The Example of Prince Alois of Liechtenstein



It is possible to say no to abortion. This is demonstrated by Prince Alois of Liechtenstein, who chose to veto a law that would have liberalised abortion in the first three months.

In a significant move for the protection of unborn life in Europe, Hereditary Prince Alois of Liechtenstein has officially exercised his constitutional power to veto, for his first time, a proposed law that would have introduced abortion on demand during the first three months of pregnancy.

The parliamentary initiative had narrowly passed in the Landtag on 2 September 2026 by a single vote (13 to 12). The bill sought to amend the Criminal Code so that terminating a pregnancy within the first twelve weeks would no longer be a criminal offense. Under Liechtenstein's current legislation—which offers some of the strongest legal protections for unborn babies in Europe—abortion is prohibited except under strict, limited circumstances, such as preventing a serious threat to the mother's life.

The text was the result of a popular initiative launched last June and likely supported by the pro-abortion movement linked to "My Voice My Choice," aimed at liberalising and legalising the termination of pregnancy in the first three months. Against the backdrop of nearly 5,000 signatures collected, the measure had passed in Parliament by a razor-thin margin.

Following months of careful deliberation and discussions, Prince Alois confirmed in a statement on 20 October 2026 that he would withhold his sanction from the bill. "I remain convinced that the proposed reform is not compatible with ensuring adequate protection of unborn life as a fundamental legal value," stated Prince Alois. "I am convinced that many people share the objective of providing the best possible support to women in difficult situations while at the same time protecting unborn life."

Rather than expanding abortion access, the Princely House is advocating for constructive alternatives that focus on compassionate support for mothers and families. The Hereditary Prince expressed openness to lifting advertising restrictions and strengthening counselling, information services, and practical care before, during, and … To read more: The Example of Prince Alois of Liechtenstein

Members of the Wedding



According to marriage customs of Jesus' day, a bride was first "betrothed" to her husband but continued for a time to live with her family. Then, at the appointed hour some months later, the groom would come to claim her, leading her family and bridal party to the wedding feast that would celebrate and inaugurate their new life together.

This is the background to the parable of the last judgment we hear in today's Gospel.

In the parable's symbolism, Jesus is the Bridegroom (see Mark 2:19). In this, He fulfills God's ancient promise to join Himself forever to His chosen people as a husband cleaves to his bride (see Hosea 2:16–20). The virgins of the bridal party represent us, the members of the Church.

We were "betrothed" to Jesus in Baptism (see 2 Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25–27) and are called to lives of holiness and devotion until He comes again to lead us to the heavenly wedding feast at the end of time (see Revelation 19:7–9; 21:1–4).

As St. Paul warns in today's Epistle, Jesus is coming again, though we know not the day nor the hour.

We need to keep vigil throughout the dark night of this time in which our Bridegroom seems long delayed. We need to keep our souls' lamps filled with the oil of perseverance and desire for God— virtues that are extolled in today's First Reading and Psalm.

We are to seek Him in love, meditating upon His kindness, calling upon His name, striving to be ever more worthy of Him, to be found without spot or blemish when He comes.

If we do this, we will be counted as wise and the oil for our lamps will not run dry (see 1 Kings 17:16). We will perceive the Bridegroom, the Wisdom of God (see Proverbs 8:12–21, 35; 9:1–6), hastening toward us, beckoning us to the table He has prepared, the rich banquet which will satisfy our souls.

Scott Hahn

English Martyrs
Vale of White Horse
Pastoral Area

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SVP contact: 07522 164758

32ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Entrance Antiphon:
Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

First Reading: Wisdom 6:12-16

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 63
For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia.
Stay awake and be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.
Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

Communion Antiphon: Ps 22:1-2
The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. Fresh and green are the pastures where he gives me repose, near restful waters he leads me.

SATURDAY 7th November … St Willibrord
9.30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot … Confession after Mass … Deceased Members of Lazarus Family
4.30 pm Adoration and Confession before Vigil Mass St John Wallingford
5.00 pm Vigil Mass St John Wallingford … Those on our Sick List
5.50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot
6.30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot … Anniversary of Red Wednesdays (Aid to Church in Need)

SUNDAY 8th November … Remembrance Sunday
9.00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot … Peggy Fullagar's Intention; Roberto & Elenita Sagum's Intention
11.00 am Mass St John Wallingford … People of the Parish

MONDAY 9th November … NO MASS … THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

TUESDAY 10th November … St Leo the Great
12.00 noon Mass St John Wallingford … People of the Parish

WEDNESDAY 11th November … St Martin of Tours
9.30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot … Christians Under Persecution & Aid to the Church in Need

THURSDAY 12th November … St Josaphat
9.30 am Mass St John Wallingford … Canon Peter Turbitt
12.00 pm Funeral Mary Guinan RIP … South Oxfordshire Crematorium

FRIDAY 13th November
9.30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot … Keith Little RIP (A Richardson); Holy Souls (Kim & Douglas)

SATURDAY 14th November … Our Lady on Saturday
9.30 am **NO MASS**
4.30 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass St John Wallingford
5.00 pm Vigil Mass St John Wallingford
5.50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot
6.30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot … Annie, Teresa and Family (June Wells)

SUNDAY 15th November
9.00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot … Chinedu & Joy Eke10th Wedding Anniversary Thanksgiving; Zane Ajakaiye's Birthday Thanksgiving
11.00 am Mass St John Wallingford

Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth Registered Charity No. 1199568

In your prayers, please remember: Margaret O'Conner, Jenny Evans, Ann Tomline, Joan Walker, Joan Turner, Nina Oakes, Jacob Oakes, Barry Molloy, Annie Furlong, Charles Hunt, Mark Sutton and all the sick and housebound.

DEATH NOTICE



Mary Guinan RIP … Funeral at 12pm, Thursday 12th November, South Oxfordshire Crematorium.

Michael Hogan RIP … Funeral at 3pm, Wednesday 18th November, South Oxfordshire Crematorium

Our Retired Priests need your Support

On the weekend of 14th/15th November, we will hold our first Second Collection for the Priests' Retirement Fund. This is an opportunity to support the priests who have faithfully served our parishes and communities throughout their lives. After decades of ministry, our retired priests deserve the security of knowing that the care and support they may need in later life will always be available. Your donation will help ensure that they can live with dignity and peace of mind in retirement.

Donation envelopes will be available with printed newsletters and at all Masses that weekend. You can also give using the Dona contactless terminal in church by selecting Priests' Retirement Fund Second Collection. If you would like to support the Fund on an ongoing basis, regular gifts by Direct Debit or standing order are especially valuable. To make a regular or one-off donation, and to read more about the Fund, please click here to visit the Priests' Retirement Fund page on our website. You can read there Bishop Philip's message about the importance of supporting our retired priests and also hear Fr John Nelson, Chair of the Priests' Retirement Fund Committee, explain how the Fund helps those who have dedicated their lives to serving Christ's Church. Our retired priests remain a valued part of our Church family. Just as we would support our own loved ones in later life, we are invited to care for those who have cared for us. Please support this appeal as generously as you can.



Charity Mass and Networking Event

This year, for the World Day of the Poor, Pope Leo XIV has chosen the theme 'The Lord is the refuge of the poor' from Psalm 14. In his message he challenges us to ask the question 'Are we a sign of a God who is a refuge of the poor?' To acknowledge how we are doing this in the diocese, and identify what we can do better, we have organised a networking day on **Saturday 14th November**. It provides a space for conversation, connection and inspiration on this theme. The event at St Bede's church in Basingstoke is open to everyone across the Diocese including, clergy, parishioners, teachers and charities, whether you are directly involved in charitable action or just interested in learning more. Starting with Mass, celebrated by Bishop Philip, we are also delighted to be welcoming speaker Fr Richard McKay from St Nicholas Tolentino parish in Bristol, whose love for those in need led to opening his parish in radical way. Please register your interest so we can send any updates directly to you, and for any questions contact Caritas.



Help Persecuted Christian Children and Families

Imagine being a child forced to leave your home because of violence, not knowing where your family will sleep, whether your education will continue, or what tomorrow will bring. For many Christian children and families around the world, this is a daily reality. Every year, supporters in the UK and around the world come together for **Aid to the Church in Need #RedWednesday** to shine a light on the persecution faced by Christians. This November marks the 10th anniversary of #RedWednesday with a new goal -- **Help Raise £1 Million for Persecuted Christians. And with their matched promise, every donation is doubled, so your gift will help give hope to twice as many people.** Scan the QR code provided to make your donation to #RedWednesday.

DONATE ♥

Support our latest appeal

Careers - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth: Current job openings across the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth.

Parish First Holy Communion Preparation Programme 2026-27

The application of our parish First Holy Communion Programme is now closed. We are pleased to announce that as in previous years, our programme has received a lot of attention and applications. Jess Nalin is running our programme again this year with assistance from Sandra and Anna Fudala. All teaching sessions will take place on Saturday afternoons from 2.30pm to 4pm at English Martyrs Didcot. The children will prepare to receive their First Holy Communion on the celebration of the Corpus Christi Solemnity during the 9am Sunday mass in Didcot on 30th May 2027. Let's keep the children, their families, Jess and her team in our prayers as they start their beautiful journey to prepare for this important sacrament.

Helping the Didcot Foodbank at Christmas

As a parish we are pleased to support the Didcot Foodbank in its Christmas efforts this year, providing food for people in crisis in our local area. They have asked for support with obtaining specific food items and volunteers to help pack these special food parcels. The packing will take place on Friday 27th November at 7pm in Didcot Baptist Church Hall which is usually a cheerful affair. There is a sign-up list at the back of the Church, and please see **Camilla King** or **Brian Doyle** after mass for details.

St Amand's Catholic Primary School Open Day

St Amand's Catholic Primary School in East Hendred is inviting families with children of primary school age to their Open Day on Tuesday 10 November. Please contact the school office at office.3855@st-amands.oxon.sch.uk or call 01235 833342 to register your interest. Our parish provides a reliable school bus service to support transport from English Martyrs Didcot to St Amand's at a small fee. St Amand's is the only Catholic primary school in our area providing quality Catholic education to many generations of Catholics in our parish and surrounding parishes. Come and see the school on their Open Day.

Online Donation With DONA

You can now access our parish online donation page with DONA at home or anywhere you are. If you want to make a payment to our parish account, send in money to a second collection and contribute to different parish funds such as St Amand's Transport Fund, Didcot Parish Centre Fund, Wallingford Refurb Fund or SVP Fund, you can simply use your computer or mobile device to access this page: https://donate.mydona.com/english-martyrs-didcot or scan the QR code as provided. This provides you a lot of convenience and peace of mind if you are not able to physically come into our churches to access the payment device but still want to make a payment or general offering. However, please DO NOT pay your Mass Intention stipend through DONA. Mass Intention stipend should be paid in cash with the Mass Intention Envelope in our parish churches. Thank you.

Dona

English Martyrs Gospel Group Meetings

The English Martyrs Gospel Reading Group meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be on **10th and 24th November. See you at 7.30pm** in the Tearoom. Contact Nick Spencer at 07870505520 if you have any questions.

New Initiative for young people – Pizza, Pray, Play

Children and young people aged 8 to 16 of Oxfordshire Pastoral Area are invited to the *Pizza, Pray, Play* at **St John Vianney Wantage Parish Hall, Charlton Rd, OX12 8ER** on **Friday 13th November at 6.30pm**. This is a new initiative and part of the formation and evangelisation cooperation across our pastoral area. Please come and join the first meeting if your children have received their First Holy Communion and you are looking for a continuation of faith formation activities for them. Email the Parish Office of Wantage at wantage@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or scan the QR code to register your interest and book your free pizza.



Parish Safeguarding

Our safeguarding minister for all adults and children safeguarding issues is Terez Moore. Please contact Terez via safeguarding.didwal@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. If there is no response and, in an emergency, dial 999.