

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.

2nd Jan —

Sat: 2nd

Sat: 2nd Jim Fogarty RIP

Sun: 3rd Eithne Naughton RIP

Sun: 3rd

Mon: 4th

Tue: 5th John McCaffrey RIP

Wed: 6th Epiphany Prior Family's Ints

Thur: 7th

Fri: 8th

Sat: 9th

Mass times open to attend

Mass on Sat Eve 6pm

Mass on Sunday 9am and 11am

You must book ahead as usual.

Wednesday is the Feast of the Epiphany. Morning Mass 10am open to attend. Book ahead.

Mass on Tuesday and Friday open to attend. Book ahead



## St John Vianney Wantage Sacred Heart Lambourn

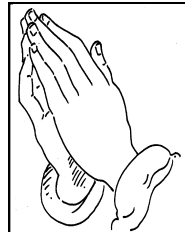


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### 2021 Second Sunday after Christmas—Year B



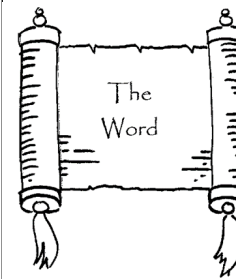
In your prayers, please remember all who have recently died especially Jack Nelson. Also pray for all who are sick, in hospital or housebound especially Pete Gray, Sybil Murphy, Margaret Joyce, Peter Shaw, Cathy Longworth, Mary Derbyshire, Wendy Purslow, Sue Maher, Cedric Andrews, and all those suffering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

**Thank You.**

Happy New Year to everyone. Thank you all again for all the kindness shown to me over the Christmas period. Thank you for all your cards, gifts and Christmas offerings. They are very much appreciated. Your continued support over the past few difficult months has made my job much easier and kept me sane. Let's pray that 2021 will bring the respite we all need.  
FrD

#### **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



### **Great Beginnings**

All the best books have great beginnings, and St. John's gospel is no exception. The gospel begins with an eighteen-verse introduction, which we call 'The Prologue'. The prologue contains intriguing themes such as creation, life, and truth. Through it all, John refers to Jesus as the 'Word'. If John had been writing today, would he have used different language? To us the word 'Word' is simply a means of expression. In

John's day the word 'Word' had greater implication. To understand today's gospel, we need to know that in Hebrew Scriptures the 'Word' had a power of its own. The 'Word' was not just a sound or an expression, but something with its own life. The 'Word' was an agent of creation. We can see this for ourselves in Genesis. 'God said, "Let there be light," and light appeared.' God's 'Word' has the power to create. To call Jesus the 'Word' was to attribute to him the ability to make things happen.

We can bring our own understanding of the 'Word' to help us understand this gospel. Our own understanding of words is of language, understanding and communication. Perhaps to describe Jesus as the 'Word' is to imply that he was sent as a communication between God and us.

How would we have recorded the beginning of Jesus' public ministry? We may have been tempted to record his great deeds as any well-trained newspaper reporter may have done. We may have been tempted to place him in a political or historical context worthy of any great public figure. John however, begins his gospel by placing Jesus fairly and squarely at the centre of creation itself. The story starts with the bold statement that Jesus is the meaning behind creation, life and truth. It's a great beginning. Can we put down John's gospel; tell ourselves this has no relevance in our lives ..... or do we keep turning the pages.

## Happy New Year



## Reach for the Stars

### The Epiphany

At this time of year lots of us are making new year resolutions, but how many of us have the nagging feeling that we have made the same resolution many times before, yet despite our best intentions each year has followed the same path as previous years. Some of us refuse to make resolutions, knowing only too well that change is out of reach. It's not that we don't want change.

Most of us want life to be a little different. Some of us long for a new way of life, so how come 'change' is so elusive? Today the Church commemorates the first manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. We call it the 'Epiphany' a word derived from the Greek meaning 'to appear' or 'to be shown forth'. The Epiphany is about searching for meaning purpose and revelation. The Magi were men of great learning, intellect and wealth, yet they weren't prepared to sit back and imagine they knew it all. Guided by a star and motivated by a hunger for truth, they stepped out of their comfort zone and set out across the desert not knowing what they would find or how long it would take. It was a journey of faith and great courage.

The biggest barrier we encounter in our quest to find change is the inability to realise that we have to do something a bit different. We do the same things day in and day out, yet expect a different outcome. Today we are invited to look for something that will pull us free of our old way of doing things. In the same way as the star got the wise men questioning, so too we find guiding stars in our lives that make us question. What circumstances get us looking for deeper meaning? The desire to leave a mind-numbingly meaningless job, the need to make sense of a family illness, or the curiosity to research the background to a motivational book are all circumstances in which we might find our 'guiding stars'. Today's gospel reading is an invitation for all God's people to step out of their old way of life and search for something new.

### Peace Actions for January 2021

Make a visit to another Christian church in your area as part of your commitment to **Christian Unity Week**, between 18 - 25 January in 2021.

Try to mark **Holocaust Memorial Day** (27<sup>th</sup> January). Resources are available from the Council for Christians and Jews or Beth Shalom Holocaust Centre. Remember to pray for peace in the Middle East around Epiphany time.



### Travels with my bro....

Sadly very little rowing has taken place over the past week. Br M insisted that we stop and do a Christmas retreat at a local monastery before we celebrated the festivities. It was good to have a break. 2021 will continue the saga. Little did I think when I set off in March that it would become like Michael Palin's epic trek around the world. Why Oh Why? did I not bring a camera crew!!! My TV debut after all this zooming. And no mention in the honours list again!



### Pope Francis's Prayer Intention Human Fraternity January 2021

It's a sad truth that religion through the centuries has actually contributed to world conflict as much as it has striven to create peace. But it is also true that all religions have common foundations, and people all over the world whatever their religion and whatever their background want the same things.

Everyone needs love, respect, work, food, shelter and freedom.

Because we all want the same things, it makes sense that we should look for ways to work together. This month Pope Francis invites us to join in his prayer intention for January 2021, **"....May the Lord give us the grace to live in full fellowship with our brothers and sisters of other religions, praying for one another, open to all."**

### Care For Our Common Home *Christmas Recycling*

Christmas is a fantastic time of year, but it can take its toll on the environment. Did you know we throw away 1 billion cards and enough wrapping paper to reach the Moon every year? The Woodland Trust gives us a couple of ideas for recycling our Christmas waste.

#### **Christmas cards:-**

After cutting off any glitter or other unrecyclable embellishments, Christmas cards can be put in household recycling in most areas. Before recycling, consider whether you can get any more use out of your cards. You could get creative and upcycle them into decorations or gift tags for next Christmas.

#### **Wrapping paper:-**

Wrapping paper recycling depends on what material it's made from. Anything with glitter or foil is an instant no-no. If you're not sure, a quick and easy way to check is the scrunch test. Scrunch the paper into a ball. If it stays closed, it's recyclable - though any plastic tape, ribbons and tags need removing first. Never throw away a gift or bottle bag. Just remove the label and re-use next year.