

I am 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.

19th Dec—Jan 1st

Sat: 19th Louisa Goddard RIP

Sat: 19th Pro Pop

Sun: 20th

Sun: 20th Jack Nelson RIP

Mon: 21st Edward Woods RIP

Tue: 22nd Charles Gorton RIP

Wed: 23rd Bridget Woods RIP

Thur: 24th Christmas Eve

4.30pm

6.30pm

9pm Eileen & David Hendy RIP

11pm Pro Pop

Fri 25th Christmas Day

9am In Thanksgiving

11am

Sat 26th St Stephen's Day

10am Eugene McEvoy (Sr) Ints

Sat 26th Holy Family

6pm

Sun 27th Holy Family

9am Peter Boxall RIP

11am Jack Nelson RIP

Mon: 28th

Tue 29th

Wed 30th Lilian Darby RIP

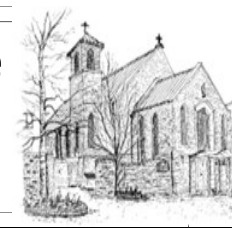
Thur: 31st Louisa Goddard RIP

Fri: 1st Mary Mother of God

10am



## St John Vianney Wantage Sacred Heart Lambourn



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### 2020 Fourth Sunday in Advent—Year B

#### A Job For Life



How many of us leap out of bed

in the morning fired with the enthusiasm of knowing we have a very special job to do? How many of us wake up hitting the 'snooze button' not relishing our day's work one little bit? Sadly most of fall into the second category, but the

truth is that there is no need to live routinely hum drum and unfulfilled lives. We are told that God has a very particular job for each of us to do; all we have to do is answer the call. Today we hear how the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary and announced her very special calling ... to be the Mother of Jesus. From that moment on, Mary's life would never be the same again. From that moment on the normal life she had planned with Joseph was to be turned upside down. She was about to embark on a life of great excitement, great uncertainty, challenges, joys and sorrows, but above all, great fulfilment. Answering God's call could never be boring.

We might not get angels knocking on the door, but God calls us each as surely as he called Mary. We mightn't think we have what it takes to step up to the mark, but the only qualifications God asks are a willingness to make ourselves available, commitment and trust. Mary demonstrates these qualifications when she answers very readily, "Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word."

**Carol Service** Our virtual Carol Service is on Sunday at 5pm on Zoom. Join us to begin our Christmas celebrations together.



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

**CHRISTMAS OFFERING** —The collection taken during Christmas Masses is traditionally your gift to your parish priest. This collection makes up a significant proportion of Fr. David's annual income. With limited ability to have collections in Church your Christmas Offering can be made directly into the parish bank account (details below) referenced "Christmas Offering" Thank you in advance for your kindness and generosity.

#### 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: PRCDTR Wantage St. John Vianney.** Please remember that you can always drop your donation into the Presbytery letterbox. Same Account for Wantage and Lambourn



## For Expectant Mothers

Traditionally, the Fourth Sunday in Advent is the time of year we pray for expectant mothers. We pray that mums-to-be have all the support and help they need. We pray particularly for expectant mothers who are filled with anxieties and uncertainty. We also pray for couples who are experiencing the pain of not being able to conceive, and for those who have lost a child.

## Christmas Isn't What it Used To Be!

There's a sameness about Christmas. We listen to the same nativity story, look in at the same crib, sing the same carols, dig out the same decorations and enjoy the same festivities. But there's one thing that's different every year. US! WE are different. Each year we are a little older and a little more experienced. Our challenge is to make it to next Christmas better and stronger than we were before. Christmas isn't what it used to be, and that can only be a good thing.



## Care for Our Common Home Top Tips for a Green Christmas

Avoid buying wrapping paper that has glitter or foil on it. This means it cannot be recycled. Buy your fruit and vegetables loose and ditch all that wasteful plastic packaging. Buy drinks in bigger bottles rather than small ones. One large bottle generates less waste than several smaller ones. Use the right-sized pan for the vegetables you cook, and only boil the kettle with the amount of water you need. Don't forget to recycle all that can be recycled including Christmas cards and the tree.

## Boxing Day or St Stephen's Day 26th December

St Stephen is the first Christian martyr. The tiny babe in swaddling clothes grew up and people were willing to give their lives for him. St Stephen's defence of his faith before the court enraged the audience, and he was taken out of the city and stoned to death. His final words, a prayer of forgiveness for his attackers (Acts 7:60), echo those of Jesus on the cross.

## Act now and ask your MP to oppose introducing assisted suicide

The assisted suicide lobby have launched a large campaign to put pressure on the Government to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It is vital that it is clear to the Government that the public want them to continue to hold strong against this pressure from assisted suicide campaigners and reject their demands.

Right To Life UK have set up an easy to use tool which will enable you to email your MP asking them to make it clear to the Government that it should not give into demands from the assisted suicide lobby to reconsider the legalisation of assisted suicide. It only takes 30 seconds to email your MP by visiting the link <https://righttolife.org.uk/StopAssistedSuicide>



## Dois homens gordos em um barco!

I hate to say that our first stop in Lisbon was not the ornate cathedral where my favourite saint started out but the Pasteis de nata shop. Br.M's addiction is getting out of hand! The world-famous custard tarts shop is next door to a monastery so we will have some religion eventually. Some would think that I would have made a bee line to the shrine

of St Anthony of Padua -yes he was born in Lisbon- and offer prayers in thanksgiving for a safe arrival but Br.M won out. How often I chanted, "Tony, Tony, turn around somethings lost and must be found" in my youth. St Anthony was the saint of my childhood always ready to find something lost. Strangely you had to promise something in return for the favour. Normally a few coins in the poor box. Granny warned that if you didn't pay up you lost something more valuable. We always paid up! I think Irish religion had a strange mix of deep faith and odd customs.

Lisbon like Rome was built on seven hills so we see lots of trams rattling around. As one of the oldest cities in Europe it has a wonderful charm. Rather run down not as deluxe as London but full of little cafes and shops. A delight to wander around and a well-earned rest from rowing.

We have delicious seafood, the famous chicken PiriPiri, Caldo verde and Chorizo and bean stew to look forward to. Br.M insisted that we savour Lisbon's most popular dish first. "Piri Piri is swahili for pepper", he said in a rare show of having read something interesting.

I'm looking forward to the famous desert, Prego, a steak sandwich. Rick Stein said on his trip that only God can explain why it worked but it did. Any country that has a steak sandwich for desert gets my vote.

Br.M is getting a little worried about getting home. Firstly, it was spending 14 days in quarantine but now that the Brexit discussions are going badly, he may have to stay with me. I did offer to adopt him so he could get an Irish passport, but I can't print his reply. I don't know why as Irish passports are like hens' teeth.

We have moved a little south to Comporta. Comporta has been compared to everything from Ibiza to St Tropez before the cruise ships, crowds, and Kardashians descended. Which is not to say the celebs aren't here: Madonna, Christian Louboutin and Phillipe Starck all have hideaways here. Br.M wants to do some celeb spotting. I have no idea who the second two are but Br.M is adamant he wants to find them. Something to do with shoes and chairs he keeps saying. A little late for Lord Byron who loved the place too. There is also an ominous air about the visit as I am expecting Br. P to turn up. More than likely he will arrive like a feudal lord with Mother A in tow and a convent of nuns. He likes the dramatic! We are hoping to go to the Missa Do Galo or Rooster's Mass at midnight on Thursday. The mass got its name from the legend that the rooster crowed at midnight to herald the Messiah. Knowing my luck it will herald the arrival of Br.P. However, I do miss him and hope he re-joins the expedition soon  
God Bless and Happy Advent 4.