

Pope Francis' monthly prayer intention this April is for "The Role of Women"

"The Pope invited the Church to pray for this intention in this month's The Pope Video, which is entrusted to the entire Catholic Church through the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network.

In The Pope Video for April, the Holy Father insists on the steps today's society needs to take, and asks Christians to join him in prayer "that the dignity and worth of women be recognised in every culture, and for an end to the discrimination they face in various parts of the world."

Pope Francis' denunciation

The Pope in his video illustrates the huge gap that exists between declared principles and actual practice. "In theory, we all agree that men and women have the same dignity as persons. But this does not play out in practice," he noted.

The Pope provides concrete examples, citing "discriminatory laws" currently in force: mandatory dress codes, impediments to ongoing education, denial of assistance for job opportunities. And he recalls that "in many countries, genital mutilation is still practiced."

Thus, he said, "governments need to commit to eliminate" this discrimination and "work toward guaranteeing women's human rights." He asks us all to respect women, who unfortunately continue to be treated "like something to get rid of," and who are often victims of violence and abuse in many parts of the world, even in countries claiming to be more advanced. "And if we don't [respect women]," the Pope adds, "our society will not progress."

Contradictions still exist

According to a press release by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, contradictions are not lacking in today's world. Whereas in some countries, women have access to education and employment, and occupy leadership roles in businesses and organisations, many still do not enjoy the same opportunities as men.

In the job market, less than one in two women in the world, work, and women earn 23% less than men. The same goes for education, when we consider that women who are literate are in the minority in some countries. For example, the rate is 23%; in Niger, 27%. Fewer opportunities translate into enormous economic difficulties. According to UN Women, it is estimated that by 2030 8% of women and girls will live in extreme poverty, and 25% of women will not have enough to eat.

Heroines of all times

Father Frédéric Fornos S.J., International Director of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, reflected on this month's intention, recalling that "from the beginning, Jesus welcomed women as His disciples. This was a novelty in the society of that time." Source: vaticannews.va

The Day the Lord Made

Three times in today's Psalm we cry out a victory shout: "His mercy endures forever."

Truly we've known the everlasting love of God, who has come to us as our Savior. By the blood and water that flowed from Jesus' pierced side (see John 19:34), we've been made God's children, as we hear in today's Epistle.

Yet we never met Jesus, never heard Him teach, never saw Him raised from the dead. His saving Word came to us in the Church—through the ministry of the apostles, who in today's Gospel are sent as He was sent.

He was made a life-giving Spirit (see 1 Corinthians 15:45) and He filled His apostles with that Spirit. As we hear in today's First Reading, they bore witness to His resurrection with great power. And through their witness, handed down in the



Church through the centuries, their teaching and traditions have reached us (see Acts 2:42).

We encounter Him as the apostles did—in the breaking of the bread on the Lord's day (see Acts 20:7; 1 Corinthians 16:2; Revelation 1:10).

There is something liturgical about the way today's Gospel scenes unfold. It's as if John is trying to show us how the risen Lord comes to us in the liturgy and sacraments.

In both scenes it is Sunday night. The doors are bolted tight, yet Jesus mysteriously comes. He greets them with an expression, "Peace be with you," used elsewhere by divine messengers (see Daniel 10:19; Judges 6:23). He shows them signs of His real bodily presence. And on both nights the disciples respond by joyfully receiving Jesus as their "Lord."

Isn't this what happens in the Mass—where our Lord speaks to us in His Word, and gives himself to us in the sacrament of His body and blood?

Let us approach the altar with joy, knowing that every Eucharist is the day the Lord has made—when the victory of Easter is again made wonderful in our eyes.

Scott Hahn



English Martyrs
Vale of White Horse
Pastoral Area

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

www.didcotandwallingfordcatholicchurches.org

Office email: office@didcotandwallingfordcatholicchurches.org
(Parish Office Hours Tuesday—Friday 9am to 1pm approximately)

Telephone: 01235 812338

15 Manor Crescent, Didcot OX11 7AJ

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

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

Entrance Antiphon Ps 2:2

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts of the Apostles 4:32-35

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 117

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, for his love has no end.

Second Reading: First Letter of Saint John 5:1-6

Gospel Acclamation: Jn 12:26

Alleluia, alleluia!!

Jesus said: "You believe because you can see me. Happy are those who have not seen and yet believe.

Alleluia!

Gospel: John 20:19-31

Communion Antiphon: Jn 20:27

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

SATURDAY 6th April Octave of Easter

9:30am Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot.... Winnie & Nnamdi Obieniu - Thanksgiving
4:30pm Adoration & Confessions will take place prior to the Vigil Mass at St John's Wallingford
5:00pm Vigil Mass St John's
5:50pm Adoration before Vigil Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot...
6:30pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs, Didcot.... The Sick

SUNDAY 7th AprilSecond Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

9:00am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot—Komenda & Miroskawske Family (Maria Komenda)
11:00noon Mass St John's Wallingford—Joseph Doherty—Good Health

MONDAY 8th April of EasterTHE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

9:30am Mass St John's Wallingford - Expectant Mothers
7:pm Mass English Martyrs, Didcot - Expectant Mothers

TUESDAY 9th April of Easter

12noon...Adoration before St John's Wallingford....
11.am....Requiem Mass for Seamus Doyle RIP

WEDNESDAY 10th April of Easter.....

9:30am at English Martyrs, Didcot.....Joanne Benzair RIP (Deborah Kennedy)
11.am....Requiem Mass for Eileen Patricia Wallis RIP

THURSDAY 11th April of Easter.....

9:30am Mass at St John's Wallingford....
11.am....Requiem Mass for Clara Josephine Sanders RIP

FRIDAY 12th April Octave of Easter....

9:30am at English Martyrs, Didcot..

SATURDAY 13th April of Easter

9:30am. Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot.....
4:30pm Adoration & Confessions will take place prior to the Vigil Mass at St John's Wallingford
5:00pm Vigil Mass St John's
5:50pm Adoration before Vigil Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot...
6:30pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs, Didcot....

SUNDAY 14th AprilThird Sunday of Easter (Divine Mercy Sunday)

9:00am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot—Raymond Traynor RIP (Anne-Marie Kershaw)
11:00noon Mass St John's 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.



Missio and APF Red Boxes

The APF in England and Wales works with the Mill Hill Missionary Society – the only major missionary society formed in England. Mill Hill missionaries go to the most remote places in the world to show the love of Christ to those in need, both spiritually and materially.

There are Red Boxes in over 200,000 homes. They have helped raise millions of pounds for the missionary Church. Thank you so much for being part of this great movement of faith in action. Kindly return the Red Boxes or hand them to the welcomers when you come for mass.



A Day of Recollection at Littlemore

Saint John Henry Newman lived at The College at Littlemore from 1842 – 1846, making it a place of quiet prayer and study for himself and some friends. It was at the College on 9th October, 1845 that Newman, the famous Anglican preacher, Fellow of Oriel College, and leading figure of the Oxford Movement was received into full communion with the Roman Catholic Church by Blessed Dominic Barberi, an Italian missionary priest. In 1987 the Fathers of the Birmingham Oratory entrusted The College in Littlemore Oxford to the care of The Work.



Newman's oratory has again become a place of prayer and worship, with the officium, daily hours of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and regular masses. A substantial and specialized collection of Newman-related literature has been built up on the site of Newman's own library, together with an exhibition of Newman memorabilia (prints, etchings, photographs, sculptures and original letters. (Culled from website).

Come join us, Saturday May 11am, 10 to 4pm. This is certainly a fresh spiritual encounter in a place full of history and nature.

GiftAid Envelopes Now Available

The new Gift Aid envelope boxes for the coming tax year are now available and ready for collection at the entrance of Church. A huge thank you to all those who have returned their Gift Aid Declaration Forms. If you know a parishioner and wish to collect theirs' to pass on, kindly help. If you are a taxpayer and you give to the Church, we applaud you.

You can claim back 25p every time on every £1 you give when you sign the giftaid form. You have nothing to lose. Please collect a form for yourself and a friend. You can reach the parish Finance Administrator via email if you need clarifications...accounts.didwal@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.



The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

The Pope Video is an official global initiative with the purpose of disseminating the Holy Father's monthly prayer intentions. It is carried out by the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer). Since 2016, The Pope Video has had more than 203 million views across all the Vatican's social networks and is translated into more than 23 languages, receiving press coverage in 114 countries.

The videos are produced and created by The Pope Video Prayer Network team, coordinated by Andrea Sarubbi, and distributed by La Machi Communication for Good Causes. The project is sponsored by Vatican Media. The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network is a Vatican foundation, with the mission of mobilizing Catholics through prayer and action in response to the challenges facing humanity and the mission of the Church. These challenges are presented in the form of prayer intentions entrusted by the Pope to the entire Church. Source: vaticannews.va

Divine Mercy Sunday Is This Weekend

Divine Mercy Sunday is this weekend, April 7 here in the English Martyrs. Come join us at 2pm. We hope to think of the Message of Divine Mercy, Hour of Mercy, Divine Mercy chaplet, Adoration and Benediction, Veneration of the Image of Merciful Jesus and the Sacrament of Reconciliation.



Thank You!!

This is to say THANK YOU to all of you, dear parishioners of the English Martyrs Didcot and St John the Evangelist, Wallingford for all the hard work leading up to the celebrations of Easter. Special thanks to all those who helped out with Saturday Soup, CAFOD, Walk of Witness, the Easter Basket Blessing, the choir groups, welcomers, sacristians, the flower ladies, our lectors and our lovely altar servers. Thank you so much. I am indeed grateful also for the gifts, cards and kind words. Fr Dominic.

First World Children's Day

Mission Together – the children's branch of Missio, the Pope's charity for overseas mission – is helping children to join with their global sisters and brothers to celebrate World Children's Day in their school or parish.

The Catholic Church's first World Children's Day takes place over the weekend of 25 – 26 May 2024. Pope Francis announced the inauguration of this special day on 8 December 2023 at the end of the Angelus. The concept came from a nine-year-old boy, Alessandro, who, just a few months earlier had written to Pope Francis with an idea to bring children together from different countries for a special event. Alessandro's hope was that the children could get to know one another, play and pray together, and become friends.

Alessandro's idea leans into the practice of accompaniment, which Pope Francis says is at the centre of being a missionary disciple. For the Holy Father, accompaniment means encountering others and listening to them so that we can form connections, build relationships, and reflect the love of Jesus to them.

World Children's Day invites children from around the globe, including those from areas of conflict and children of different faiths, to join together as sisters and brothers. Although the event focus will take place in Rome, Pope Francis calls on Catholics around the globe to celebrate this special event in their own Diocese too. Culled from <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/>



Are YOU being called to the Permanent Diaconate?

Have you ever wondered what it's all about but something has held you back from finding out more about it? Is there a little voice in your head, that can't be silenced? If that's YOU, why not 'Come & See' for yourself without committing to anything further?

We'll be holding an information event on Saturday, 11th May, 2024 at The English Martyrs Church, Didcot from 9am – 3pm where you'll get to hear first hand, from those who are involved and what it's been like for them. You've got nothing to lose!

If you'd like to attend, please call Pam on 07883 059529 to book a space and to help with catering requirements. If you can't make it on the day, but would like to know more, please contact Pam or email diaconate@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.



The Big Lent Walk – A Big thank you.

This is a big thank you to all those who sponsored me on my Big Lent Walk. You all helped to raise over £600 and this money has gone towards the many projects of CAFOD.

I walked over 200 km to achieve the target for the Big Lent Walk. I was joined by a number of you on my walks. A Big thank you to all those that joined me. Simon Marshall

The Annunciation ...Solemnity...8th April...Two Masses

At the Annunciation, Mary's consent was one of the most important moments in the history of salvation and in the unfolding of the Eucharistic mystery. We call that moment her 'fiat', the first word in a Latin phrase that means "Be it done unto me according to your word." When we say yes to God, we allow his grace to be fruitful. When we say no, we are missing big opportunities to be part God's picture. This day is a solemnity and everyone is encouraged to attend a mass. **There will be two masses: Wallingford at 9.30.am and Didcot at 7.pm** respectively. Make plans to attend.

Calling the young People of our Diocese. Have you just finished your A-levels? Or about to finish Uni for the Summer...?

Why not give something back by joining our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes? We will be leaving for Lourdes on Monday 22nd July and returning on Friday 26th July. You could help by assisting some of our pilgrims by pushing wheelchairs, offering a steady arm and a warm smile!

Our Youth pilgrims are an essential part of our pilgrimage, and they tell us each year of the amazing time they have had, returning many times to serve our pilgrims. Watch the promotional video we made in 2020 by clicking here and scrolling to the bottom of the page to give you a flavour of what it is like to take part.

If you would like to know more about joining us, contact lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. The pilgrim fare is £780 but there is the potential for funding.

