

## Bishops' Holy Hour: 5:30pm on Wednesday, 13 November

Cardinal Vincent Nichols has called for Catholics in England and Wales to join him, and the Bishops of our countries, to pause for an hour at 5:30pm on Wednesday, 13 November to pray for the dignity of human life.

On that day, the Bishops will pause for an hour in the middle of their autumn plenary meeting to kneel in front of the Blessed Sacrament for a holy



hour in light of the bill passing through the UK parliament that seeks to legalise assisted suicide.

This bill, proposed by MP Kim Leadbeater, will receive its Second Reading with a vote, on Friday,

29 November 2024. It is important we take prayerful, compassionate action before this time.

"We offer our prayers this holy hour for the dignity of human life," said Cardinal Nichols. "In particular our focus is on the end of life and praying together in front of the Blessed Sacrament that assisted suicide will not become law in our lands. This would greatly diminish the importance and innate value of every human person, akin to saying that our life is not a gift of God. Instead we would be asserting that life is our own possession to do with as we choose. But we are far more important than that. We are a gift of God – a gift that is freely given. Then, when God is ready, we are called back to Him."

Value of every person

During this holy hour, Cardinal Nichols wants us to pray that hearts and minds will be open to God's truth about the value, importance, and beauty of every human person.

"We pray passionately that we will not take a step in legislation that promotes a so-called 'right to die'," he said. "That will quite likely become a duty to die and place pressure on doctors and medical staff to help take life rather than to care, protect, and heal."

The Cardinal, without being over prescriptive, did offer points for prayer at this time:

"When you are praying, please remember those who offer such care and accompaniment to people facing their last days and hours. Especially pray for those who work in palliative care – nurses, doctors, people who are home visitors. They do a wonderful job with care and compassion, but they need more resources. That is what we should be investing in, not a piece of legislation that leaves us vulnerable and under pressure to seek an end to our life."

Concluding his message calling for prayer on Wednesday, 13 November, Cardinal Nichols said: "This is an important moment in our history. Please write to your MP and express your view to that member of Parliament. Many have not yet made up their minds how to vote. May God bless us all, bless our countries, and bless those who make our laws with courage to embrace and uphold a culture of life." Culled from <https://www.cbcew.org.uk>

## The Law of Love

Love is only law we are to live by. And love is the fulfillment of the Law that God reveals through Moses in today's First Reading (see Romans 13:8–10; Matthew 5:43–48).

The unity of God—the truth that He is one

God, Father, Son, and Spirit—means that we must love Him with one love, a love that serves Him with all our hearts and minds, souls and strength.

We love Him because He has loved us first. We love our neighbor because we can't love the God we haven't seen unless we love those made in His image and likeness, whom we have seen (see 1 John 4:19–21).

And we are called to imitate the love that Christ showed us in laying His life down on the Cross (see 1 John 3:16). As we hear in today's Epistle, by His perfect sacrifice on the Cross, He once and for all makes it possible for us to approach God.

There is no greater love than to lay down your life (see John 15:13). This is perhaps why Jesus tells the scribe in today's Gospel that he is not far from the kingdom of God.

The scribe recognizes that the burnt offerings and sacrifices of the old Law were meant to teach Israel that it is love that God desires (see Hosea 6:6). The animals offered in sacrifice were symbols of the self-sacrifice, the total gift of our selves, that God truly desires.

We are called today to examine our hearts. Do we have other loves that get in the way of our love for God? Do we love others as Jesus has loved us (see John 13:34–35)? Do we love our enemies and pray for those who oppose and persecute us (see Matthew 5:44)?

Let us tell the Lord we love Him, as we do in today's Psalm. And let us take His Word to heart, that we might prosper and have life eternal in His kingdom, the heavenly homeland flowing with milk and honey.

Scott Hann



English Martyrs  
Vale of White Horse  
Pastoral Area

PARISHES OF  
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ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, Wallingford

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### 31ST SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR B (III)

**Entrance Antiphon** Ps 37:22-23

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me! Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

**First Reading:** Deuteronomy 6:2-6

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 17

I love you, Lord, my strength.

**Second Reading:** Letter to the Hebrews 7:23-28

**Gospel Acclamation:** Jn 6:58

**Alleluia, alleluia!!**

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life; you have the message of eternal life.

**Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Mark 12:28b-34

**Communion Antiphon:** Ps 15:11

You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

#### SATURDAY 2nd November ... All Souls

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... **Confession after Mass**

4:30 pm Adoration & Confessions before Vigil Mass St John Wallingford

5:00 pm Vigil Mass St John Wallingford....Noel Clifford Family RIP (Noel Clifford)

5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot

6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Mrs Freeman RIP

#### SUNDAY 3rd November ... 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Mr & Mrs Jovito Cardozo ... Thanksgiving

11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford ....All Souls

#### MONDAY 4th November ... St Charles Borromeo ... NO MASS

#### TUESDAY 5th November

12:00 noon Adoration before mass St John Wallingford ... Noel Clifford ... Thanksgiving

#### WEDNESDAY 6th November

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Mary Chance ... Good Estate (A. Bromley)

6:00 pm Mass English Martyrs Didcot

#### THURSDAY 7th November St Willibrord

9:30 am Mass St John Wallingford ... Mary Chance ... Good Health (A. Bromley)

#### FRIDAY 8th November

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Marie Clare Trevor RIP

#### SATURDAY 9th November ... Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Valmai Atsopartis RIP ... **Confession after Mass**

4:30 pm Adoration & Confessions before Vigil Mass St John Wallingford

5:00 pm Vigil Mass St John Wallingford ... Doris & Terry Hoyle thanksgiving

5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot

6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Lucy & Martin's intention

#### SUNDAY 10th November ... 32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ...Emily and Precious Samu ....Birthday Thanksgiving

11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford ....Raju Rodrick....Thanksgiving

In your prayers, please remember: Jenny Evans, Mary Guinan, Ann Tomline, Joan Walker, Joan Russell, Joan Turner, Nina Oakes, Jacob Oakes, Pat McLoughlin, Barry Molloy, David Woodley, Ann Furlong and all the sick and housebound of our churches.



### Baptism of Noelle

We rejoice with the parents and godparents of Noelle Francesca who through the sacrament of Baptism, will be made a member of the body of Christ next weekend. In your prayers, remember Noelle Francesca. We invoke God's blessings on her as she grows. Thanks to Andy Robins, who prepares parents for this great sacrament.

### DEATH/FUNERAL NOTICE

**John Atkinson (91) RIP** ... Requiem Mass ... Date TBD ... Didcot  
**Anna Talbot (94) RIP** ... Requiem Mass ... Date and place TBD



### The New Lectionary On Youtube

The Archdiocese of St Andrew's and Edinburgh have published three YouTube videos about the new Lectionary and about why the text has changed:  
Bishop Hugh Gilbert (Aberdeen) on "Introducing the English Standard Version"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9VmjpgOxkWg>  
Fr Paul Denney on "The New Lectionary"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OjCcYGD5Mk>  
Fr Adrian Porter SJ on "Proclaim the Word in the Liturgy"  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shuALIEpUGk>



### Join Abingdon Pilgrimage of Faith, Fellowship & Parisian Pleasures

Join us for a 3-day trip to Paris this February! Together, we'll explore the spiritual and cultural heart of the city, including visits to Notre-Dame de Paris, Sainte-Chapelle, and the Chapel of the Miraculous Medal for Mass and Adoration. Enjoy fellowship, a Bateau Mouche cruise, and time to discover Paris' famous museums and landmarks.  
**Dates:** Tuesday, Feb 18 – Thursday, Feb 20, 2025  
**Departure:** London St. Pancras, early morning  
**Return:** Late evening  
Accommodation and Eurostar bookings are independent but could be coordinated by the organising team at the Parish of Our Lady and St Edmund Abingdon. **For more details, contact Sabina 07449825161.**

### Second Collections: Bamenda Sunday 3 November 2024

This Sunday 3 November is Bamenda Sunday and this year we mark a very special anniversary, namely its golden jubilee. Fifty years ago, Bishop Worlock and Bishop Verdzekov, of the then newly established Diocese of Bamenda, initiated the twinning as a practical demonstration of St Pope Paul VI's Vatican II document "Gaudium et Spes".  
Since 1974, the relationship has grown and strengthened. In the early years, priests from our Diocese worked in Bamenda, teaching the Faith, establishing parishes, schools, youth ministries, etc. Their mission was hugely successfully and saw a fledgling Church grow and develop. Many were inspired by them bringing the Gospel message directly to them. Today, we have the great privilege of welcoming priests from Bamenda into our own parishes and their mission to us is one of renewal at a time when our communities become daily more secular. We have much to thank God for from this twinning.  
A core aspect of the twinning is the practical projects that have been funded through the over £1,000,000 that has been raised by our parishes, largely through the annual Bamenda Sunday collection. This source of funding remains an important and tangible part of the relationship. Bamenda (Cameroon) is ranked 151st on the UN's Human Development Index covering 193 countries. The UK is ranked 15th. Please give as generously as possible to the Bamenda Sunday collection, every penny will go directly to an approved project aimed at cementing this twinning. Donations can also be made online at <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/donate?cid=136990#amount>. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



### Sacristans Need

We urgently need volunteers as Sacristans in The English Martyrs, Didcot. This role is open to your availability only. It is for those who can offer their free time as they wish. A rota enables you come in and go as fits your routine. The role of the sacristan in the Catholic Church includes the following duties: Preparing for Mass: Setting up the altar, arranging liturgical items, and laying out vestments for the clergy. Caring for sacred vessels: Cleaning and maintaining items like the chalice and paten. Assisting with ceremonies: Helping with the ringing of bells and other tasks during Mass when no altar server is available. Key to the Church and Sacristy will be made available. Training and support is available. Please, if you are interested send an email to Chris Stemp [c\\_stemp@outlook.com](mailto:c_stemp@outlook.com).

### Solemnity of All Saints is 1st November

When something seems too difficult, we have a tendency to 'switch off'. If something is seemingly beyond our reach, we don't even try. Following in the footsteps of the saints, for most of us is like attempting rocket science or brain surgery. But following in the footsteps of the saints is not about becoming a saint overnight. Saints are just real people who have struggled through crisis and frustration to live their faith. Like the concert pianist who began his career with simple scales, so following God's blueprint for discipleship is about starting out with small steps. See Newsletter for advertised mass times.

### Envelops and Dedicated Spots For Souls Departed

On this day, November 2nd, we remember all those who have died. We remember their kind deeds, the things they did for us and for other people; we remember how we loved them and how they loved us, and we pray we will be united with them again on the last day. We also pray for those who have died that we never knew. We pray for those who have died for our freedom, and we pray for all those who have died alone with no one to remember or pray for them. By remembering those who were loved, they are never really gone from us. As a parish, we shall offer prayers from now till the end of the month.  
As our practice, the foots of the altar (Wallingford) and the baptismal font (Didcot) are decorated to enable us place the names of our loved ones to be prayed for during the month of November, daily. Please put as many names as you may desire, but NO CASH. Please make out time daily to say private prayers for souls that are yet to be united with the angels and the saints.



### November 14th is Seniors' Lunch

On Thursday 10th of October, our wonderful team hosted the Seniors to roast gammon with pineapple. We thank all those who prepared and attended this great event of friends.  
A list is on the notice board by the entrance to the Tea Room for those interested in the November 14th Seniors' Lunch. If you have neighbours you think will benefit from our warmth and friendship, kindly invite them to come along. It is free. Jacque & Kim

### Flower Arrangers

Would you like to join our enthusiastic teams of Flower Arrangers at either English Martyrs Didcot or St John's Wallingford? No experience is necessary and help is available if required.  
This usually requires a flower arrangement every 4 or 6 weeks.  
Please contact Camilla King at English Martyrs by email at [kingaandb@gmail.com](mailto:kingaandb@gmail.com), or Gay Bosley (mobile: 07751 893621) at St John by email at [gaybosley66@gmail.com](mailto:gaybosley66@gmail.com).



### Unused Pyx Needed

A huge special thanks to our Extraordinary Eucharistic Ministers, whose special Ministry and vocation make Christ present in Holy Communion and the gift of friendship of the community to those who are unable to be present at mass.  
Are you still active? If no, do you still have the Pyx or any of the liturgical booklets you use? Do you know a new Eucharistic Minister can make use of the same. We need them. Please bring them to Father Dominic or leave them with any of the Sacristians. Thank you ever so much.



### Hummus and Gefilte Fish: Misrecognition and Divergence in Jewish-Palestinian Peace

Dr. Erica Weiss, Professor of Anthropology at Tel Aviv University, is giving this talk on Tuesday 12th November at 6pm in-person (University of Southampton) and online. This talk considers why religious Jews and Muslims in Israel/Palestine have broadly avoided the mainstream liberal peace camp. It also discusses what religious Jewish groups do differently when they organise their own peace initiatives. This distinction is revealing and speaks to divergent understandings of what peace looks like and how to get there. Dr. Weiss's research focuses on political anthropology, liberalism and its discontents, and living with difference. She has spent a decade conducting research with religious peace initiatives in Israel/Palestine. To attend or to follow the talk online, book at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/the-inter-faith-week-lecture-2024-tickets-1042877493657?aff=erelpanelorg>

### New Lectionary Information Sessions

The Liturgy team is offering two online sessions to explain the new lectionary which will be introduced in Advent. The sessions are designed for everyone, so please do promote them through newsletters and noticeboards. Each session, led by Father Anthony Fyk, will be identical (so you need only attend one) and will cover what the lectionary is, its revisions and what they mean for us, as well as an opportunity for Questions and Answers. If you wish to pose a question, please submit this in writing in advance to [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk). The sessions are on Tuesday 5th November and Tuesday 19th November from 7 to 8 pm. To sign up, please visit the parish website for more information.

### Parish Safeguarding Rep

Our Safety Officer for all adult and child safeguarding issues is Stefania Harford, please contact Stefania via the parish office on 01235 812338, if there is no response and in an emergency then dial 999.