

**Mass Text for the Third Sunday of Lent**

**Entrance Antiphon:**

My eyes are always on the Lord,  
for he rescues my feet from the snare.  
Turn to me and have mercy on me,  
for I am alone and poor.

**First Reading:** Exodus 20:1-17

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 18:8-11

**Response:**

You, Lord, have the message of eternal life.

**Second Reading:** I Cor 1:22-25

**Gospel Acclamation:**

Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!  
I am the resurrection and the life, says the Lord,  
whoever believes in me will never die.  
Praise to you, O Christ, king of eternal glory!

**Gospel:** John 2:13-25

**Communion Antiphon**

The sparrow finds a home,  
and the swallow a nest for her young:  
By your altars, O Lord of hosts,  
my King and my God.  
Blessed are they who dwell in your house,  
for ever singing your praise.

**MASS TIMES for the coming week**

**SATURDAY 3rd March**

**Vigil Masses for the Third Sunday of Lent**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4:30-4:50pm**

**St John's: 5:00pm Pro Populo**

**English Martyrs: 6.30pm Eithne Naughton's**

**Intentions (A Furlong)**

*(Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at English Martyrs 5:50-6:20pm)*

**SUNDAY 4th March**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

**English Martyrs: 7.30am Extraordinary Form**

**Latin Mass Yvonne Rampton RIP**

**English Martyrs: 9:00am Pro Populo**

**St John's: 11:00am Nikos Papadakis RIP**

*(R Papadakis)*

**Mass times for the coming week**

**(English Martyrs is open mornings, Tuesday to Friday 9.15am-1pm, for private prayer)**

**MONDAY 5th March**

**Mass at St Mary's East Hendred, 9.15am**

**TUESDAY 6th March**

**St John's: 9.30am Fr David Weston RIP**

**Followed by Station of the Cross**

**WEDNESDAY 7th March**

**English Martyrs: 9.30am Vince Buckley's**

**Intentions (D Lazarus)**

**English Martyrs: 7.30pm Extraordinary Form**

**Latin Mass Val Claridge's welfare**

**THURSDAY 8th March**

**St John's: 9:30am Canon Francis Harrington**

**RIP**

**FRIDAY 9th March**

**English Martyrs: 9.30am Veronica Gordon's**

**Intentions (A Gray)**

**Followed by Stations of the Cross**

**English Martyrs: 11am Funeral Service for**

**Jean O'Gorman RIP**

**SATURDAY 10th March**

**English Martyrs: 9.30am Annie Furlong's**

**Intentions (D Lazarus)**

*(Followed by the Sacrament of Reconciliation and reciting of the rosary)*



Thames ISIS  
Catholic Pastoral Area

**PARISHES OF  
THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Didcot  
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, Wallingford**

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**4th March 2018**

**Third Sunday of Lent (Yr B)**

Once a year at Passover, Jews visited the Temple and offered a sacrifice to God. At this time of year the number of visitors to Jerusalem swelled and the moneylenders, with their eye to business, took to operating a scam. When visitors came to the Temple they were able to purchase animals or doves to offer as sacrifices. Because the Jews considered Roman coinage bearing Caesar's head as idolatrous, they were given the opportunity to exchange their Roman coins for Temple coinage. The idea was originally a good one, but the moneylenders were operating an unfair exchange rate for over priced animals. What had started out as a good idea had turned into an abuse. .... and this in God's name! Was it any wonder that Jesus was so angry?

To see Jesus angry enough to take a whip and drive out the villainous traders might surprise us. We are brought up with a vision of a Jesus as both meek and mild. In our modern times, where disputes have to be settled over a table and those who display temper are sent off for anger management counselling, the story might even make us raise a disapproving eyebrow. But what this story makes us realise is that there are situations that warrant our righteous anger. Jesus simply could not tolerate injustice, and neither should we. What injustices do we need to drive out of our society today? We don't have to look far.

How can we claim to be Christians yet settle for injustices that Jesus would not have settled for? Can we really sit back and allow rich countries to profit greedily at the expense of poor countries? Can we really condone the unfair distribution of our planet's resources just for our own convenience? Can we continue to let governments ride roughshod over those who cannot speak up for themselves?

What has to be driven out of our lives and communities because instead of bringing us closer to God they prevent us from meeting him? Today's story is not about protecting a sacred building. God after all does not live in a building. Each of us is a living temple. God lives in us.



**In your prayers, please remember:**

Jenny Evans, Amanda Gender, Christopher Almeida, Anna Pearce, Mary Guinan, Maureen Logan, Mary McCrystal, Margaret Goldsworthy, Sophia Farmer, Ann Tomline, Terry Appleyard, Val Claridge, Joan Russell, Audrey Edwards, Martin Connolly, Rosa Maria Santos, and all the sick and housebound of the parish.



**First Holy Communion Classes**—Please continue to pray for the children of both parishes currently on the First Holy Communion programme.

**The National Novena to St Joseph** will take place 10-18 March at St Joseph's Church in Maidenhead and at Herbert House, Freshfield, Liverpool. Each year the Mill Hill Missionaries prepare for the Feast of St Joseph, their patron, with a special Novena of Masses and prayers to ask for God's blessing on their society and the missionary outreach of the Church, as well as for the intentions of all those who support their work. You are invited to send in your petitions and/or to request a Novena booklet to enable you to join in from home by praying the daily Novena prayer. Please write to Fr Liam Cummins MHM, St Joseph's Missionary Society, 58 Cookham Road, Maidenhead, SL6 7HT or email [novenamhm@gmail.com](mailto:novenamhm@gmail.com)

**Significant Wedding Anniversaries Mass 2018**

Are you celebrating a 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, 40<sup>th</sup>, 50<sup>th</sup>, 60<sup>th</sup> or anniversary over 60 years? If so Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. This will take place at St Bede's Church in Basingstoke on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018**. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage. If you would like to come, please visit the Cathedral website <http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/anniversaries> and complete the on-line form, or send an email to [anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:anniversaries@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk) Please note this address is not monitored daily and you may have to wait for a reply, so please be patient. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact your Parish office, who will have the form you need to complete. To help celebrate the occasion please could you provide a **COPY** of your Wedding photograph, you can upload it when you complete the form online. Alternatively scan and send via email to above email address. Again if you have no access to the internet you can post a **COPY** along with completed form by post to the following address: St Bede's Parish Office, Popley Way, Basingstoke, RG24 9DX. Please mark envelope: Significant Wedding Mass.

**Heavenly Harrods**

New season stock has arrived including cards and gifts for Mothering Sunday on March 11; St Patrick's day and Easter. There is also a selection of CTS booklets on a Lenten theme. Come and have a browse after mass.

**Food Bank**—Donations for the food bank are always welcomed—a list of items needed is on both church noticeboards. A box is at the back of church for donations. Items are collected and delivered to the Wallingford and Didcot food banks on a regular basis, and distributed from there to the needy of the area. Thank you in advance for your support.

**Parish Safeguarding Rep**

For all adult and child safeguarding issues, please call Stefania Harford Tel: 07846559700

**CWTA Prayer Cycle**

Please pray for  
The Baptist Church, Wallingford



**Chrism Mass**—Once again we have booked a bus to take parishioners to the Chrism Mass in Portsmouth this year, on Tuesday 27th March. The bus will leave Our Lady and St Edmund's in Abingdon at 7.45am and English Martyrs in Didcot at 8.15am, returning at 3pm. Tickets are £12 each, payment on booking. Please call the parish office to book, or email [didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

**SVP SOUP LUNCHES**

The dreadful famine in South Sudan continues. To help alleviate the suffering of children the SVP are once more running the Lenten Soup Lunches with the proceeds going to the Baby Feeding Centres in the Sudan. These lunches continue every Friday in Lent from 11.30am. at St John's. Please support if you are able to.



**Called and Gifted** is coming to our area again! This process has been running for over 3 years around the diocese. It is about helping parishioners discover their calling, beyond that of being for example a parent, spouse or what you do at work. Your call is about using the particular gifts or charisms given to you when you were baptised. These charisms are the most fruitful way that we can love and serve others in our daily life. You can read much more on the diocese website [www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/calledandgifted](http://www.portsmouthdiocese.org.uk/calledandgifted) or ring Clare Simpson 01235 847804 to talk further or book a place. Clare can also connect you with parishioners who have already done it. It starts on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 9am - 4pm in Abingdon.

**Easter Raffle at English Martyrs**—Tickets will be on sale for the Easter Raffle 3/4th, 10/11th and 17/18th March. It will be drawn on the 18th March.

**New Sacristans needed** in English Martyrs—if you are interested in helping out, please contact the parish office. The role is held on a rota basis so commitment is less the more people who are available. Please consider helping out your parish by getting involved in this valuable role.

**Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for March 2018**

Each of us is a living temple and God lives through us. Letting God steer our lives isn't easy though. It's difficult to be discerning, yet if we want faith to form us and give us wisdom, we have to be open to Jesus' teaching in all of our day to day decisions. When we allow our faith to form us, we are a shining example to others. This month we are invited to join Pope Francis' prayer intention, "... **That the Church may appreciate the urgency of formation in spiritual discernment, both on the personal and communitarian levels.**"



*Telephone Number for SVP*

If you know of anyone in need please call  
07580539765.

*Last week's Collection:*

£1421

*Thank you for your donations*