

I am available for any parishioner who needs me. My mobile number is 07554427063

18th—25th December

Sat. 18th 10am

Sat. 18th 6pm *Patrick Bergin R.I.P.*

Sun. 19th 9am *Dec'd Members of Moran Family*

Sun. 19th 11am *Pro Populo*

Mon. 20th No Mass

Tues. 21st *Paula Jenkins R.I.P.*

Weds 22nd 10am *Loraine Fernandez R.I.P.*

Weds 22nd 12 noon

Thursday 23rd 10am

Christmas Eve 4pm

6pm

9pm *Pro Populo*

11pm

Christmas Day 9am *Dec'd Member of Green & Bergin Family*

11am

### Public Mass

Saturday 6pm Wantage

Sunday 9am Wantage

Sunday 11am Lambourn

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday,

Friday, Saturday 10am Wantage

Wednesday 12 noon Lambourn

No Booking needed for weekday

or Saturday Masses.

**Booking for Sunday Mass  
essential—please book by  
5pm on Friday.**

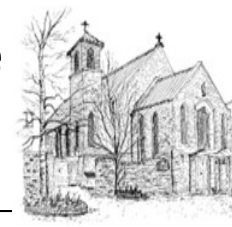
Find us at:

[www.wantagecatholicparish.org](http://www.wantagecatholicparish.org)

[www.sacredheartlambourn.org](http://www.sacredheartlambourn.org)



## St John Vianney Wantage Sacred Heart Lambourn



Parish Priest: Fr. David O'Sullivan

Telephone: 01235 762374 Mobile: 07554427063

Office e-mail: [wantage@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:wantage@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### Year C 4th Sunday of Advent 19th December 2021

#### Believing in Promises



It's easy for us to take promises with a pinch of salt. Whilst growing up, we've learned that promises are easily made and easily broken. We make promises of our own with varying degrees of commitment. In short, promises are not always made to be kept, and our faith in a promise is seriously undermined. No wonder the promises we read in the bible don't always make us

jump for joy.

Does a promise made to us by God carry any more weight? If we were truly convinced that God was making us a promise, then it probably would. There's a saying that goes, "We question all our beliefs, except for the ones we really believe, and those we never think to question." It seems that belief is key in getting excited about a promise. Mary obviously had no doubts; this is illustrated in her promptness to act on God's commands. We might not confess to doubts, but if we really don't harbour any doubts, why then do we hedge our bets? Why do we squash God into a small corner of our busy lives and get on with other things?

Mary is a perfect role model for us all. She believed in God's promise. She acted on God's commands. She didn't push God into a small corner of her life .... God was her life. "Blessed is she," writes Luke in today's gospel, "who believed that the promise made her by the Lord would be fulfilled."

Today's gospel is an invitation for us to take God's promises to heart, to make them real in our minds, and act on them.



**In your prayers, please remember all who have recently died . Also pray for all who are sick, in hospital or housebound especially Pete Gray, Sybil Murphy, Margaret Joyce, Peter Shaw, Wendy Purslow, Sue Maher, Dame Catherine Wyburne, and all those suffering during this pandemic. Please contact the office if you would like someone to be added to our sick list .**

#### Collections Thank You

If you would like to continue supporting the Church your weekly/ monthly offering can be made online using this name and account number :

**PRCDTR Wantage St John Vianney**

**Sort Code: 30-93-04 Account Number: 01720016**

**Please remember that you can always drop your donation into the Presbytery letterbox. Same Account for Wantage and Lambourn.**

### **Pope Francis' Prayer Intention for December 2021—For Catechists**

Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Double your love for Mary's Meals this winter** -Give until 31 January 2022 and your gift will be doubled by a group of generous supporters, up to £1.6 million. Donate online at <https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/doublethelove>

**Little People**—We would be very grateful for any new toys or vouchers for families in need this Christmas. Donations can be left in the box marked "Little People" in the porch.

### **BBC Radio 4 Christmas Day at 9am—How far is it to Bethlehem?**

A service recorded by Christians in Bethlehem. Members of the Bethlehem Bible College tell the story of Christmas Day from the sites where they believe the events might well have taken place; the birth in a humble dwelling, the shepherds' vision of angels on the hillside. They also speak of the importance of reconciliation in the Holy Land, a major part of the ministry of Bethlehem Bible College. With music from Bethlehem Bible College and Christian traditions around the world.

**For Expectant Mothers.** Traditionally, the fourth Sunday of Advent is a day on which we pray for expectant mothers everywhere. We must also remember to pray for expectant dads, and for would-be parents who are trying for a baby but haven't been successful just yet.



This week we are having a second collection to help with our Christmas decorating. If you would like to make a donation towards flowers, Christmas trees and angels, please mark your envelope "Christmas Decorations" and put it through the letterbox,



or just put it into the basket at the back of Church.

If you make your donation online please mark it "Christmas Flowers".

### **SVP—Please could you consider joining our small group of volunteers?**

St. Vincent de Paul Society is committed to combatting poverty and providing support and friendship in our local community. If you would like to know more about what is involved please email the parish office [wantage@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:wantage@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

### **Sunday – The Day of the Lord**

'We are all learning to live with the ravages of this deadly virus. Thankfully, now we can celebrate Mass and the sacraments in our churches. Now is the time for us to return once more, physically if we are able, to the celebration of Mass on Sunday. Sunday is indeed Dies Domini, the day of the Lord.

When we come to Mass on Sunday, we experience that lifeblood which the Lord wants to give to us from His glorified wounds.

Being only virtually present is a poor substitute. Of course, the virtual means of communication will continue to be a valued service for those who are sick or those unable to come to Church for whatever reason on a Sunday.

Our participation at broadcasted Masses was also essential at a time when there was no possibility of community celebrations. Yet no broadcast is comparable to personal participation, and it cannot replace it. The Lord stresses this physical contact when he says in St. John's Gospel, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life."

Communications <[newsletter@cbcew.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@cbcew.org.uk)>

**Date for your Diary Wed 22nd December—Carol Service 7pm**  
**Please text Fr. David if you would like to book a seat.**

**Sacred Heart, Lambourn** : Immediately after Mass on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup>

December, the Walwyn Hall will be open for parishioners to have a pre-Christmas drink and light lunch. If you are able to attend or can donate some mince pies, cooked sausages or sausage rolls, please see Anne, Marion or Jen. Hopefully most of you will be able to come and the Hall committee looks forward to welcoming you.

**Synod Consultation**—Please return consultation forms asap.

### **Important Contacts.**

**Hospital / Home visits. Sick Communion,**

If you are sick or going into hospital and would like a visit or Holy Communion,

call the office on **01235 762374** **Baptisms**—Firstly, speak to Fr.David after Mass on any Sunday

email [wantage@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:wantage@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk)

Other Priests in the area :

Mgr Andrew Burnham East Hendred Tel: 01235 835038

Fr Zbigniew at Wash Common Tel: 01635 40332

St. Amand's School [01235 833342](tel:01235833342) . website: [www.st-amands.oxon.sch.uk](http://www.st-amands.oxon.sch.uk) or email [office.3855@st-amands.oxon.sch.uk](mailto:office.3855@st-amands.oxon.sch.uk)