

New encyclical an invitation to come close to the Heart of Jesus, says Cardinal

In welcoming the publication of Pope Francis' fourth encyclical, *Dilexit Nos – He Loved Us*, Cardinal Vincent Nichols has emphasised that the Letter is for everyone and that the Sacred Heart of Jesus is “the source of living water that moves us and enables us to reach out to others, to offer forgiveness, to make amends for our failings, to seek to build healing relationships of faithfulness and service.”

The focus of the encyclical is on the Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ. Cardinal's welcome



“I welcome the remarkable Letter published today by Pope Francis.

“It speaks eloquently of the love of God for every person. It speaks the language of the heart, a language known to all who love, who yearn, who feel pain, who know loneliness. It speaks of the heart of Jesus, both fully human and filled with the infinite, divine love of the Creator for every person.

“This Letter speaks eloquently of the ceaseless yearning of the heart of Jesus for us to allow his love to fill our hearts and find in him our way home, to the Father. It speaks of the Holy Spirit of God, the fire of love, holding our hearts and guiding us into the fullness of life.

“The invitation of this Letter is clear: let anyone who is broken-hearted, or feeling empty of heart, or yearning for love, or filled with the joy of a loving heart, come and read this Letter. It is, quite simply, addressed to us all.

“In it we will find not only an echo of ourselves but an invitation to come close to the Heart of Jesus who brings to us the fullness of the love for which we long.

“There we find the source of living water that moves us and enables us to reach out to others, to offer forgiveness, to make amends for our failings, to seek to build healing relationships of faithfulness and service.

“In the Heart of Jesus we find the love we need in order to build a better world. As Pope Francis says: ‘For it is by drinking of that same love that we become capable of forging bonds of fraternity, of recognizing the dignity of each human being, and of working together to care for our common home’ (217).

“This is the testimony of Pope Francis, a testimony written in his heart and offered to the hearts of all.”

You can read or download the encyclical in our dedicated section for *Dilexit nos – He Loved Us*... cbcew.org.uk/dilexit-nos.

Seeing the Son of David

Today's Gospel turns on an irony—it is a blind man, Bartimaeus, who becomes the first person outside of the Apostles to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. And his



healing is the last miracle Jesus performs before entering the holy city of Jerusalem for His last week on earth.

The scene on the road to Jerusalem evokes the joyful procession prophesied by Jeremiah in today's First Reading. In Jesus this prophecy is fulfilled. God, through the Messiah, is delivering His people from exile, bringing them back from the ends of the earth, with the blind and lame in their midst.

Jesus, as Bartimaeus proclaims, is the long-awaited Son promised to David (see 2 Samuel 7:12–16; Isaiah 11:9; Jeremiah 23:5). Upon His triumphal arrival in Jerusalem, all will see that the everlasting kingdom of David has come (see Mark 11:9–10).

As we hear in today's Epistle, the Son of David was expected to be the Son of God (see Psalm 2:7). He was to be a priest-king like Melchizedek (see Psalm 110:4), who offered bread and wine to God Most High at the dawn of salvation history (see Genesis 14:18–20).

Bartimaeus is a symbol of his people, the captive Zion of whom we sing in today's Psalm. His God has done great things for him. All his life has been sown in tears and weeping. Now, he reaps a new life.

Bartimaeus, too, should be a sign for us. How often Christ passes us by—in the person of the poor, in the distressing guise of a troublesome family member or burdensome associate (see Matthew 25:31–46)—and yet we don't see Him.

Christ still calls to us through His Church, as Jesus sent His Apostles to call Bartimaeus. Yet how often are we found to be listening instead to the voices of the crowd, not hearing the words of His Church.

Today He asks us what He asks Bartimaeus: “What do you want me to do for you?” Rejoicing, let us ask the same thing of Him—what can we do for all that He has done for us?

Scott Hann



English Martyrs
Vale of White Horse
Pastoral Area

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30TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME YEAR B (II)

Entrance Antiphon Ps 104:3-4

Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

First Reading: Prophet Jeremiah 31:7-9

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 125

What marvels the Lord worked for us!
Indeed we were glad.

Second Reading: Letter to the Hebrews 5:1-6

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 17:17

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 10:46-52

Communion Antiphon: Ps 19:6

We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

SATURDAY 26th October ... Ss Chad & Cedd

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Diya Leneesh's Birthday ... Soniya Mathew ... **Confession after Mass**
4:30 pm Adoration & Confessions before Vigil Mass St John Wallingford
5:00 pm Vigil Mass St John Wallingford ... Mr & Mrs Jovito Cardozo ... Thanksgiving
5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot
6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Efraid Escobar & Sonia Ducos RIP (Cristina Yepez)

SUNDAY 27th October ... 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Thomas & Agnes Lightfoot RIP
11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford ... Denis & Ruby Rodrick RIP (Rodrick & Family)

MONDAY 28th October ... Ss Simon & Jude ... NO MASS

TUESDAY 29th October

12:00 noon Rosary before mass St John Wallingford

WEDNESDAY 30th October

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Denis & Ruby Rodrick RIP
6:00 pm Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Mr & Mrs Jovito Cardozo ... Thanksgiving

THURSDAY 31st October

9:30 am Mass St John Wallingford

FRIDAY 1st November ... All Saints ... Solemnity

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... All Souls (Connie Daly)
3pm - 4pm...Didcot.....Eucharistic Adoration
6.p.m Mass St John Wallingford

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
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 ...



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.



Chorister Opportunities at Westminster Cathedral Choir School

Boys with musical potential in Years 2, 3 or 4 are invited to become a chorister at Westminster Cathedral with the opportunity to sing in the Cathedral choir and on international tour. Boys also receive an outstanding education at one of London's leading schools on a boarding basis up until Year 8. Scholarships with bursaries worth up to 100% of fees available on a means-tested basis. The choir school is an inclusive and diverse community. The only universal element is a love of singing! If you and your child are interested, you are invited to join a brief Zoom session on Wednesday 27th November. Please contact Lucy Freeman lfreeman@choirschool.com for a link. More information can be obtained here: <https://www.choirschool.com/>.



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.**

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.



Be Patient and The Beauty of the New Lectionary will be Revealed

The new lectionary will come into use on the First Sunday of Advent, and people around the country are beginning to receive their copies. Our General Secretary, Canon Christopher Thomas, General Secretary of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales speaking on a monthly podcast At the Foot of the Cross, encourages Catholics to be patient, to sit with the text – a text designed for proclamation – and to see its beauty.

"We'll be using the English Standard Version – Catholic Edition, which is a beautiful text. It will be different from the Jerusalem Bible that we've used since 1970. When the New Missal translation was introduced in 2010/11, I can remember saying to the people in my parish, "It'll be like a new pair of shoes. Initially, it's going to ache a bit and it's going to scratch a bit and it's not going to feel right; but after a while, just with a new pair of shoes, the leather gets soft, and our feet fit in there better." This will be the same with this new lectionary because there is a richness to the new text.

There is a deeper theological understanding. There's a sense of freshness because we are looking at a text that has been developed. It's not the same as the Bible. I want to make that very clear. We have used this English Standard Version – Catholic Edition, as the basis of the lectionary, but there are significant differences. The use of inclusive language, for example. Wherever the Greek word adelphoi is used, which means 'brothers' in Greek, we shall use 'brothers and sisters' in the lectionary.

Save Energy, Save Money, Save the Planet

As November approaches, it's time to think about the winter and keeping warm for less whilst saving energy consumption. Window films are a cheap insulation solution, costing £15 to £50 per m², ideal for homeowners on a budget. These transparent sheets reflect radiant heat back into the room, reducing heat loss while allowing natural light. Although less effective than double glazing, window films offer significant improvement at a fraction of the cost.

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.

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. Jacqui & Kim

New Dip-in Sessions on Accompaniment

Liza Nahajski, Leader of our Diocesan Ananias and Intercession (Pre-Discipleship) team invites you to join some new standalone dip-in Sessions on Accompaniment via Zoom, beginning on Monday 4th November.

Three standalone sessions online will introduce some key principles of accompaniment. Many people are not ready to dive into 5 weeks of accompaniment training so these tasters will gently introduce the disposition of the person who accompanies others. You can come to one session or more, as each session is standalone. The three sessions all run on Monday evenings from 7–9pm online via Zoom:

Monday 4th November: The Lay Mission to Accompany Others

Monday 18th November: Know Your Own Journey to Accompany Others

Monday 2nd December: Good Conversations to Accompany Others

For more information, please visit our parish website.

Closer To Christ Campaign Report

English Martyrs, Didcot & St John the Evangelist, Wallingford



Financial Report

This weekend, members of our Finance Committee will present to us end of year financial report. Copies of



this report are available for you to collect on your way out. You can find a copy also on the parish website.

If you have questions, the presenter is happy to take questions or make clarifications after mass. Once again, thanks to you all for your financial support to the parish. This has made it possible for us to achieve what we have. **THANK YOU!**

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.

