

Bishops' Conference calls for Catholics to help abolish two-child benefit cap

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has renewed its call for the government to scrap the two-child benefit cap on Universal Credit payments and is asking Catholics to contact their local MPs to make their feelings known.

The policy is currently under review by the Gov-



ernment's Child Poverty Taskforce and the Bishops' Conference has set up an e-Action online – a simple form to help Catholics contact their MPs. Bishop Richard Moth said:

“The Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have opposed the two-child cap on Universal Credit payments since its introduction in 2017. We have continually called for its removal because of the impact on family life and child poverty.

“As Chair of the Department for Social Justice, I am pleased that the Government is reviewing the cap as part of the work of the newly formed Child Poverty Taskforce.”

Penalising larger families

The bishops have consistently argued that the policy has been undermining the financial security of families with three or more children. Such families often have no choice but to make claims for Universal Credit as a result of common, but unpredictable, life events, such as job loss or the onset of disability. The majority of families affected by the two-child policy are working families.

In challenging times, the cap can prompt families to make difficult decisions about having new pregnancies rather than rightly valuing every new life as sacred and a blessing.

Bishop Moth said: “I hope that Catholics in England and Wales will take this matter seriously, will pray for a just outcome of this review and will contact their Member of Parliament to make their feelings known.”

Along with making sure policymakers are aware of the strength of feeling from Catholics on this issue, the bishops also wish to demonstrate again that supporting families is a central part of their ministry in England and Wales.

Take Action

We encourage all Catholics to take part in this e-Action campaign.

You can make your voice heard and contact your MP. *Culled* www.cbcew.org.uk

Servant of All

In today's First Reading, it's like we have our ears pressed to the wall and can hear the murderous grumbings of the elders, chief priests, and scribes—who last week Jesus predicted would torture and kill Him (see Mark 8:31; 10:33–34).

The liturgy invites us to see this passage from the Book of Wisdom as a prophecy of the Lord's Passion. We hear His enemies complain that “the Just One” has challenged their authority, reproached them for breaking the law of Moses, for betraying their training as leaders and teachers.

And we hear chilling words that foreshadow how they will mock Him as He hangs on the Cross: “For if the Just One be the Son of God, He will . . . deliver Him . . .” (compare Matthew 27:41–43).

Today's Gospel and Psalm give us the flip side of the First Reading. In both, we hear of Jesus' sufferings from His point of view.



Though His enemies surround Him, He offers Himself freely in sacrifice, trusting that God will sustain Him.

But the Apostles today don't understand this second announcement of Christ's Passion. They begin arguing over issues of succession—over who among them is greatest, who will be chosen to lead after Christ is killed.

Again they are thinking not as God but as human beings (see Mark 8:33). And again Jesus teaches the Twelve—the chosen leaders of His Church—that they must lead by imitating His example of love and self-sacrifice. They must be “servants of all,” especially the weak and the helpless—symbolized by the child He embraces and places in their midst.

This is a lesson for us, too. We must have the mind of Christ, who humbled Himself to come among us (see Philippians 2:5–11). We must freely offer ourselves, making everything we do a sacrifice in praise of His name.

As James says in today's Epistle, we must seek wisdom from above, desiring humility, not glory, and in all things be gentle and full of mercy.

Scott Hann



English Martyrs
Vale of White Horse
Pastoral Area

PARISHES OF
THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Didcot
ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, Wallingford

www.didcotandwallingfordcatholicchurches.org

Office email: didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
(Parish Office Hours Tuesday – Friday 9am to 1pm)

Telephone: 01235 812338

15 Manor Crescent, Didcot OX11 7AJ

Fr Dominic Adeiza email: dadeiza@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

25TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR B (IV)

Entrance Antiphon

I am the salvation of the people, says the Lord. Should they cry to me in any distress, I will hear them, and I will be their Lord for ever.

First Reading: Wisdom 2:12, 17-20

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 53

The Lord upholds my life.

Second Reading: Letter of Saint James 3:16–4:3

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 8:12

Alleluia, alleluia!!

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; anyone who follows me will have the light of life. **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Mark 9:30-37

Communion Antiphon: Ps 118:4-5

You have laid down your precepts to be carefully kept; may my ways be firm in keeping your statutes.

SATURDAY 21st September ... St Matthew

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

5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot

6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Hugh McCormack RIP (Bunty McCormack)

SUNDAY 22nd September ... 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Centenary Thanksgiving

11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford ... Centenary Thanksgiving

MONDAY 23rd September ... S Pio of Pietrelcina ... NO MASS

TUESDAY 24th September ... Our Lady of Walsingham

12:00 noon Adoration before mass St John Wallingford

WEDNESDAY 25th September

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot

6:00 pm Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Alan and Dorcas Pilbeam RIP (Guy)

THURSDAY 26th September ... Sts Cosmas & Damian

11:30 am Mass St John Wallingford ... Seraphina (Julie Lazarus)

FRIDAY 27th September ... St Vincent de Paul

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot

SATURDAY 28th September ... St Wenceslaus

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

5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot

6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Hugh McCormack RIP (Chris Stemp)

SUNDAY 29th September ... 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot

11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford

Baptism of Kiara Fox ... 2:30pm, Didcot

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.



DEATH/FUNERAL NOTICE

Kieran Leavey (RIP)...Requiem Mass celebrated, Monday 16th September, 11am, Didcot
Antonina Ferrara (RIP)...Requiem Mass celebrated, Wednesday 18th September 12pm, Didcot
Genina Marshall (RIP)...Requiem Mass, Monday 30th September, TBD ... Didcot



Our Centenary Celebration is This Weekend

Our Parish Church in Wallingford, St John the Evangelist celebrates 100 years this weekend, 22nd September. There are activities lined up for the day. Please come join us to share in the friendship, food and drinks.



Sister Judith Russi To Direct Our Retreat

Our parish of the English Martyrs Didcot and St John the Evangelist Wallingford will welcome Sister Judith Russi of Saint Mary of Namur, Saturday October 12 at 10 am in Didcot. Sister Judith is the director of Catholic educational charity EducareM, a teacher, a retreat director, an inspirational speaker and author of several books. She will accompany our Extra Ordinary Eucharistic Ministers and others from within our Pastoral Area on rediscovering the spirituality of the eucharistic ministry, the vocation to bring Christ to others and how to be another Christ in our midst.



Junior RCIA Is Here

Parents often wonder if their teenage children still have a chance of doing the sacraments. The answer is YES. The answer is here. Come along let us start the Junior Rite of Christian Initiation. The beauty of the program is that it is an on-going growth and accompaniment in the faith. If you know a teenager or young adult who wish to consider the Junior RCIA, please go to the parish website, download the Form and lets begin a joyful preparation.



The New Lectionary

A new edition of the Lectionary, the book which contains the readings which are proclaimed at Mass, will come into use in England and Wales on the First Sunday of Advent 2024.

It will use the English Standard Version – Catholic Edition for the scripture readings and the Psalms and Canticles for the Responsorial Psalms. The Lectionary will be published by Catholic Truth Society. A variety of publishers will provide resources and participation aids.

We plan to place orders for our churches in Didcot and Wallingford. Also, we shall place orders for the new people's missals (Sunday Missal) which you can buy from the repository.

This is to thank those who have offered to pay for the Church Lectionary. If you are interested in donating towards the purchase, do speak with Father Dominic. A copy costs £695.00.



Advent Day of Prayer for Diocesan Staff and Volunteers

The bishop, Bishop Philip Egan is inviting Diocesan staff, parish staff and volunteers to join him for an Advent Day of Prayer on Wednesday 4th December 2024. To be led by Sister Hyacinthe Defos du Rau from the Dominican Sisters at St Peter's Church Pastoral Centre, Winchester. A time to reflect on the importance of recommitting ourselves to pause and listen to God, to be a compassionate presence to others and deepen habit of prayer. The day will include tea & coffee, mass led by Bishop Philip Egan, followed by a hot lunch.



Enrol in the Adult Sacramental Program (RCIA) A Journey of Faith

We plan to re-start our Adult sacramental program, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. If you are interested please send an email to dadeiza@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. This program promises to be interactive, experiential and supportive. Who can benefit from this? If you miss out on other sacraments after baptism, this fit for you. If you wish to become a Catholic, this is for you. If you have been baptised in a Church outside the Catholic Church whose baptism is recognised by the Catholic Church, this is for you. Or do you know anyone who wants to become a Catholic? This is a journey of faith! Come and lets journey together.

Our Church, St John the Evangelist, Wallingford is open daily for private prayers between 8am and 6pm.

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.

CHILDREN'S LITURGY POSTER COMPETITION

And the winner is.....**Arani Jeyanthan**. Thank you so much to the children that entered our competition. We were very impressed with all the entries. Prizes will be given out next Sunday, 29th September. We have prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd and Highly Commended. Please visit the display board. Jacquie & Gay



New Parish Secretary for English Martyrs Didcot and St John's Wallingford

Our new parish secretary — Miss Ada Chim. Ada has started working for our parish since the beginning of this September. Ada has been volunteering in the last couple of months, until Father Dominic ambushed her to take on the role as a part-time. The parish office is opposite to the tearoom at English Martyrs Church. It is open on Tuesday to Friday from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Please come and meet Ada if you need anything, send email to didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk, or call at 01235 812338. Let us all welcome Ada and make her enjoy serving our community.

CAFOD Family Fast Day – Harvest Appeal

Daniel, a young man in Democratic Republic of the Congo, is carving a better future for his family with carpentry skills he learned in a CAFOD-funded training centre. Give to CAFOD today and you'll fund training, tools, equipment and safe spaces so more people like Daniel can learn new skills and fulfil their God-given potential. Use the envelope in church or give online at cafod.org.uk/envelope.



A Huge Thank You To The Seniors

The 19th of September Seniors' Lunch organised by our wonderful chefs was well attended and enjoyed. This particular lunch begun with a Eucharistic Mass celebrated by Canon Peter. He particularly offered prayers for the seniors who are unwell.

During the meal, the Seniors contributed £150 in support of Father Dominic's charity. A huge thank you to all those who made the offer and to our wonderful chefs. Jacquie & Kim.

Annual Mass Count

This weekend is the first of four autumn Mass Counts for the national statistics. The diocese expects the number of all those present at all Sunday Masses (i.e. Saturday evening and Sunday) celebrated in our parish over the next four weekends, starting this weekend, 21st / 22nd September. This data when collected helps the diocese in planning and in giving answers to questions in the future.



Are You Registered In The Parish?

When you register or fill out the parish membership form, you gain a sense of belonging and identity in the parish community. It is a commitment to practice your faith.

*Registration enables the parish priest and staff to get to know you better, to welcome you and to minister to you. This is especially important during a time of crisis so that the pastoral staff can attend to your spiritual needs and the needs of your family.

*Registration helps you stay connected with your parish and helps your parish stay connected with you. Providing your contact information is important so that parishes provide you timely updates via email, direct mail, phone, etc. Also, if you use offertory envelopes, online giving or the digital plate, the parish may be able to claim 25p of

Gift Aid for every £1 you give, if you are a registered tax payer. Once you are registered, please notify the parish office of any changes in address or phone number. Your data is SAFE.

*Registered active members are eligible for sponsor/godparent validation.

*Registered active members are sometimes eligible to rent parish facilities.

Census numbers may determine how many priests are assigned to a parish and how many Masses and enrichment programs are planned and scheduled. These numbers helps in how much levy we pay to the diocese.

Our First Holy Communion Prep Begins Now!

Our First Holy Communion Formation team is glad to announce early preparations. If you have a child age 7 going 8, or between 8 and 10, the time has come to register them for the First Holy Communion preparation sessions or classes.

Please visit the parish website, download the forms, fill, sign and hand them into the office. Remember, it is mandatory to accompany these Forms with your child's photocopy of baptism certificate. Please do not hand any of these to the priest or our First Holy Communion Formation team to avoid misplacement and improper handling of sensitive data. Take the Forms to the office.

The start date and other information shall be communicated to those concerned as soon as the Forms are handed in. It is our plan that our children will receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion before and on the Feast of Corpus Christi, 2025.

