

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 24th– 1st May**

**Sat: 24th** In Thanksgiving

**Sat: 24th**

**Sun: 25th**

**Sun: 25th** Dermot French RIP

**Mon: 26th**

**Tue: 27th** Shawn Dawson's intentions

**Wed: 28th** Frieda Murray RIP

**Wed 28th**

**Thur: 29th** Denis Marriot RIP

**Fri: 30th** Helen Plaistow RIP

**Sat: 1st**

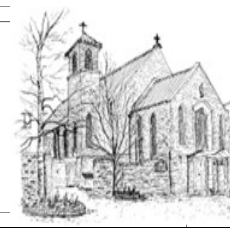
**Public Mass**  
**Wantage: Tue, Wed, Thurs**  
**and Fri 10am**  
**Lambourn Wed 12noon.**  
**Sunday 9am Wantage**  
**Sunday 11am Lambourn**

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

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



## St John Vianney Wantage Sacred Heart Lambourn



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### 2021 Forth Sunday of Easter Year B

#### The Good Shepherd



Today's gospel is for anyone who has ever felt unloved or insignificant. Today's gospel is for anyone who feels his or her life doesn't count for much. At some time or another that probably means most of us. In biblical days shepherding was a highly dangerous business. Herds might consist of thousands of sheep, and shepherds had to be highly skilled in tending for the sheep and protecting

them from wolves and robbers. The shepherd's care and courage were legendary. A good shepherd would not think twice about his own life in protecting his sheep. This is the image that Jesus chose for himself in today's gospel. He is the good shepherd. His leadership is a mixture of tenderness, strength and self sacrifice. Jesus loves us so much that he would lay down his life. That's a powerful belief to take out into the world!

But what if we don't quite believe it? Surely there are too many of us to love and look after individually. People fall by the wayside all the time. We hear tragic stories of elderly people who die alone and are not discovered for days because no one cares enough to visit. We see down and outs sleeping in subways because their family and friends have given up on them. Can God really be looking out for each and every one of us? Surely there are too many of us to look after – to love individually. Not so! Jesus we're told would not let even one of his sheep stray without coming to the rescue. He knows each and every one of us by name. If we are one of his, then he will recognise us and take care of us. That's another powerful belief to wake up with. The next time you are feeling lost and forgotten, try looking for the Good Shepherd's love in your life. God's help is always there when we look to him.



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.

## Care for Our Common Home Help lock up carbon with a donation

Capturing and storing carbon from the atmosphere is vital in the fight against climate change. The 1,000-plus woodlands cared for by the Woodland Trust absorb and lock-up many tonnes of carbon each year in trees, shrubs and soils. By making a donation, you'll help protect and add to this extensive carbon store, ensuring it continues to absorb emissions, as well as creating natural havens for wildlife and people.

To make a donation visit [www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/give/](http://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/support-us/give/)

## World Day of Prayer for Vocations

***"For each one of us the Lord has a vocation, that place God wants us to live our lives, but we must seek it."***

"The Lord's call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a "cage" or a burden to be borne. On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking. He opens before our eyes the horizon of a greater sea and an abundant catch."

God in fact desires that our lives not become banal and predictable, imprisoned by daily routine, or unresponsive before decisions that could give it meaning. The Lord does not want us to live from day to day, thinking that nothing is worth fighting for, slowly losing our desire to set out on new and exciting paths. If at times he makes us experience a "miraculous catch", it is because he wants us to discover that each of us is called – in a variety of ways – to something grand, and that our lives should not grow entangled in the nets of an ennui that dulls the heart. Every vocation is a summons not to stand on the shore, nets in hand, but to follow Jesus on the path he has marked out for us, for our own happiness and for the good of those around us.

*Taken from the Message of Pope Francis for the World Day of Vocations.*

## Saint Joseph The Worker 1st May

In response to the 'May Day' celebrations for workers, Pope Pius XII instituted the feast of St Joseph the Worker in 1955.

In an effort to keep Jesus from being removed from ordinary human life, the Church has from the beginning proudly emphasised that Jesus was a carpenter, obviously trained by Joseph in both the satisfactions and the drudgery of that vocation. As Christians and as workers, we are reminded on this day that we have an obligation to treat our brothers and sisters in Christ as true brothers



Sadly, rowing was difficult this week. Not due to our Easter overindulgence but another issue, the heat. We had forgotten how hot it gets in central Spain. Its lovely when you are lounging at the beach or by the pool but trying to row it becomes a problem. This week it was only 19 degrees, but it felt like 30 on the river. We Celts don't like the sun. Fair skin and freckles should avoid the sun at all times. Of course, the Easter overindulgence in Spanish cuisine didn't help. The simple equation calories in versus calories out didn't seem to add up. Br.M gave me a lecture on what seemed to be the second law of Thermodynamics and calorie loss. I pretended to listen as I munched on a local delicacy, *Borrachuelo*. *They normally come from around Malaga but we have brought a store with us.* The name of this pastry comes from the word 'drunk' in Spanish, owing to the fact that each pastry is drenched in wine before being fried in oil and given a generous dusting of sugar. Don't ask how many calories but I've had about two dozen since Easter Day. I'm sure they translate as Michelin Man Cakes. We had an exciting surprise this week. We had a visit from Mother A bearing gifts. We were a little worried at first, but it was a lovely afternoon. She came laden with sandwiches and crisps and a chocolate cake. These were no ordinary sandwiches, cue the sultry music and the sonorous voice over. Thick cut wholemeal bread from the Cotswolds, creamy Jersey butter, crispy Cos lettuce and fat juicy prawns. These are no ordinary prawn sandwiches these are..... you get the jist. They were not from Aldi. She was asking after Br.P as she was worried that he had not surfaced in months, but we could not help her. She had put the nun's version of Interpol onto it. "If he can be found he will", were her parting words reminiscent of a Bond villain. Hasta la proxima semana as they say here. Dios bendiga. Don't forget if you are going out into the sun this weekend to wear sunscreen. You don't want to be like Br.M and do a great impression of a tomato!

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.