lent, the rosary is prayed regularly, and various prayer groups meet. Prayer brings us together so that we are more than just a mere collection of isolated individuals.

If you have any ideas that would help in the development of the parish’s prayer life, we would love to hear from you.



CHILDREN’S CATECHISM

There are four classes for children which run straight after the 9.00 am Mass on Sundays, as follows:

Tots:	5-7 years
Children preparing for First Holy Communion:	8 plus years
Post Holy Communion:	8-11 years
Confirmation:	11 plus years

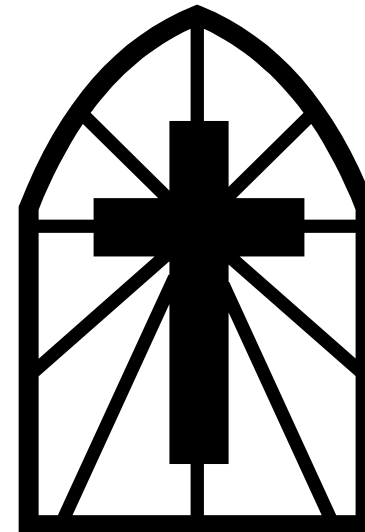
If you would like your child to attend classes, please contact Julie Lazarus via the parish office.

REPOSITORY AND ‘HEAVENLY HARRODS’

We sell a variety of religious items after both Saturday evening and Sunday morning Masses. Cards, rosaries and missals are always available. If you have a specific requirement, we will do our best to help. Please speak to Yvonne Cutler-Greaves on Saturday evenings, or Samantha and Stephanie Kelly on Sunday mornings.

PARISH GIFT AID

Through gift aid, the parish can recover from the Inland Revenue the income tax that tax-paying parishioners have already made on their offerings. If you give regularly, please consider using gift aid. Contact David Lazarus via the Parish Office for more information.



YOUTH GROUP

There is a thriving Youth Group for ages 10 plus which meets monthly, and serves both English Martyrs and St John the Evangelist Church, Wallingford. The Youth Group aims to inspire children to take an active interest in their parish. For more information, contact Andy Robins or Phyllis Green via the Parish Office.



PARISH COUNCIL OF ENGLISH MARTYRS AND ST JOHN'S

We are always open to ideas and comments from everyone in the parish, young and old alike, so please inform us of your ideas as to ways in which we can help you to fulfil your role in the parish and the community.

We aim to respond to the needs of the parish, and as such our work is often dictated by the feedback we get from various open meetings and the AGM we hold to begin our year. We are constantly working to improve our response to be a community for Christ in Didcot and Wallingford.

You can read the latest minutes of our meetings on the church noticeboards and on the pastoral area website, www.thamesisis.org.uk. The PPC always welcomes ideas for inclusion on the agenda. Meetings are advertised in the weekly newsletter.

How about joining the Pastoral Council? Elections are held every year. Members serve three years. Further details are available from the Parish Office, or from any committee member.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

In addition, Children's Liturgy takes place within the 9.00am Mass on Sundays for children between 3 and 10 years, where the Gospel is made available to children in a way that is meaningful to them.

We always welcome new catechists to help out with Children's Liturgy. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Jacquie Newell via the Parish Office.

MINISTRY OF THE EUCHARIST

The selection of Extra-Ordinary Ministers of Holy Communion is the responsibility of the Parish Priest, who as far as possible appoints people to represent a fair cross-section of the parish as regards class, ethnic origin and sex, so that they may be seen as truly representative of the parish. When fulfilling their duty, the Minister should not fulfil any other liturgical function at that Mass, eg reader or server. Ministers attend a course of training sessions in the Diocese which is approved by the Bishop.



SACRISTY TEAM

Volunteers are always welcome for the weekend Masses. Duties include helping to prepare the altar before Mass, and overseeing altar servers. If you think you could help, and for further details, please contact Julie Lazarus via the Parish Office.

MINISTRY OF THE WORD

The Readings at Mass are undertaken by a group of volunteers, usually two readers at each Mass. Volunteers are always welcome. Training is available. If you would like to be a reader, please contact Chris Wilson via the Parish Office.



GUILD OF ST STEPHEN (ALTAR SERVERS)

Any parishioner can participate in a more meaningful way at Mass by becoming an Altar Server. It is one of the lay ministries of the Church, and provides an opportunity to explore a new path for growing close to God. This involves preparing the altar and sanctuary with all the sacred vessels and accessories necessary for the priest to say Mass, and assisting him during Mass itself. Children are welcome to become Altar Servers once they have received their First Holy Communion. Please see Fr David if you are interested.

HOLY COMMUNION FOR THE SICK AND HOUSEBOUND

If you, or someone you know, are unable to attend Mass and would like to receive Holy Communion, please contact Fr David.

HOSPITAL VISITS

If you, or anyone you know is going into hospital and would like a priest to visit, the onus is now on the family to arrange this. Please see the list of contacts for details of hospital chaplains.

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK

If a person is gravely ill and requires the Sacrament of the Sick, Fr David should be advised irrespective of the time—day or night.

MUSIC

A wide range of music is used from traditional organ music to more modern music used by the Music Group. The Music Group always welcomes new talent—all that is required is enthusiasm. We are always looking for new singers and instrumentalists to help out on Sundays. If you are interested, please contact Phil Kershaw via the Parish Office.



FLOWER TEAM

Flowers for the church are prepared on Fridays. Volunteers are always welcome. If you think you could help, please contact Ethel Newynskyj via the Parish Office.

CLEANING TEAM

If you think you could spare a little time during the week to help clean the church, please contact Pat McLoughlin via the Parish Office.

WELCOMING TEAM

We are always looking for volunteers to act as ‘welcomers’ before Mass. This simply entails greeting people as they enter church, and handing out hymn-books. If you think you could help, please contact Camilla King via the Parish Office.