

Ushaw wins Historic Houses Frances Garnham Award for Education

The award commemorates the achievements of Frances Garnham, who worked as Director of Policy and Campaigns at Historic Houses until 2015. Frances was passionate about encouraging heritage sites to embrace the opportunities of engaging with a wide range of audiences, and this award in her name seeks to



shine a light on innovative examples of learning and outreach.

Ushaw is a former Catholic Seminary which reopened for tourism and the local community in 2014. Since April 2021, the team have run a weekly 'Forest School' in the gardens, helping children to learn more about the world around them, to follow their interests and develop at their own pace. This work has brought together a community of like-minded families who have grown in confidence through sharing their experiences in a safe and supported space.

The team have welcomed hundreds of children to Ushaw to engage in a range of arts and well-being activities plus a healthy meal, all free of charge (thanks to the "Fun and Food" funding initiative). As part of Ushaw's wider commitment to support local families, they have provided complimentary Ushaw Annual Memberships for all who are entitled to Free School Meals in their 12 nearest schools. Through this work they have welcomed many people to Ushaw who have not previously been inside a heritage building.

Ben Cowell, Director General at Historic Houses, said: "Many families in the local area only discovered the delights of Ushaw during the Covid lockdowns. The team there has worked hard to sustain interest in this remarkable survival, a former Catholic Seminary and boarding school.

"A rich tapestry of education and engagement has included forest schools, performance poetry, and drama events that bring history to life, with a commitment to ensuring access for all. Ushaw is an inspiration to all Historic Houses member properties, showing what can be done to engage children of all ages in the stories told by buildings and collections."

Megan Jones, Learning and Engagement Officer at Ushaw, said: "We are thrilled to have won the 2024 Frances Garnham Award for Education. Engaging with our community is a huge part of what we do and it is an honour to be recognised for the innovative and creative work we're doing to use Ushaw's rich history, heritage and collections to connect with our community." For more, visit: ushaw.org. Culled from <https://www.cbcew.org.uk>

Hope in Tribulation

In this, the second-to-last week of the Church year, Jesus has finally made it to Jerusalem.

Near to His passion and death, He gives us a teaching of hope—telling us how it will be when He returns again in glory.

Today's Gospel is taken from the end of a long discourse in which He describes tribulations the likes of which haven't been seen "since the beginning of God's creation" (see Mark 13:9). He describes what amounts to a dissolution of God's creation, a "devolution" of the world to its original state of formlessness and void.

First, human community—nations and kingdoms—will break down (see Mark 13:7–8).

Then the earth will stop yielding food and begin to shake apart (13:8).

Next, the family will be torn apart from within and the last faithful individuals will be persecuted (13:9–13). Finally, the Temple will be desecrated, the earth emptied of God's presence (13:14).

In today's reading, God is described putting out the lights that He established in the sky in the very beginning—the sun, the moon and the stars (see also Isaiah 13:10; 34:4). Into this "uncreated" darkness, the Son of Man, in whom all things were made, will come.

Jesus has already told us that the Son of Man must be humiliated and killed (see Mark 8:31). Here He describes His ultimate victory, using royal-divine images drawn from the Old Testament—clouds, glory, and angels (see Daniel 7:13). He shows Himself to be the fulfillment of all God's promises to save "the elect," the faithful remnant (see Isaiah 43:6; Jeremiah 32:37).

As today's First Reading tells us, this salvation will include the bodily resurrection of those who sleep in the dust.

We are to watch for this day, when His enemies are finally made His footstool, as today's Epistle envisions. We can wait in confidence knowing, as we pray in today's Psalm, that we will one day delight at His right hand forever.

Scott Hann



English Martyrs
Vale of White Horse
Pastoral Area

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ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, Wallingford

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33RD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR B (I)

Entrance Antiphon Jer 29:11,12,14

The Lord said: I think thoughts of peace and not of affliction. You will call upon me, and I will answer you, and I will lead back your captives from every place.

First Reading: Daniel 12:1-3

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 16

Preserve me, God, I take refuge in you.

Second Reading: Letter to the Hebrews 10:11-14,18

Gospel Acclamation: Mt 5:3

Alleluia, alleluia!!

Stay awake at all times, praying that you may have strength to stand before the Son of Man.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Mark 13:24-32

Communion Antiphon: Ps 72:28

To be near God is my happiness, to praise my hope in God the Lord.

SATURDAY 16th November ... St Edmund of Abingdon

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 ... Clifford Family RIP (Noel Clifford)

5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot

6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot

SUNDAY 17th November ... 33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot

11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford

MONDAY 18th November ... NO MASS

TUESDAY 19th November

12:00 noon Adoration before mass St John Wallingford

WEDNESDAY 20th November

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Stacey Owen RIP (Amo Richardson)

6:00 pm Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Stacey Owen RIP (Amo Richardson)

THURSDAY 21st November ... The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:30 am Mass St John Wallingford

12:00 noon English Martyrs Didcot ... Requiem Mass for Anne P Talbot

FRIDAY 22nd November St Cecilia

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... All parish musicians (Carolyn Fishwick)

11:00 am English Martyrs Didcot ... Funeral Service Anthony John Davey

SATURDAY 23rd November

9:30 am NO 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 ... Deceased members of Julie's family (Julie Lazarus)

SUNDAY 24th November ... Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot

11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford



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

Anne Talbot (94) RIP ... Requiem Mass @12noon, Nov 21st, Didcot
Anthony John Davey RIP...Funeral Service @11am, Nov 22nd, Didcot
John Atkinson (91) RIP... Requiem Mass @ 12noon, Nov 25th, Didcot



Bishop Philip Invites Individuals Getting Married in 2025 to a St. Valentine's Day Breakfast

Bishop Philip writes, "Are you getting married sometime in 2025 - either in a church in our diocese or in a church elsewhere, maybe even abroad? If you are: CONGRATULATIONS! Please be assured of my prayers and best wishes. I hope all your preparations and all the arrangements for the big day are going well.



I write because I want to meet you. I want to give you a special blessing here at the Cathedral in Portsmouth. I want to invite you and all the engaged couples of our Diocese getting married in 2025, to a St. Valentine's Day Breakfast. It will be on Saturday 8th February 2025 at 9.15 am (prompt) in the Cathedral Centre (Catholic Cathedral, Bishop Crispian Way, PO1 3HG).

After breakfast and a chance to meet, I have asked one of our newly-married couples to tell us about their experience. I hope it will be informative, but also entertaining! We'll then go into the Cathedral for a short Service of Blessing, in which each couple will be blessed, individually and I'll also bless your engagement rings. (It doesn't matter whether you are a Catholic or not: everyone is welcome). We should finish and get away by 11.45 am.

I really hope you can be there for this unique occasion. I look forward to meeting you! Please let Mrs Kirsten McGuire know whether you can make it by completing the form attached and either email it to her at kmcguire@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or drop it in the post.

God bless you. I will offer Holy Mass for you all on St Valentine's Day. Please visit the parish website to download the Form.

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.

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, or Gay Bosley (mobile: 07751 893621) at St John by email at gaybosley66@gmail.com.

Join us for Mitzvah Day 2024: 24 November 2024

Join us for Mitzvah Day 2024: 24 November 2024 (from Interreligious Dialogue) Mitzvah Day is the UK's largest faith-led day of social action. Over 55,000 people around the world, come together to give time and to make a difference to the community around us. We introduce people to social action, to their neighbours and to local charities, setting up projects, which address real needs. Jewish-led, it brings together people of all faiths and backgrounds, to volunteer side-by-side, building longstanding, genuine relationships. <https://mitzvahday.org.uk/>

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. For more information, please visit <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/lectionary-video-resources/>, visit the parish website on 'Lectionary video resources', or search for these videos on YouTube:

Bishop Hugh Gilbert (Aberdeen) on "Introducing the English Standard Version"
Fr Paul Denney on "The New Lectionary"
Fr Adrian Porter SJ on "Proclaim the Word in the Liturgy"



Shrine Churches for the Jubilee Year

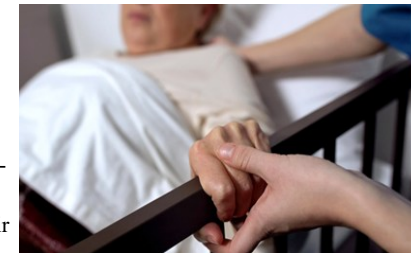
I am pleased to announce, thanks to the generosity of the priests and parishioners involved the six Shrine Churches for our Diocese for the Jubilee Year 2025. As you know, Pope Francis has decreed that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, a holy year which happens every 25 years in the Church. The Jubilee year is called 'Pilgrims of Hope', and it will be a year of hope for a world suffering the impacts of war, a new global debt crisis and the climate crisis. The Year will run from the opening of the Holy Door in St Peter's Basilica in Rome, on Tuesday 24th December 2024 to the Feast of Epiphany, 6th January 2026. For the Dioceses throughout the world, the Year opens with a special Mass on 29th December. Each Diocese is permitted to establish 'Shrine Churches' where the faithful can go on pilgrimage, attend Mass and receive the Sacrament of Penance, and at the same time gain a Plenary Indulgence under the usual conditions.



For our Diocese of Portsmouth, the following Shrine Churches have been designated: St. John's Cathedral in Portsmouth, St. James's Reading, Sacred Heart Bournemouth, St. Edmund's Southampton (pictured), St. Thomas's in St. Helier, Jersey and St. Joseph's in St. Peter Port, Guernsey.

Catholic Bishops of England, Wales, and Scotland unite in compassionate action to oppose Bill on assisted suicide

The Catholic Bishops of England, Wales and Scotland have issued a statement on Assisted Suicide ahead of the Second Reading of the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill. In it, the bishops explain exactly what 'compassion' means at the end of life – caring for and accompanying people, particularly during times of suffering. The statement strongly defends the vulnerable in society who are at risk through this proposed legislation, and the bishops advocate for better funded palliative care to be consistently available to everyone in need in England, Wales, and Scotland.



"People who are suffering need to know they are loved and valued. They need compassionate care, not assistance to end their lives," say the bishops. "Palliative care, with expert pain relief, and good human, spiritual, and pastoral support, is the right and best way to care for people towards the end of life."

Learning Skills

Do you know anyone in primary school with learning or skills disability, who is dyslexic and require extra time and attention to their learning strategies and support with sounds, words and reading? Young people with multiple learning disability need support to help them with some areas of their life, such as eating, washing or personal care. But most of all friendship and a supportive environment. Please contact Janice Hassett via email ... janic Hassett@hotmail.co.uk or call her on 07759911595.

Dominican Youth Movement Advent Retreat: The Hope that is Within

At the start of December, the Dominican Youth Movement is hosting an Advent retreat at Douai Abbey, exploring 'the hope that is within' (1 Peter 3:15) that we await during Advent. Fr Toby Lees OP will be leading the retreat, which will include a series of talks and meditations, adoration and confession, social time with other young Catholics, and the excellent food and hospitality of the Douai Benedictines. Registration costs £60 for students/unwaged and £120 for wage-earners. To book or request more information contact Br John: john.church@english.op.org or Br George: george.gillow@english.op.org For more information, refer to the parish website or the poster on our notice board.



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.



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.