

Mass Text for the Fourth Sunday of Advent

Entrance Antiphon:

Drop down dew from above, you heavens,
and let the clouds rain down the Just One;
let the earth be opened
and bring forth a Saviour.

Psalm Response: I will sing for ever of your love,
O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
I am the handmaid of the Lord:
let what you have said be done to me.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

Mass Text for the Feast of the Holy Family

Entrance Antiphon

The shepherds went in haste, and found Mary and
Joseph and the Infant lying in a manger.

Psalm Response: He, the Lord, is our God.
He remembers his covenant for ever.

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
At various times in the past
and in various different ways,
God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets;
But in our own time, the last days,
he has spoken to us through his Son.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon:

MASS TIMES for the coming week

SATURDAY 23rd December

Vigil Masses of the Fourth Sunday of Advent

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

St John's: 5:00pm Vera King RIP

English Martyrs: 6:30pm Pro Populo

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

SUNDAY 24th December

Fourth Sunday of Advent

**English Martyrs: 9:00am Christy Daly's
Welfare and Intentions**

St John's: 11:00am Pro Populo

The Nativity of the Lord

**English Martyrs: 11pm Midnight Mass
(Carols from 10.30pm) Pro Populo**

MONDAY 25th December, The Nativity of the Lord

**English Martyrs: 9am Mass of Christmas Day -
Pro Populo**

**St John's: 11am Mass of Christmas Day -
Pro Populo**

TUESDAY 26th December—St Stephen's Day

English Martyrs: 10am Altar Servers' Intentions

WEDNESDAY 27th December—

St John the Evangelist

**St John's: 9.30am Lynda and Gerald Sharp's
Intentions**

THURSDAY 28th December—The Holy Innocents

No Mass this morning

FRIDAY 29th December

No Mass this morning

SATURDAY 30th December

No Mass or confessions this morning

**Vigil Masses of The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and
Joseph**

St John's: 5pm Pro Populo

**English Martyrs: 6.30pm Maureen and John
Logan's Intentions for their 70th wedding
anniversary (J Krokowska)**

SUNDAY 31st December—The Holy Family

English Martyrs: 9am Nel Pedzik RIP (D Pedzik)

St John's: 11am Pro Populo

MONDAY 1st January, Mary, The Holy Mother of God

**English Martyrs: 9.30am Arthur and Constance Har-
ris RIP**

TUESDAY 2nd January

No Mass this morning

WEDNESDAY 3rd January

No Mass this morning

**English Martyrs: 7.30pm Extraordinary Form Latin
Mass William and Elizabeth King RIP**

THURSDAY 4th January

St John's: 9.30am Tess Daukes RIP (Foundation)

FRIDAY 5th January

**No Mass this morning (Church open all day for
private prayer)**

SATURDAY 6th January

No Mass this morning

Weekend Masses as usual (no morning Latin Mass)



Thames ISIS
Catholic Pastoral Area

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

www.thamesisis.org.uk

Parish Priest: Fr Phillip Harris, 15 Manor Crescent, Didcot OX11 7AJ

Telephone: 01235 812338

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

(Parish Office in Presbytery open Wednesday and Friday mornings for all enquiries)

Fr Phillip's e-mail: ppharris@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

24th December 2017

Fourth Sunday of Advent (Yr B)

What is announced to Mary in today's Gospel is the revelation of all that the prophets had spoken. It is, as Paul declares in today's Epistle, the mystery kept secret since before the foundation of the world (see [Ephesians 1:9; 3:3-9](#)).

Mary is the virgin prophesied to bear a son of the house of David (see [Isaiah 7:13-14](#)). And nearly every word the angel speaks to her today evokes and echoes the long history of salvation recorded in the Bible.

Mary is hailed as the daughter Jerusalem, called to rejoice that her king, the Lord God, has come into her midst as a mighty savior (see [Zephaniah 3:14-17](#)).

The One whom Mary is to bear will be Son of "the Most High"—an ancient divine title first used to describe the God of the priest-king Melchizedek, who brought out bread and wine to bless Abraham at the dawn of salvation history (see [Genesis 14:18-19](#)).

He will fulfill the covenant God makes with His chosen one, David, in today's First Reading. As we sing in today's Psalm, He will reign forever as highest of the kings of the earth, and He will call God "my Father." As Daniel saw the Most High grant everlasting dominion to the Son of Man (see [Daniel 4:14; 7:14](#)), His kingdom will have no end.

He is to rule over the house of Jacob—the title God used in making His covenant with Israel at Sinai (see [Exodus 19:3](#)), and again used in promising that all nations would worship the God of Jacob (see [Isaiah 2:1-5](#)).

Jesus has been made known, Paul says today, to bring all nations to the obedience of faith. We are called with Mary today to marvel at all that the Lord has done throughout the ages for our salvation. And we, too, must respond to this Annunciation with humble obedience—that His will be done, that our lives be lived according to His word.



In your prayers, please remember:

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

WISHING ALL OF OUR PARISHIONERS AND VISITORS A HAPPY AND BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR.

Christmas Mass times at English Martyrs and St John the Evangelist

Sunday 24th December

Usual Sunday morning Mass times
(9am English Martyrs, 11am St John's).

Then:

Midnight Mass at 11pm at English Martyrs (carols from 10.30pm)



Christmas Day (Monday 25th December)

9am Mass at English Martyrs
11am Mass at St John's

St Stephen's Day (Tuesday 26th December)

10am Mass at English Martyrs (dedicated to all altar servers)

Christmas Flowers

This weekend the second collection will be for the beautiful Christmas flowers that our talented flower ladies arrange in both parishes. Please give generously. Thank you in advance.



For Expectant Mothers

On the Fourth Sunday of Advent we are asked to pray for all who are waiting for a birth of a child, may they be given patience and strength. We are asked to pray for all who work in maternity units and with parents, may they always recognise and cherish the gift of life. We also pray for those who are trying for a child that they are given courage and that their hope is rewarded.

'Science and Faith: The View Up, In and Out' - The 2018 CIS Student Conference focussing on how being Christians and scientists sahep the way we think, work, speak and worship. Sunday 17th February, 9.30am—4.30pm. Booking through www.cis.org.uk/

Parish Safeguarding Rep

Stefanie Harford
Tel: 07846559700

CWTA Prayer Cycle

Please pray for
St John's Church, Wallingford

Thank you to all those who contributed towards making our churches look so beautiful for the Christmas season. Thank you also to all our musicians, readers, sacristans, flower arrangers cleaners, altar servers, and all who help to make our parishes so welcoming.

A very big thank you also to everyone in both parishes for their kindness and generosity, for so many Christmas cards, best wishes and gifts.

Fr Phillip

A Christmas gift from the Bishop! Thanks to a generous donor, this Christmas the Bishop wants to give everyone coming to Mass on Christmas Day a copy of Matthew Kelly's best-selling book, Rediscover Jesus. He hopes you enjoy it. Please make sure you collect your copy on the day!

English Martyrs Church will be open all day on Friday 5th January for private prayer.

Thank you to all those who made Christmas table arrangements, and to those who so generously contributed towards Mary's Meals. Please remember to pick your ordered arrangement from the back of church this weekend.

Are you interested in becoming a Catholic? If so, we are planning on starting an RCIA course very soon. Please contact the parish office or speak to Fr Phillip for more information.

A huge thank you to all those parents who cleaned the church during the Sunday morning First Holy Communion sessions, particularly last week. The church looks wonderful!

The Good Counsel Network—Recently there has been considerable media interest regarding the Good Counsel Network's peaceful daily prayer vigils outside abortion centres. Ealing Council have passed a motion trying to ban the vigils. Rupa Huq MP is calling on the Home secretary to ban all pro-life vigils, and has even demanded that 'silent prayer' needs to be banned within the vicinity of abortion centres. If buffer zones are introduced, thousands of unborn babies' lives will be lost who otherwise could have been saved. Please write to your MP asking them not so support the implementation of buffer zones outside abortion centres.

Diaries—for those of you awaiting our usual free diaries, the printing of these has been running behind this year but they should be available for collection early in the New Year.

Telephone Number for SVP

If you know of anyone in need please call
07580539765.

Last week's Collection:

£1321

*Second Collection this week:
Christmas Flowers*