

Mass Text

Entrance Antiphon:

Come, let us worship the Lord. Let us bow down in the presence of our maker, for he is the Lord our God.

First Reading: Job 7:1-4. 6-7

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 146:1-6

Response: Praise the Lord who heals the broken-hearted.

Second Reading: I Paul Cor 9:16-19. 22-23

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord, anyone who follows me will have the light of life. Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:29-39

Communion Antiphon:

Give praise to the Lord for his kindness, for his wonderful deeds towards men. He has filled the hungry with good things, he has satisfied the thirsty.

MASS TIMES

for the coming week

Saturday 4th February

First Mass of Sunday

St John's: 5pm Pro Populo

English Martyrs: 6.30pm Mrs Nolan
(The Bailey Family)

(Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at
English Martyrs 5.50pm—6.20pm)

SUNDAY 5th February

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

English Martyrs: 9am Special Intention (JL)

St John's: 11am

**Welcome to the children,
parents and staff of St Amand's
Catholic Primary School who
are joining us at English
Martyrs today.**

MONDAY 6th February—St Paul Miki & Comp

No Mass Today

TUESDAY 7th February

St John's: 9.30am Sue Hunt's Intentions

WEDNESDAY 8th February

English Martyrs: 9.30am Maxine Parris'
Intentions (M Parris-Dollar)

Followed by Benediction and
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

THURSDAY 9th February

St John's: 9.30am In thanksgiving (C Verling)

FRIDAY 10th February—St Scholastica

English Martyrs: 9.30am Jack and Margaret
Pickersgill on their silver wedding anniv
(K Oldham)

SATURDAY 11th February

Our Lady on Saturday

English Martyrs: 9.30am Valentine John and
Lily Annie Finch RIP (Perp)

(Followed by Sacrament of Reconciliation and
reciting of the Rosary)

This Newsletter is available electronically at
www.thamesisis.org.uk

**Please remember to switch your mobile
phone off before Mass. Thank you.**



Thames ISIS

Catholic Pastoral Area

**WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES OF
THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Didcot
and ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, Wallingford**

www.thamesisis.org.uk

Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No. 246871

Parish Priest: Fr David O'Sullivan, 15 Manor Crescent, Didcot OX11 7AJ

Telephone: 01235 812338, Mobile: 07554427063

Office e-mail: didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

Parish Secretary: Mrs Joanna Robins

(Parish Office in Presbytery open Tues/Thurs 9.15am—1.15pm, Wed/Fri 10am-2pm for all enquiries)

Fr David's e-mail: dosullivan@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

5th February 2012

Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time (Yr B)

Praying for a Cure

Ever prayed To God for a cure? Ever prayed really really hard only to lose a loved one through illness or watch a vulnerable family member struggle with disability? It's at times like this that our faith can grow a bit fuzzy round the edges.

Today Jesus is called to cure Simon Peter's mother-in-law of a fever. The news of the cure travels fast, and as a result Jesus is swamped by dozens more people all plagued by emotional, psychological and physical problems, and all anxious for a cure. Jesus cures many people, and then in the early hours of the following morning he retires to a solitary place to pray. What happens next is surprising. Simon Peter tracks Jesus down and tells him that more people are searching for him. We expect that Jesus will return with Simon Peter to work more miracle cures. Instead Jesus replies, "Let us go on to the neighbouring towns so that I may proclaim the message there are also ... for that is what I came out to do." In moving on to the next town, is Jesus turning his back on the people that held such high hopes of being healed?

Our perception of God is often flawed. We know that God can do anything and so we are puzzled and hurt if our prayers aren't answered. We know that Jesus could cure people, and wonder why he doesn't cure everyone. We find part of the answer in today's gospel. Although he shows compassion for the sick and the dying, Jesus didn't come primarily to promote physical health and fitness, that isn't what he is about. Nor did Jesus work miracles because he had something to prove ... that's not what he is about either. For Jesus, healing was only part of a much bigger picture. Jesus is interested in us as whole beings not just in our physical wellbeing.

Do miracle cures still exist? Undoubtedly they do, but perhaps it isn't a question we should ask? We see people in robust health wasting their lives on the frivolous and the superficial. Others have less time on the planet but leave their mark. Naturally our health is of high priority to us, but Jesus encourages us to look beyond suffering to the bigger picture.



St Amand's Catholic Primary School
St Mary's Road, East Hendred, Wantage, OX12 8LF Tel: 01235 833342
www.st-amands.oxon.sch.uk

Thank you to all those parents and friends who came to share Class 2's Collective Worship and Candle-mass on Thursday. Thank you to all those children who proudly represented St Amands at English Martyrs and St John Vianney as part of Education Sunday.

Dates for your Diary

Monday 6th Feb St Amands Feast Day 11am Mass

Half Term Monday 13th to Friday 17th February

St Amand's is your local Catholic primary school.

You are welcome to visit the school at any time during term time.

Applications are welcome from children for all classes.

Please remember our school in your prayers.

Parish Retreat, 9-11th March at Boars Hill. If you have not yet put your name down and are interested in going on this retreat, please contact the parish office. Cost £100.



Parish Lent Day of Recollection, 17th March, 11am –3.30pm at Littlemore. Please put your name down on the form at the back of church if you would like to attend.

Parish Quiz Evening—Friday 17th February, 7pm for 7.30pm start, Fleet Meadow Community Hall, Didcot. Tickets available now, £5 each, £15 per family.

Lenten Soup Lunches at EM—will take place on Fridays at EM throughout Lent at 12noon. If you can volunteer to make/serve soup, please add your name to the list of volunteers at the back of church.



Education Sunday (England and Wales), 5 February 2012, Learning and Serving

As Christians we are called to work for a fairer world – to ensure that everyone has access to education, that our schools include those on the margins of society, and to tackle the root causes of poverty and inequality that lead to millions of people around the world being denied their basic human rights. Last year's student protests and the debate around Higher Education funding highlight a fundamental question – what is education for? Our time in education is not simply about preparing us for the workplace; it is also about the development of the whole person and finding ways to use our newly acquired skills and knowledge in the service of others.

Our Faith calls us all to reach out to others and evangelise, for with faith comes responsibility.

The Catholic Chaplain at HMP Huntercombe, Nuffield is seeking anyone who has a couple of hours to spare with prisoners' catechism or just to be there for the prisoners, not necessarily every week. If you think you can help please contact Karen Connaughton on Karen.connaughton@ntlworld.com, telephone 07713927097.

Parish Safeguarding Reps

English Martyrs: Eileen McKeever—Tel: 01235 769373
St John's: Tania Bevis— e-mail: taniabevis@hotmail.com

CTWA Prayer Cycle

Please pray for The Methodist Church,
Wallingford

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEETING ON 1ST FEBRUARY 2012

HEADLINE NEWS

LENT: It was decided to have a large Lent notice board at both Parishes to advertise the Lent Activities :Jesse Tree/Soup Lunches/Stations of the Cross/Abingdon Lenten talks/Fr David's Book club/ Pizza -Play Music-Pray.

PENTECOST: Link with Churches Together.

THE PASTORAL COUNCIL FUTURE PLANS:

After some discussion it was agreed to focus on the following for 2012:

- Recruitment of new members to the Pastoral Council (especially St John's)
- Support children's activities in the Parish

FUTURE EVENTS-2012

Queen's Diamond Jubilee 3rd June: It was agreed to celebrate this event after mass on Sunday 3rd June with Cakes, coffee and wine. Fr David will liaise with the children's liturgy groups for some ideas for the children's participation at this special occasion. There will also be special Bidding Prayers and Prayers at Mass to commemorate this occasion.

The Fun Olympics 15th July 2012: It was agreed that it was a good idea to have a fun Olympics after masses on 15th July, where everyone could bring a picnic; there would be drinks and Ice cream available. With sporting events and medal ceremonies for the winners of each event.

Future Children's Summer day camp at English Martyrs: It was agreed that we must try and get more young people involved in the Parish and that this 2-3 day event during the Summer holidays was a good idea to consider for the future.

Saint John Vianney: The Bishop of Shrewsbury is bringing the relics of Saint John Vianney from Ars in France to the UK. A Parishioner would like them to come to Wallingford Church. It was agreed to make further investigation into this and agreed that if the relics were able to be transported to our diocese they should visit St John Vianney, Wantage.

Mobile phones in mass: A parishioner has suggested we put stickers on the doors of each Church stating 'No Mobile Phones'. After discussion, it was agreed that mobile phones are a disruption during mass and that a note will be put in the newsletter requesting all mobile phones be switched off during mass, preferable to stickers on the church doors.

Anne Marie Bromley-Thank You: Anne Marie has decided to step down from the Pastoral Council this year. Thank you Anne Marie for all your hard work and support during your time on the Pastoral Council, it has been very much appreciated.

The full minutes will be available on the church notice boards shortly. If you have any comments please email me at Yvonne.yagco@virgin.net or leave a message at the Parish Office:

New Sunday Missals—If you placed an order for a Sunday Missal, your copy has now arrived and will be held for you at Heavenly Harrods or St John's Repository. Cost £13.50, less any deposits already paid.

English Martyrs and St John's

Last Week's Collections

£1338.93 62% GA

Second Collection this week: Catholic Education Service

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATIONS