

Mass Text for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon:

Be my protector, O God,
a mighty stronghold to save me,
for you are my rock, my stronghold!
Lead me, guide me,
for the sake of your name.

First Reading: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 31:1-2, 5, 11

Response:

You are my refuge, O Lord; you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Second Reading: I Cor 10:31-11:1

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia!
May the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ
enlighten the eyes of our mind,
so that we can see what hope his call holds for us.
Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 1:40-45

Communion Antiphon

They ate and had their fill,
and what they craved the Lord gave them;
they were not disappointed in what they craved.

MASS TIMES for the coming week

SATURDAY 10th February

Vigil Masses for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

St John's: 5:00pm John McCrystal RIP
(M McCrystal)

English Martyrs: 6.30pm Pro Populo

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

SUNDAY 11th February

Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

English Martyrs: 9:00am Terry Hobin RIP
(H Hobin)

St John's: 11:00am Pro Populo

Mass times for the coming week

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

MONDAY 12th February

Mass at St Mary's East Hendred, 9.15am

TUESDAY 13th February

St John's: 9.30am Gilly Snoxall's Intentions

WEDNESDAY 14th February—Ash Wednesday

English Martyrs: 6.30am Pro Populo

St John's: 12 Noon Pro Populo

English Martyrs: 7.30pm Extraordinary Form

Latin Mass—Patrick Dunphy RIP

THURSDAY 15th February

St John's: 9:30am Deceased members of the Clifford family (N Clifford)

English Martyrs: 3pm Funeral Service for Patrick Dunphy RIP

FRIDAY 16th February

English Martyrs: 9.30am
Pope Emeritus Benedict's Intentions

English Martyrs: 7pm Vespers and blessing of stained glass windows and organ

SATURDAY 17th February

English Martyrs: 9.30am Flor Finch RIP (Perlita)
(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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11th February 2018
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Yr B)

In the Old Testament, leprosy is depicted as punishment for disobedience of God's commands (see [Numbers 12:12-15](#); [2 Kings 5:27](#); [15:5](#)). Considered "unclean"—unfit to worship or live with the Israelites, lepers are considered "stillborn," the living dead (see [Numbers 12:12](#)). Indeed, the requirements imposed on lepers in today's First Reading—rent garments, shaven head, covered beard—are signs of death, penance, and mourning (see [Leviticus 10:6](#); [Ezekiel 24:17](#)).

So there's more to the story in today's Gospel than a miraculous healing.

When Elisha, invoking God's name, healed the leper, Naaman, it proved there was a prophet in Israel (see [2 Kings 5:8](#)). Today's healing reveals Jesus as far more than a great prophet—He is God visiting His people (see [Luke 7:16](#)).

Only God can cure leprosy and cleanse from sin (see [2 Kings 5:7](#)); and only God has the power to bring about what He wills (see [Isaiah 55:11](#); [Wisdom 12:18](#)).

The Gospel scene has an almost sacramental quality about it.

Jesus stretches out His hand—as God, by His outstretched arm, performed mighty deeds to save the Israelites (see [Exodus 14:6](#); [Acts 4:30](#)). His ritual sign is accompanied by a divine word ("Be made clean"). And, like God's word in creation ("Let there be"), Jesus' word "does" what He commands (see [Psalm 33:9](#)).

The same thing happens when we show ourselves to the priest in the sacrament of penance. On our knees like the leper, we confess our sins to the Lord, as we sing in today's Psalm. And through the outstretched arm and divine word spoken by His priest, the Lord takes away the guilt of our sin.



Scott Hahn

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.

ADORE (Alton Day Of Renewal) – Saturday 24th February 11.00-4.00

You are warmly welcome to a mini-retreat day (or morning/afternoon) of spiritual refreshment and renewal, focussing on Renewal and Mission. At Alton School, Anstey Lane, Alton GU34 2NG. 11.00am *Rosary*; 11.30am *Mass*; 12.15 *Adoration* of the Blessed Sacrament; 1.00pm Shared lunch; 2.00pm *Praise & Worship*; 2.30 *Talk* “The Spirit has anointed me” by Fr Anthony Meredith; 3.30 *Prayer for healing*. We end about 4pm.

There is no need to register in advance, and no charge (though a collection will be taken to cover costs). For more information and directions, see poster or website:

www.altonrenewal.com

URGENT – YOUTH WORKER APPEAL

As you may be aware, an urgent appeal was launched before Christmas. This was for funds to continue beyond this year the post of Youth Worker for our Pastoral Area. There were letters in church for all on the parish database. Some were picked up, and we are grateful to the small number who responded. The remaining letters have now been delivered or mailed. On the pledges we receive by the end of February will depend whether the post can be continued. Please mail completed responses to Holy Rood Church in the envelope provided, or put in the Youth Worker Appeal Response box at the back of church. Further appeal leaflets and response forms are also available in church. Thank you in advance for your support.

Donations Box—We often get the poor and needy visiting English Martyrs during the week looking for donations—to this end we have put up a box in the church porch so that anyone willing to contribute to the poor can do so. Thank you in advance for your support.

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.

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

Ash Wednesday (14th February) marks the beginning to the season of soul searching and repentance. On this day we are reminded to change our ways and get our priorities straight. Lent is a season of hope and good intention. On this Ash Wednesday we go about our business wearing the sign of penitence and hope.



Parish Safeguarding Rep

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

CWTA Prayer Cycle

Please pray for St Mary’s, Wallingford

Bishop’s Visit—Bishop Philip will be visiting English Martyrs on Friday 16th February at 7pm for Vespers, and to bless the new stained glass windows and organ that have just been installed. It would be great if as many people as possible could come to this important occasion in the history of our church. Photographs of the installation of the windows are on the parish diary pages of www.thamesisis.org.uk.

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 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 10th March 9am - 4pm in Abingdon.

Women’s World Day of Prayer, 2nd March 2018

The service this year for the Wallingford area is being held at The Methodist Church, in St Leonard’s Square, Wallingford, on Friday 2nd March, at 6.30pm.

The service has been prepared by the Christian women of Suriname (situated in north east South America) and the theme is “All God’s Creation is Very Good”. On March 2nd the service will be celebrated in 170 countries and islands and in the British Isles where some 6,000 services will be taking place. Men, women and children are all welcome to attend so please do come and perhaps invite a friend or neighbour too.

Tea and cake will be provided after the service, which lasts about one hour.

CAFOD’s Family fast day is on Friday 23rd February. Please can you give up a meal or eat simple meal and then put what you saved in the CAFOD family fast day envelope to help those who go hungry every day. This Lent your donation will make the double the difference. For every pound you donate the UK Government will also donate a pound up to total of £5 million meaning twice the number of lives can be transformed. So please give generously and help us raise £5 million. Please collect your Fast day envelope from your church (*fill in date of collection.*) Many thanks for your support.



A Lenten Recollection Day at Littlemore will be led by Fr. Paul King on Saturday 3rd of March 10:00 until 4:00pm. Numbers permitting we will have Mass in the Newman Chapel at 10 :00am. Tea and coffee provided but bring a packed lunch. Please put your name down on the form at the back of church if you would like to attend.

Telephone Number for SVP

If you know of anyone in need please call 07580539765.

Last week’s Collection:

£1486

Second Collection this week: Clergy Assistance Fund

Thank you for your donations