

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.

Feb 6th– 13th

Sat:13th Mary Leydon's ints

Sat:13th Michael O'Connor RIP

Sun: 14th

Sun: 14th Mary O'Connor RIP

Mon: 15th Dinah Booker RIP

Tue: 16th

Wed: 17th 10am Ash Wednesday

Wed: 17th 7pm.

Thur: 18th

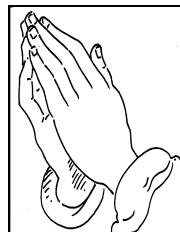
Fri: 19th Mary Adams RIP

Sat:20th

Public Mass
Sat Eve 6pm Wantage
Sunday 9am Wantage
Sunday 11am Lambourn

Tue 10am
Fri 10am
Booking essential

Weekdays 10am on Zoom



In your prayers, please remember all who have recently died especially Beth Monaghan. Also pray for all who are sick, in hospital or housebound especially Pete Gray, Sybil Murphy, Margaret Joyce, Peter Shaw, 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.

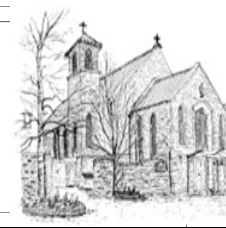
Lenten Retreat: 'Finding Hope in Scripture' for everyone. Every Monday evening during Lent, for 6 weeks, we will discover aspects of the virtue of hope from 6 different Bible passages, so that we may grow in hope in these difficult times, and find ways to share our hope with others. Our reflection will be followed by a time of live-streamed adoration and Compline with the Dominican Sisters of St Joseph. Register here to participate: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/zoom/register/tZEtc-2grjkiGtU8vPFJea2ktvR5U0MZ1mrL>

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



St John Vianney Wantage Sacred Heart Lambourn



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2021 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time—Year B



Back From the Brink

'Dysfunctional' is a word we hear a lot nowadays. Parents who drink, gamble or who neglect their children are deemed 'dysfunctional'. Those who take drugs, steal or spend aimless and less than useful lives are labelled dysfunctional. As a society we are often guilty of shunning the dysfunctional, fearing them or even despising them. For those of us who have been labelled as dysfunctional we sink into an abyss of loneliness and desperation. There are those of us who know what it is like to have sunk so low that there seems no way back.

The leper in today's story knew no way back from the affliction that had ostracised him from society ... no way back that is, until he heard of Jesus. The leper kneels

before Jesus and begs for a cure, and moved by pity Jesus makes him well again, commanding him not to rush off and tell everyone. Of course, the leper cannot keep Jesus a secret. The ex leper has not just been healed of an illness, he has been rescued from an existence where he could not function at any level. Now the ex leper can return to his home, his community and his loved ones. For the ex leper his life has been transformed. His life had been restored, but restored with a meaning it didn't have before. The ex leper has been made whole, emotionally, spiritually and physically. How can he keep his tremendous joy to himself?

Today we are asked to put ourselves in the place of the leper. Jesus asks us to look at our lives and ask ourselves what is missing. What is it that can isolate us? What is it that builds barriers? What makes us live lives of bigotry, fear, anger, jealousy, frustration, insecurity, pain or misunderstanding? What is missing from our lives that could make us function as a whole? Might it be purpose, determination, humility, courage, forgiveness, mission God?

When God brings us back from the brink of isolation, it is hard to feel anything but joy, and if that joy is contagious, is there any better way to promote Jesus' desire for living life in wholeness?



Ash Wednesday

Discipleship is about almsgiving, prayer and fasting and Lent is the time we are given to examine how well we have embraced that discipleship. We make these preparations with a genuine desire to discover the truth about ourselves, guarding against any hypocritical agenda to seek attention. The ashes on our foreheads (but not this year) remind us that time is short and we learn anew to face this grim reality with truthfulness and courage. There are two opportunities for Mass on Ash Wednesday 10am and 7pm. Booking essential.

Day of Prayer for the Unemployed 14th February

Being unemployed is hugely demoralising. Flicking through pages of job adverts and feeling that you can't do any of them is soul destroying. Knowing that Covid has left thousands without a job has only added to the pressure. There's a lot of good advice out there for the unemployed, but the most important thing to believe is that God sees your qualities and skills even if you can't see them yourself, and that God presents opportunities when you are least expecting them.

40 Days to Make a Change

During Lent we fast to take us away from things that inhibit us from talking to God and inhibit us from finding our real selves. If that 'fast' is something meaningful, and helps our relationship with God then so much the better. 40 days to consider what you can do to reduce your carbon. How do you impact the planet through the pattern of your energy consumption? This year is a vital year for the planet. The UK will host the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) in Glasgow on 1 – 12 November 2021. The COP26 summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change 40 days to switch off social media and re-read **Pope Francis' Laudato Si': On the Care of Our Common Home (Published 2015)** For those who don't know, this is an appeal addressed to "every person living on this planet" for an inclusive dialogue about how we are shaping the future of our planet. Pope Francis calls the Church and the world to acknowledge the urgency of our environmental challenges and to join him in embarking on a new path.

Dates for you Diary:

Taize Prayer Evening Sunday 28th March 5pm on Zoom



The Readings of Lent for the Year of Mark Tuesdays in Lent 7pm–7.30pm on Zoom.



Travels with my bro....

We have safely reached Seville having meandered along the Guadalquivir river. This southern Spanish capital is famous for its historic churches and palaces, Moorish buildings, flamenco dancing (much to BrM's worry as his special shoes have arrived by Orinoco). I am looking forward to my visit to Seville's Cathedral also known as the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the See, the Seville Cathedral is one of the city's most beloved landmarks. The Roman Catholic cathedral is a Unesco World Heritage site and is the world's largest Gothic cathedral. Even though you know of my fear of Towers we hope to go to The Giralda. It was once a minaret of a mosque that stood on the site of the Seville Cathedral, but now it's cathedral's bell tower and it's open to you to climb. This time Br.M will lead the way. More next week..... Hasta la proxima semana as they say here. Dios bendiga.



Saint Valentine, officially known as Saint Valentine of Rome, is a third-century Roman saint widely celebrated on February 14 and commonly associated with "courtly love." Although not much of St. Valentine's life is reliably known, and whether or not the stories involve two different saints by the same name is also not officially decided, it is highly agreed that St. Valentine was martyred and then buried on the Via Flaminia to the north of Rome. The romantic nature of Valentine's Day may have derived during the most likely created in the Middle Ages to overpower the pagan holiday, Lupercalia.

St. Valentine is the Patron Saint of, bee keepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travellers, and young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses.

Throughout the Lent, the Global Catholic Climate Movement is holding a series of online evenings with inspiring speakers, films, prayer and discussion, challenging people to respond to Pope Francis' call to Care for Our Common Home in *Laudato Si'*. Hosted by the GCCM *Laudato Si'* Animators in the UK the events take place on six **Thursdays from 18th February - 25th March**, 7.30pm - 8.30pm. To register please check their website.

"Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience...Truly, much can be done!" (Laudato Si', 217, 180)