

**Mass Text for the Fifth Sunday of Lent**  
**Entrance Antiphon:**  
 Give me justice, O God,  
 and plead my cause against a nation that is faithless.  
 From the deceitful and cunning rescue me,  
 for you, O God, are my strength.  
**First Reading:** Jeremiah 31:31-34  
**R sponsorial Psalm:** Ps 50:3-4, 12-15  
**Response:**  
 A pure heart create for me, O God.  
**Second Reading:** Hebrews 5:7-9

**Gospel Acclamation:**  
 Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!  
 If a man serves me, says the Lord, he must follow me;  
 wherever I am, my servant will be there too.  
 Glory to you, O Christ, you are the Word of God!  
**Gospel:** John 12:20-30  
**Communion Antiphon**  
 Amen, Amen I say to you:  
 Unless a grain of wheat  
 Fall to the ground and dies,  
 it remains a single grain.  
 But if it dies, it bears much fruit.

**MASS TIMES for the coming week**

**SATURDAY 17th March**  
**Vigil Masses for the Fifth Sunday of Lent**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation: 4:30-4:50pm**  
**St John's: 5:00pm Pro Populo**

**English Martyrs: 6.30pm Sylvia Hughes RIP**  
*(Tom Hughes)*

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

**SUNDAY 11th March**  
**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

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

**St John's: 11:00am Vera King RIP**

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

**MONDAY 19th March**  
**Mass at St Mary's East Hendred, 9.15am**

**TUESDAY 20th March**  
**No Mass at St John's this morning**  
**(Mass at St Mary's, East Hendred, 9.15am)**

**WEDNESDAY 21st March**  
**No Mass at English Martyrs this morning**  
**(Mass at St Mary's, East Hendred, 12.15pm)**

**English Martyrs: 7.30pm Extraordinary Form Latin Mass - Estanislo Dayao RIP (Connie)**

**THURSDAY 22nd March**  
**St John's: 9:30am Joanne Benzair RIP**  
*(D Kennedy)*

**FRIDAY 23rd March**  
**English Martyrs: 9.30am Chris Wilson RIP**  
*(B Wilson)*  
 Followed by Stations of the Cross

**SATURDAY 24th March**  
**English Martyrs: 9.30am Yvette Pearcey RIP**  
*(D & K Henderson)*

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

**Weekend Mass times as usual**



**PARISHES OF**  
**THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Didcot**  
**ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, Wallingford**  
*www.thamesisis.org.uk*

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 (Parish Office in Presbytery open Tuesday to Friday mornings for all enquiries)  
 Fr Phillip's e-mail: ppharris@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk


**18th March 2018**  
**Fifth Sunday of Lent (Yr B)**

On this Fifth Sunday of Lent, we veil the crucifixes and images in our churches with purple cloth. Why do we do this? It is principally to focus our minds more intently on the whole purpose of Lent itself. Lent is a time of preparation for the most important events in human history: the Passion, that is, the suffering, crucifixion, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Purple is a sign of penitence and mourning, and so the veiling of the cross and statues, reflects our penance and our sorrow as we journey with each other in the Church towards Christ's saving Sacrifice on the Cross for us all.

Our Gospel today underlines this important shift in perspective: Jesus recognises that his "hour" has come. He is the grain of wheat that falls on the ground and dies in order to yield a rich harvest: through him being lifted up on the Cross and dying, our whole world is changed. He overthrows all that holds us – sin and death, pain and suffering – and opens for us the way to eternal life. As he is lifted up on his Cross, he draws all of us to himself so that we can reap his rich harvest in our own lives.

It is therefore very appropriate that, as we focus more and more in these last two weeks of Lent on Christ's Passion, that we also allow our own lives to reflect more clearly the Lenten spirit of repentance, to metaphorically veil ourselves if you like in purple. Coming to confession (reconciliation) is the best way to prepare our hearts as we move through these last two weeks of Lent towards the great events of Holy Week and Easter. Let us allow ourselves to be drawn in this way to Jesus so that we may enjoy the rich harvest of eternal life which he has won for us.

*Fr Phillip*



**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.

**Easter Triduum 2018**

**(All services at English Martyrs unless specified)**

Maundy Thursday (29th March)—Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper: 7.30pm

Good Friday (30th March)—Celebration of the Lord’s Passion: 3pm

Holy Saturday (31st March) Blessing of Easter Foods, 10.30am; Easter Vigil, 8pm

Easter Sunday of the Lord’s Resurrection (1st April): 9am English Martyrs, 11am St John’s

**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.

**Volunteers wanted** to help run the CTWA **Good Friday event** in Wallingford. CTWA are currently looking for help during the service with readings, narrations and the leading of prayers. They also require support in the running of children’s activities, and help with refreshments. If you think you could help in any way with the running of this important witness event, please contact Rev Katherine Pickering on 01235 813242 . It would be great to have a good representation from the Catholic community of the area.

**Easter Raffle at English Martyrs**—Tickets will be on sale for the Easter Raffle 17/18th March. It will be drawn on the 18th March.

**Missio Boxes**—Please bring your Missio boxes to church over the next few weeks for collection. If you would like to sign up for a box, please see Charles Hunt (Wallingford) or Brian McNamee (Didcot). Thank you.

**Parish Safeguarding Rep**

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

**CWTA Prayer Cycle**

Please pray for St Agatha’s, Brightwell



**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), by Wednesday 21st March.

**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.



**Prayer group for the sick**—will be meeting on Monday 19th March at 7pm at English Martyrs. All welcome.

**Forthcoming Meeting Dates**

Finance Meeting—next Thursday 22nd March at 7pm.

PPC Meeting—Thursday 12th April at 7pm.

**Youth Group**—On Friday 23rd March the Youth Group will be meeting for its Eastereggstravagaza in the church hall at Wallingford 7pm-9pm. To those aged 10 years upwards please come along and have some fun. Refreshments will be provided.

For further information please contact Andy Robins via the parish office.

**Easter Services sign up rota**—is now on the noticeboard at English Martyrs to be completed by available readers and Ministers of the Eucharist. Please put your name down if you can help.

**Data Protection Co-ordinator needed**—Following the new legislation on data protection, the Diocese have requested that all parishes appoint a volunteer Data Protection Co-Ordinator, who will work with the parish office and Diocesan Data Protection Officer. Training will be provided. If you think you could help support us in this important role, please contact the parish office.

**Gift Aid boxes** for 2018/19 are now available for collection from the back of church. If you donate to the church via direct debit, a box will be available for you for second collections only. Thank you for all your contributions!

**Heavenly Harrods**

New season stock has arrived including cards and gifts for 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.

*Telephone Number for SVP*

If you know of anyone in need please call 07580539765.

*Last week’s Collection:*

*£1426*

*Second Collections this weekend:  
Parish Centre/Refurbishment Fund*

*Thank you for your donations*