

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.

April 10th –17th

Sat:10th

Sat: 10th Tudor Morgan RIP

Sun: 11th Tom Ross RIP

Sun: 11th

Mon: 12th

Tue:13th Patricia Capp's ints

Wed: 14th Bridget Forbes RIP

Wed 14th 12 Noon

Thur:15th

Fri: 16th Joanne Benzair RIP

Sat:17th

Please note the Extra mass at Lambourn on Wednesday 12 noon

Public Mass

Wantage

Tuesday and Friday 10am

Lambourn

Wednesday 12noon.

Sunday 9am Wantage

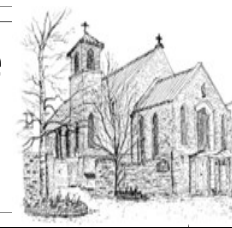
Sunday 11am Lambourn

No Booking needed for weekday Masses

Booking for Weekend Masses essential.



St John Vianney Wantage Sacred Heart Lambourn



Parish Priest: Fr. David O'Sullivan

Telephone: 01235 762374 Mobile: 07554427063

Office e-mail: wantage@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

2021 Second Sunday of Easter Year B

The Way Forward



For those who find belief elusive, there is an uncomfortable beatitude in today's gospel. "Happy are those who have not seen and have believed." This can feel like a reproach to those of us who harbour doubts, but the important thing to remember is that doubt can be a good thing. Doubt means that we are still questioning something that we care about. Doubt means that we are still looking for answers that we are still learning and growing. Doubt is a tool that we can use

to carve a mature faith. Belief isn't something we either have or haven't got ... belief is a process, and the end product of that process, is one's own spiritual self. The story of 'Doubting Thomas' is aimed at all those generations of people who will not see the risen Lord, yet are asked to believe. So are we really being asked to believe in what we cannot see or hear or touch, when even those closest to Jesus had problems in accepting what was happening?

In today's gospel we see Thomas struggling with a problem that many of us still struggle with today. Thomas desperately wanted to believe in the risen Jesus, but he wasn't the sort of person to pretend he understood something when he didn't. He wasn't the sort of person that could pretend that he didn't have doubts when he did. There are many of us today who desperately want deeper meaning in our lives.

There are those amongst us who have become disillusioned with the Church and wish they could embrace what it once meant. There are many of us who would like to find a deeper faith but have found only stumbling blocks. Like Thomas, we find that the gap between faith and doubt too big a leap. The good news is that just as Jesus showed Thomas patience so he will be patient with us too. The good news is that just as Jesus gave Thomas a way to forward his faith so too will we be shown a way forward if we want it enough.

Divine Mercy Sunday This Sunday is popularly known as 'Mercy of God Sunday.' Between 1930 and 1938 Christ appeared to Sister Faustina, a Sister of Mercy in Poland who initiated the Divine Mercy devotion. She was canonized on April 30th, 2000, the Sunday after Easter, the Feast of Divine Mercy. The second Sunday of Easter is also known as 'Low Sunday' or 'Thomas Sunday'.



In your prayers, please remember all who have recently died especially Lady Violet. 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 .

St. Bernadette Soubirous 16th April

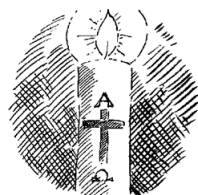
Millions of people have come to the spring Bernadette uncovered for healing of body and spirit, but she found no relief from ill health there herself. Interestingly Bernadette moved through life, guided only by blind faith in things she did not understand. Blind faith is something we might find uncomfortable in this day and age, but it's something we are all guided by from time to time. Maybe there are times we have to accept that blind faith is better than blind doubt.

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. If you are making a donation for Easter Offering you can use the above account.

Care for Our Common Home Trees For Tom

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Captain Sir Tom Moore raised over £38 million for the NHS. Now his family wish to honour his love of nature and the natural world by planting trees in his memory. Captain Sir Tom Moore voiced his concern about what the future holds for his grandchildren. By planting new trees, his legacy will help combat climate change - and bring so many other benefits - around the world. The family has chosen to plant trees in the UK with the Woodland Trust. The Woodland Trust have planted 50 million trees since it began in 1972, and have plans for 50 million more over the next five years. Remember Captain Sir Tom Moore and create a brighter future today. Donate to plant trees at www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/give/trees-for-tom



Season of Easter

Easter isn't just one day; it's a 'season'. The fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost are celebrated in joyful exultation as one feast day, or better as one "great Sunday".

The gospel readings for the first three Sundays recount the appearances of the risen Christ. The readings about the Good Shepherd are assigned to the Fourth Sunday. On the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh

Sundays, there are excerpts from the Lord's discourse and prayer at the last supper.

News from Sr Hyacinthe, OP. Formation for Mission

Readers' Training Workshops: 17th and 24th April – The two workshops form together a comprehensive training or refresher for new or seasoned parish readers, looking at the Liturgy, the practical skills for reading, as well as the Bible and how to understand the readings. The training also involves a 1:1 practice session with an experienced diocesan listener, to improve the quality of reading. Find out more details here:

<https://www.pffm.org.uk/readers> **Workshop 1 - 17th April 2021 - 10 am to 1 pm:** register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlIduGorzwiHdcAqEFveyBR-RPN8MnHZh0V> **Workshop 2- 24th April 2021 - 10 am to 1 pm:** register here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqdeiugDgtGtGp8nhAF651zA-dB-xB31lg>

Thank ~You

Following a wonderful Easter I would like to thank you all for all your support encouragement and Easter gifts. We were very blessed this year to have people in attendance at all the Triduum and Easter Day itself. What a difference it makes to have the community gathered. While it wasn't our usual celebration it was special. Our Taize Service was popular and a wonderful way to begin the Season. Thank you to Judy and Carol for all their hard work behind the scenes and to those who participated. We were full(socially distanced of course) for all the Easter Services. Most of those who wanted to attend we able to despite limited numbers. For those who couldn't be here in person Zoom was a Godsend. Thank you to all those who have worked tirelessly behind the scenes to keep our wonderful community together during these testing times. The last year has shown us that we really belong together even though we can't meet in person. May God continue to bless our efforts are building His community.



Travels with my bro....

What an Easter we had! The very long 40 days of Lent were difficult especially as both Br.M and I were seriously fasting. No bread, no alcohol, no red meat, cheese or caffeine.

Difficult enough when at home but in Spain 100 times more arduous. It wasn't the rowing that caused the problems but

everywhere we turned there was deliciousness. It was the like the temptations in the desert writ large. But we didn't succumb. However Easter Day was a joy. We spent Easter day just outside Toledo as little rowing was done in Passion Week which we spent on our knees. Located on the banks of the Tagus in Castilla La Mancha, Toledo is known as the "Imperial City" because it was the main venue of the court of Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor in Spain, and as the "City of the Three Cultures" for the cultural influences of Christians, Muslims, and Jews reflected in its history. Game is no doubt the key to local food. Deer, wild boar, wood pigeon, quail and, of course, red-legged partridge fill the plates of those ready to sample the most traditional dishes. We opted for dishes by my mate Rick of , *Sopa de Ajo con huevos (Garlic soup and Eggs) followed by Cordonices en escabeche (Quail in spices and herbs)*. No spring lamb in this part of the world. On the down side Br M was suggesting that we could get into trouble as it was out of season. I think he thought I got up early to go hunting. I didn't let on that I bought them in the market pre cooked and vacuum packed All these delicacies were washed down with a drop of locally produced wine, Méntrida, Sadly Br. M did a lot of whinging as he was missing the Boat Race for the first time in years. He did some rowing while at Cambridge and loves to relive his student days. As I felt sorry for him I borrowed another boat and I told him we could run our own Boat Race. Cambridge versus National University of Ireland. A novel idea but anything to keep him quiet for a while. We found a relatively straight stretch of the Tagus and set off. Needless to say Cambridge didn't get the triple. I won by about 10 lengths. Br.M no longer has his rowing physique and I have been rowing since last year so had the edge. He wasn't happy. I did gloat a little too much. I asked if it was tugboat racing he did at Cambridge. When I suggested that we might have a suez Canal incident he wasn't impressed. He suggested that we have another competition this time on horses albeit, Br.M and I on horses may have the RSPCA calling. We'd need enormous shire horses to take the weight. Br.M is no Lester Piggott and I'm no Ruby Walsh. Sumo wrestling may be our sport. We are currently just outside Aranjuez 40km south of Madrid. I hope to learn the famous concerto on my Saxophone. Hasta la proxima semana as they say here. Dios bendiga. Now what's the fingering for D Major?