

I available for any parishioner who needs me. My mobile number is 07554427063 Please feel free to contact me to have a chat or to have prayers or a mass said for someone.

**1st May**

**Sat:1st** Alex and Ann Pringle ints

**Sat: 1st** Louise Everett's ints

**Sun: 2nd**

**Sun: 2nd** McGiff Family RIP

**Mon: 3rd**

**Tue: 4th** Private Intention

**Wed: 5th** Michael Murray RIP

**Wed 5th**

**Thur:6th**

**Fri: 7th** Graham O'Connor RIP

**Sat: 8th**

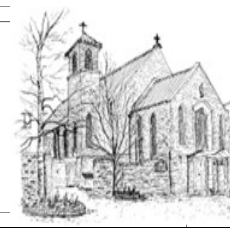
**Public Mass**  
**Wantage: Tue ,Wed, Thurs**  
**and Fri 10am**  
**Lambourn Wed 12noon.**  
**Sunday 9am Wantage**  
**Sunday 11am Lambourn**

**No Booking needed for**  
**weekday Masses**

**Booking for Weekend Masses**  
**essential.**



## St John Vianney Wantage Sacred Heart Lambourn



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### 2021 Fifth Sunday of Easter Year B



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, and all those suffering during this pandemic Please contact the office if you would like someone to be added to our sick list .



**Parish History Project.** This year we celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the completion of the new Church in Wantage in 1961. To mark this momentous occasion I am hoping to have a history of the parish written and published. Do you have any information about the parish, no matter how small or insignificant? Do you have any old photographs? Can you remember anything of note? If you can help in any way please drop your contributions into the parish or email the office. I'm sure that together we can produce something special.

**Exposition and Benediction Wednesday 7pm. All Welcome**



### **Collections Thank You**

If you would like to continue supporting the Church through the period of close-down your weekly/ monthly offering can be made online using this name and account number : **PRCDT Wantage St John Vianney Sort Code: 30-93-04 Account Number: 01720016 Account Name: PRCDDR Wantage St. John Vianney.** Please remember that you can always drop your donation into the Presbytery letterbox. Same Account for Wantage and Lambourn.

*Roman Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No. 246871*



### **Branching Out**

There's a lot of work to do in today's world. Almost daily, the TV and Radio brings terrible news of atrocities and disasters around the planet. It's easy to feel overwhelmed by all the

bad news and to feel powerless to do anything. We do not consider that we can individually instigate change for lots of reasons. We do not feel clever enough, or brave enough or rich enough. In short it's hard to know where to begin and even whether change is possible. The inspirational message in today's gospel is that we can make changes as long as we work together.

We are already familiar with the ethos of trade unions. Trade unions operate on one powerful principal. Individually we can be easily overlooked but together we have the power to sway governments. If a trade union wanted to promote solidarity and unity, the vine would make an ideal logo. The vine itself is the heart of the union, the part that determines the ethos. The branches do the work of the vine and the fruit they bear is the outcome .... the final result.

Today we are told that with Christ as our vine we can do great things. All too often we become wrapped up in developing our own spirituality, trying to work out what God means to us as an individual .... striving to find our niche. It's easy to forget that we are part of a huge family of people the biggest union on the planet. With Christ's teaching and pruning, we as a body, have the ability to transform the world by putting faith into action. Our individual responsibility is to look for ways in which we can become part of the overall plan. We don't have to branch out alone; we branch out as a team.

*Tuesday 4th May 2021 is the National Day of Prayer for Victims and Survivors of Abuse.*



### Global Prayer Marathon for the Month of May

Pope Francis has called for a global prayer marathon for the entire month of May, praying for the end to the pandemic. "The initiative will involve in a special way all shrines in the world" in promoting the initiative so that individuals, families and communities all take part in reciting the rosary. It is the heartfelt desire of the Holy Father that the month of May be dedicated to a prayer marathon dedicated to the theme, 'from the entire church an unceasing prayer rises to God.' The theme refers to the miraculous event recounted in the Acts of the Apostles (12:1-12) when all the church prayed for Peter, who was imprisoned until God sent an angel to free him, illustrating how the Christian community comes together to pray in the face of danger and how the Lord listens and performs an unexpected miracle.



**Pope Francis's Prayer Intention for May** Poverty, mathematician Eli Khamarov said, is like punishment for a crime you didn't commit. Dictatorial and corrupt governments can make what could be a very rich nation into a poor one. And so does a history of exploitative colonization, weak rule of law, war and social unrest, severe climate conditions or hostile, aggressive neighbours. It is often hard to

pinpoint a single cause of long-term poverty, hence why economists often refer to "cycles" of poverty. For example, a country in debt will not be able to afford good schools, and a poorly educated workforce will be less capable of fixing problems and creating conditions that will attract foreign investment.

This month we are invited to share in Pope Francis's prayer intention **"...that those in charge of finance will work with governments to regulate the financial sphere and protect citizens from its dangers."**

### World Fair Trade Day 8<sup>th</sup> May. Do Your Bit

The pandemic has made it clear, the world needs Fair Trade more than ever. Lock-downs are happening the world over, with many communities fending for themselves. Economically marginalised communities face a particular challenge, with the combined threat of the pandemic, alongside the destruction of their livelihoods.

Fair Trade Enterprises remain deeply committed to these communities. To support them, Fair Trade Enterprises are innovating and persevering. They are paying their workers, making masks, creating new plans and connecting the world over. During the pandemic and beyond, they put artisans, farmers and workers first. Through thick and thin, these enterprises continue to stand in solidarity with their communities. Do your bit and pick up Fairtrade items in the supermarket on May 8<sup>th</sup> and consider making small shopping changes a regular habit.

### Travels with my bro....



We had to bite the bullet this week. I put Br.M and myself on a diet. Post Easter overindulgence lasted well beyond what is allowed for a Solemnity and those extra kilos are telling. Thank God for lycra rowing shorts but the look is not good. From this week all food will be healthy and no alcohol allowed till a birthday arrives. Thankfully we are entering salad days so it shouldn't be too difficult. Br.M suggested we go vegan but that was a bridge too far. We will be lax vegetarians. Meat only on a few days. It's a compromise to me, carnivore in chief. Our journey has taken us to the city of Zaragoza as we head towards Barcelona. It is in fact Spain's fifth-largest city. Zaragoza is the capital of Spain's autonomous region of Aragón, which used to be its own kingdom. The famous Spanish artist Francisco de Goya was born in the small town of Fuendetodos, around 45 kilometres south of Zaragoza. Because of this, the city of Zaragoza is one of the best places to see his works. We are looking forward to visiting if it is open to tourists. The city is also home to not one but two great cathedrals: the iconic Basílica de Nuestra Señora del Pilar, standing next to the river with its Moorish-style towers and domes, and the Catedral del Salvador de Zaragoza, combining baroque, romanesque and mudéjar styles. At least they will be open. Br.M can wear his habit and suggest he is on Inquisition business and as they say, "no one expects the Spanish inquisition" Thankfully this part of Spain delights in lots of dishes that are vegetable based. We are hoping to have some of the famous Vegetable stew and some salted cod. We will have to pass on the very famous Churros and chocolate sauce. On Sunday we may splash out as it's a Solemnity and have Aragonese garlic soup followed by Chilindron, chicken braised with tomatoes and peppers and garnished with sweet red pepper. Don't worry as we will be back on the straight and narrow on Monday. It's a day of Aragón's purple olives known for their bitter, sharp taste. Small and round, colours ranging from dark purple to almost black. They're often sold in huge bags at supermarkets. They're salty, dry, and, the more wrinkly the olive, It will remind us that we need to lose a few kilos. We will not be sampling the wine. Sadly. Hasta la proxima semana as they say here. Dios bendiga.

Please don't forget if you have any spare seedlings, cuttings or plants I'm back in the monastery garden. Flowers or Veg anything will do! I'm turning into Brother Cadfael.