

## King Charles and Queen Camilla visit Pope Francis on their anniversary

On a particularly significant day for their family which marks their 20th wedding anniversary and the four-year anniversary of the death of the King's father, Philip of Edinburgh, King Charles and Queen Camilla met privately with Pope Francis on Wednesday afternoon, 9 April.



The meeting took place at the Vatican's Casa Santa Marta, where the Pope has been convalescing for over two weeks after being released from Gemelli Hospital, and where he has recently resumed various meetings.

In a statement released on Wednesday evening, the Holy See Press Office stated:

"Pope Francis met privately with Their Majesties, King Charles and Queen Camilla, this afternoon. In the course of the meeting, the Pope expressed his best wishes to Their Majesties on the occasion of their wedding anniversary and reciprocated His Majesty's wishes for a speedy recovery of his health."

The Pope's best wishes were a reference to the King's condition, following his hospitalisation at the end of March due to the side effects of treatment for cancer, which was diagnosed a year ago.

An official meeting with the Pope had been announced by Buckingham Palace at the beginning of March, during Pope Francis' hospitalisation due to bilateral pneumonia.

The initial announcement explained that the Royals would spend the first segment of their trip to Italy to celebrate the Jubilee with the Pontiff at the Vatican.

A later note, on 24 March, announced that King Charles III and Queen Camilla would no longer be seeing the Pope due to needs related to his convalescence: "Their Majesties send the Pope their best wishes for his convalescence and look forward to visiting him in the Holy See, once he has recovered."

The King and Queen were able to express their best wishes in person during their audience on Wednesday afternoon. A post on The Royal Family account on X Thursday morning, noted, "the King and Queen were deeply touched by The Pope's kind remarks about their 20th wedding anniversary and honoured to be able to share their best wishes to him in person." To read more, visit <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/king-charles-and-queen-camilla-visit-pope-francis-on-their-anniversary/>

## Found Alive Again

“What is written about Me is coming to fulfillment,” Jesus says in today's Gospel (see Luke 22:37).

Indeed, we have reached the climax of the liturgical year, the highest peak of salvation history, when all that has been anticipated and promised is to be fulfilled.

By the close of today's long Gospel, the work of our redemption will have been accomplished, the new covenant will be written in the blood of His broken body hanging on the Cross at the place called the Skull.

In His Passion, Jesus is "counted among the wicked," as Isaiah had foretold (see Isaiah 53:12). He is revealed definitively as the Suffering Servant the prophet announced, the long-awaited Messiah whose words of obedience and faith ring out in today's First Reading and Psalm.

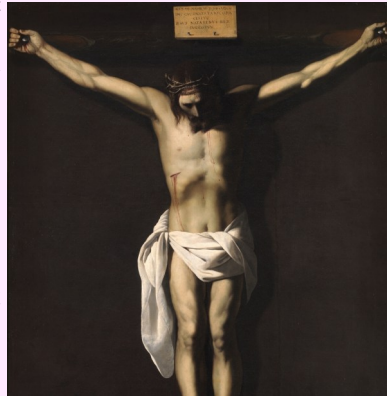
The taunts and torments we hear in these two readings punctuate the Gospel as Jesus is beaten and mocked (see Luke 22:63-65; 23:10-11, 16), as His hands and feet are pierced (see Luke 23:33), as enemies gamble for His clothes (see Luke 23:34), and as three times they dare Him to prove His divinity by saving Himself from suffering (see Luke 23:35, 37, 39).

He remains faithful to God's will to the end, does not turn back in His trial. He gives Himself freely to His torturers, confident that, as He speaks in today's First Reading: "The Lord God is My help . . . I shall not be put to shame."

Destined to sin and death as children of Adam's disobedience, we have been set free for holiness and life by Christ's perfect obedience to the Father's will (see Romans 5:12-14, 17-19; Ephesians 2:2; 5:6).

This is why God greatly exalted Him. This is why we have salvation in His Name. Following His example of humble obedience in the trials and crosses of our lives, we know we will never be forsaken, that one day we too will be with Him in Paradise (see Luke 23:42).

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## PALM SUNDAY YEAR C

### Entrance Antiphon: Mt 21:9

Hosanna to the Son of David; blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, the King of Israel. Hosanna in the highest.

### First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-7

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 22**  
My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

### Second Reading: Philippians 2:6-11

### Gospel Acclamation:

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

Christ became for us obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name.

**Praise to you, O Christ, King of eternal glory.**

**Gospel: Luke 22:14-23:56**

**Communion Antiphon: Mt 26:42**

Father, if this chalice cannot pass without my drinking it, your will be done.

### SATURDAY 12th April

9:30 am NO MASS

4:30 pm Adoration and confession 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 ... David, Alan & Joyce Woodley RIP (Kim & Douglas)

### SUNDAY 13th April ... Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Jacqueline Thomas recovery from operation (Achilleus)

11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford ... Kylie-Anne Gillen RIP (Noel Clifford)

### MONDAY 14th April ... NO MASS

### TUESDAY 15th April

11:00am Chrism Mass St John Cathedral Portsmouth

### WEDNESDAY 16th April

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Ian Halpin RIP

### THURSDAY 17th April ... Maundy Thursday

7:30 pm Mass English Martyrs Didcot

### FRIDAY 18th April ... Good Friday

3:00 pm Good Friday Service

11:50am Good Friday Walk of Witness ... Didcot Methodist Church

### SATURDAY 19th April ... Holy Saturday

9:30 am Morning Prayer

11:00 am Swieconkoa English Martyrs Didcot

8:00 pm Easter Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot

### SUNDAY 20th April ... Easter Sunday

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot

11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford



In your prayers, please remember: Margaret O'Conner, Anne O'Brien, Jenny Evans, Mary Guinan, Ann Tomline, Joan Walker, Joan Russell, Joan Turner, Nina Oakes, Jacob Oakes, Pat McLoughlin, Barry Molloy, Annie Furlong and all the sick and housebound of our churches.



### Holy Places Second Collection 2025

The Pontifical Good Friday Collection supports the Christian community in the Middle East. This last year has been particularly challenging for this small community which seeks 'to be the salt, light and leaven of the Gospel' in the region, often living in difficult circumstances. "May this year's collection pro Terra Sancta be an opportunity for everyone not to ignore the difficult situation of our brothers and sisters of the Holy Places but rather to lighten their burdens." – Leonardo Card. Sandri. Thank you for your support.



### CAFOD Myanmar Earthquake Appeal

Following the devastating earthquake in Myanmar, CAFOD is responding through the Catholic Church there to support families affected by the disaster. Your donations will provide essentials like water, food, solar lights, and mosquito nets. Please give to CAFOD's Myanmar Earthquake Appeal in church or you can donate online at [cafod.org.uk/myanmar](http://cafod.org.uk/myanmar) or by calling 0303 303 3030. You can also text EARTHQUAKE to 70450 to donate £10.



### Young Vincentians Youth Group is coming to Didcot and Wallingford!

Come along to hear about our exciting launch. We will meet on Sunday 27 April after the 0900 mass at English Martyrs for our young members of the Church (ages approximately secondary school). Find out more about us from: <https://svp.org.uk/youth-svp/about-us>. We will use the formula "See, Think, Do" to put our faith into action to support those in our community. We hope to see you soon!

### Food Donation in Lent

In the period of Lent, we remember those who are suffering and need our help. We share what we have and can give with those who are in need. Please bring food items for donation to the Didcot and Wallingford Food Banks. Food items need to have 3 months best before dates. Thank you.



### Divine Mercy Sunday is 27th April

Divine Mercy Sunday is Sunday 27th April. Come join us at English Martyrs Didcot at 2pm. We hope to think of the Message of Divine Mercy, Hour of Mercy, Divine Mercy chaplet, Adoration and Benediction, Talk on Divine Mercy, Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



### Calling all Readers: Save the Date!

On Saturday 17th May, we are having a day for Readers at English Martyrs Church Didcot from 10:00am to 2:30pm. This day is for ALL our Readers: please do your best to come.



### Can You Help As A Cleaner in Wallingford?

Do you have half an hour to help clean the Church? We need a few more hands to help in cleaning and dusting in St. John the Evangelist Church. You don't have to commit to every week nor every month. You could just "dip in and out". You could as well commit to certain days or months. Please consider putting your name down in the schedule at the back of the church.



### Sacristans Needed in Didcot

We urgently need volunteers as Sacristans in Didcot. This role is open to those who can offer their free time as they wish. A rota enables you to come in and go as fits your routine on weekdays and weekends. 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 are available. If you are interested, please contact the Parish Office, Fr Dominic, or Anna Richardson. Thank you.

### URGENT! Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers and Feet Washing Representatives NEEDED! for Holy Week in Didcot

Can you help and serve in the Holy Week masses and services? We are still in need of a lot of volunteers to help take up the following positions:

**Maundy Thursday:** Eucharistic Minister X1; Altar Servers X5; Feet Washing Representatives of Altar Server Team, Cleaner Team, Musician Team, Eucharistic Minister Team, Children's Liturgy/Catechist Team, Pastoral Council Team. **Good Friday:** Reader X1; Altar Server X1. **Holy Saturday Vigil Mass:** Reader X2; Eucharistic Minister X3; Altar Server X4.

Please put your name on our Sign-Up Rota in the church (on the repository table) or contact Ada at the Parish Office by phone or email if you can help in any of these positions. Thank you and we look forward to seeing your active participation in our masses.

### Easter Flower Donation

Kindly consider leaving some donations in support of the Flower Ladies who would need to buy flowers to decorate the altar during this festive season of Easter. Thank you ever so much. Every little help.



### Easter Egg Hunts and Easter Egg Trails on Easter Sunday 20th

Jacquie and members of our Liturgy Committee have planned Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Egg Trails after the Easter Sunday masses in both Didcot and Wallingford on Sunday 20th. In Didcot, provisions have been made for children to enjoy the hunt and trails in the Presbytery garden. All children are invited after mass to the garden. While young people are to hunt and trail the eggs around the periphery or sides of the Church building. In Wallingford, children and young people are invited into the Tea Room for Easter Eggs and Trails. **Please consider parking your cars in the car park to ease traffic.** Happy Easter to all our lovely children!



### Food and Confectioneries for Easter Sunday

Do you wish to share something special on Easter Sunday morning 20th? Please bring in any food from your continent, country or family. Please feel free to bring and share homemade cakes, confectioneries, food and drinks. Come let us celebrate Easter as a family!



### Joint Christians and Catholics Good Friday Walk of Witness in Didcot

The Didcot Good Friday Walk of Witness and outdoor services will be on 18th April this year. The meeting will be led by Nick White from King's Church, worship led by Sara Green from Didcot Baptist Church, with a band drawn from many churches, prayers led by Rachel Ciampoli from Ladygrove Church, kids' activities by Louise Brown from Didcot Baptist Church, readings by young people from across the churches, and talk by Yinka Oyekan from The Gate Church. There will be palm crosses and evangelistic materials to give out to interested passers-by and an opportunity to offer your prayers. Refreshments will be kindly provided by Didcot Methodist Church from 11:15am. At 11:50am we will gather outside Didcot Methodist Church and walk together to Cornerstone, for an outdoor service at 12:00pm.



### Święconka—The Blessing of Easter Baskets

The blessing of the Easter baskets is one of the most enduring and beloved Polish traditions on Holy Saturday. It is called Święconka. This special event takes place in many of our parishes across the diocese because of our Polish families who enrich our parish and liturgy. Are you Polish? Do you want to organize or be part of those to organise it on Holy Saturday 19th April? Please let the Parish Office know if you want to help. Thank you.



### Didcot Altar Servers Personal Information Collection

We have always been blessed with the support of our youngsters and their parents in our altar services. To allow better safeguarding and update our altar servers record, we are in the process of collecting personal information and emergency contacts of all our Altar Servers. Please can all Altar Servers pick up the 'Altar Server Personal Information Form' from the Sacristy Room in the next few Sundays and insert your completed form into the envelope labelled 'For Altar Servers' in the Sacristy Room? You may also pass it to the Parish office after you have completed the form at the office opening hours. We hope this process would allow us to set up rotas and provide trainings to our Altar Servers soon. Thank you.