

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

24th December - 1st January

Christmas Eve 4pm (At Lambourn)

6pm

9pm *Pro Populo*

11pm

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

Christmas Day 11am

Sun 26th 9am *Lillian Derby R.I.P.*

Sun 26th 11am *Eugene McEvoy Snr.*

Mon 27th - 30th December No Mass

Fri 31st *Eithne Naughton R.I.P.*

Sat 1st Jan 10am *Frieda Caspers R.I.P.*

Sat 1st 6pm *Jack, Josie & Michael Kneafsey R.I.P.*

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

4pm Lambourn (Families)

6pm Wantage (Families)

9pm Wantage (already booked)

11pm Wantage

Christmas Day Mass Times

9am Wantage

11am Lambourn

Booking is Essential

No weekday Masses until Friday
31st Dec.

Find us at:

www.wantagecatholicparish.org

www.sacredheartlambourn.org



St John Vianney Wantage Sacred Heart Lambourn



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Year C Feast of The Holy Family 26th December 2021

A Lesson in Parenting



When we hear stories about the Holy Family we are struck by the normality of Jesus' upbringing. Mary and Joseph behave like any parents of today. Secondly we are struck by the love and tenderness that surrounds Jesus in his early years. The fact that he was born in a stable and grew up with no great wealth doesn't seem to matter. What matters is that Jesus grew up knowing that Mary and Joseph loved and cared for him.

Jesus would have been brought up in a Jewish tradition, and he would not have been expected to challenge this tradition. What is interesting for us to learn is, that by the tender age of twelve Jesus was developing a sense of who he really was. When Jesus causes his parents much distress by becoming separated from them to stay in the temple listening to the teachers, he tells Mary and Joseph, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be busy with my Father's affairs?" Mary and Joseph don't quite understand what he means, but we are told, "Mary stored all these things in her heart." She had faith in her son, and she allowed him to become the individual she always knew he was.

Sounds easy doesn't it, yet thousands of parents today must be shaking their heads. It's not easy to let go and allow your child to be his or her own person, especially if you see them making all sorts of mistakes. Today's gospel is a lesson in parenting. Surround your children with love and caring. Pass down all the good Christian traditions you yourself have learned, then have faith and allow your child to be the person they need to be.

Those who come to Mass are asked to take a lateral flow test before they come, to wear masks as required by law, and to preserve social distancing as far as possible.



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.

Let the bells ring out for Christmas!

"Oh! I wish it could be Christmas every day", so the song goes. It's a sentiment I endorse. I love Christmas. It's one of my favourite times of year. However, as the signs of Christmas seem to get earlier each year I hear myself saying, "It's too soon, it's too soon!". Only so many shopping days left we're told. Christmas merchandise fills the shelves and shops are winding up for the big shopping days, baubles twinkle and tinsel sparkles. We wait to see which of the larger shops gives the best Christmas ad. As my first Christmas card arrived I am again reminded why I wish it were Christmas every day! The message I read is powerful. "When the song of the angels is stilled, when the star in the sky is gone, when the kings and princes are home, when the shepherds are back with their flocks: the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost; to heal the broken; to feed the hungry; release the prisoner; to rebuild the nations; to bring peace among people; to make music in the heart".

How easy it is to forget what Christmas is all about. How easy to get taken up with tinsel and baubles. How easy it is to forget that God was again reaching into our ordinary lives to transform them; to bring his peace and salvation. God was reminding us again that he created us for himself and though we may have drifted, his love has no end. Christmas reminds us that we are all brothers and sisters and that we have a duty to reach out of our busyness to care for those around us. When the days drift into January and the hustle and bustle has passed, when family and friends go back to their lives we are called to remember that Christmas must make a difference. The spirit of Christmas must be brought into our suffering world. The love that Jesus brought to share must be shared. The good news the angels sing about must be the daily effort of our lives. What difference will the birth of Jesus make in my life? How will his birth change the world?

We must be changers and doers. We must take the effort and energy we put into Christmas and use it throughout the year. We must take that bundle of joy wrapped in swaddling clothes born in a manger and allow him to accompany us on our journey. The glory on the lips of the angels must be the stuff of our lives long after the last bauble is packed away. Every day must be a celebration. Christ has come, the bundle of joy grew up. He gave us the greatest news. God loves us beyond all telling. So, Let the bells ring out for Christmas!

Wishing you all a very Happy and Holy Christmas. Fr David

Feast of the Holy Innocents 2021 -

December 28th

"When the wise men had departed, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' "

Even today children still have plenty of Herods to fear. Every newspaper, magazine and TV report describe children as victims of war, terrorism, , slavery, abuse and of starvation. Today, on the Feast of the Holy Innocents we are called to reach out to those children who need our help.



Solemnity of Mary Mother of God

January 1st

Today we observe the solemnity of Mary the Mother of God. This is a natural theme having just celebrated the birth of her son Jesus. The birth of a child is always a sign of hope ... hope not just for the parents and immediate family, but also for the whole community. The lives of Mary and Jesus spell a vision of a hope, a vision of justice and peace, a vision of freedom and liberation, a vision of social change and concern for the common good. It spells a vision of God present in the poor child and the holy young woman of Nazareth; a vision of God to be found in all the people and things of our world and especially among the poor.

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

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 or email office.3855@st-amands.oxon.sch.uk