

## The Diocese is being Incorporated

Our Board of Trustees has decided that our Diocese of Portsmouth charity is to be 'incorporated', that is, to become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation or CIO. A number of other Dioceses in England and Wales have also become CIOs. Many will notice no change in regard of most day-to-day matters, but here, I am grateful to Heather Hauschild, our Chief Operating Officer, for explaining the benefits.

The Diocese of Portsmouth was set up as an unincorporated charitable trust in 1934. Portsmouth Roman Catholic Diocese Trust is the familiar name of the Charity, which is the legal entity responsible for the Diocese. Over the years since 1934, there have been many changes in law and increased regulations, which mean that the charity model we have been working with has become very complex to operate and administer. We have several linked charities and companies to work with under this umbrella. The Diocese of Portsmouth also includes the Channel Islands. We must comply not only with UK charity law, but also with the regulations of Jersey and the Bailiwick of Guernsey, which are becoming more prescriptive as time goes by. Guernsey has introduced new laws this year, which will involve changes for the whole Diocese, with particular emphasis on Anti-Crime and money laundering. This is why the Diocesan Trustees have taken legal advice and have decided that the Diocese should become a Charitable Incorporated Organisation or CIO. This new form of charity reflects the fact that we are responsible for substantial property assets, and we employ a number of people across our parishes and our central team. We have been doing all the preliminary work over the last year, and we hope that when the Charity Commission gives the final approvals needed, we will be able to operate under the new name of the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth with a new charitable number. We expect this will happen by January 2023 if all goes to plan. At the moment, we are still waiting for the final approval from the Charity Commission. This process is a bit like moving house, making sure all the goods and assets are correctly labelled and ready to be moved into the new organisation, and that our donors, employees, tenants and people who have contracts with us are told about the changes.



John questions Jesus from prison in today's Gospel—for his disciples' sake and for ours.

He knows that Jesus is doing "the works of the Messiah," foretold in today's First Reading and Psalm. But John wants his disciples—and us—to know that the Judge is at the gate, that in Jesus our God has come to save us.

The Liturgy of Advent takes us out into the desert to see and hear the marvelous works and words of God—the lame leaping like a stag, the dead raised, the good news preached to the poor (see Isaiah 29:18–20; 61:1–2).

The Liturgy does this to give us courage, to strengthen our feeble hands and make firm our weak knees. Our hearts can easily become frightened and weighed down by the hardships we face. We can lose patience in our sufferings as we await the coming of the Lord.

As James advises in today's Epistle, we should take as our example the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Jesus also points us to a prophet—holding up John as a model. John knew that life was more than food, the body more than clothing. He sought the kingdom of God first, confident that God would provide (see Matthew 6:25–34). John did not complain. He did not lose faith. Even in chains in his prison cell, he was still sending his disciples—and us—to our Savior.

We come to Him again now in the Eucharist. Already He has caused the desert to bloom, the burning sands to become springs of living water. He has opened our ears to hear the words of the sacred book, freed our tongue to fill the air with songs of thanksgiving (see Isaiah 30:18).

Once bowed down, captives to sin and death, we have been ransomed and returned to His Kingdom, crowned with everlasting joy. Raised up, we now stand before His altar to meet the One who is to come: "Here is your God."

By Scott Hahn



English Martyrs  
Vale of White Horse  
Pastoral Area

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

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## THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Psalter WK III)

### Entrance Antiphon Cf Ps 24:1-3

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice. Indeed, the Lord is near..

### First Reading: Isaiah 35:1–6, 10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 146:6–10

Come, Lord, and save us

### Second Reading: 5:7–10

### Gospel Acclamation: Cf. Lk3:4.6

Alleluia, alleluia!

he spirit of the Lord has been given to me. He has sent me to bring the good news to the poor.

Alleluia

Gospel: Mtt:11:2–11

Communion Antiphon: Cf. Is 35:4

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do not fear.

Behold, our God will come, and he will save us.

### SATURDAY 10 December, Our Lady of Lorato

9:30 Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot, Housebound

Rosary for Peace and confessions 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— The Sick

5:50pm Adoration before Vigil Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot

6:30pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs, Didcot— All Pregnant Women

### SUNDAY 11th December Third Sunday of Advent

9:00am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot— The Retired

11:00a.m Mass St John's, Wallingford— Frank, Ena & Henry Broadbent (Marion Hill)

MONDAY 12th December— 10.a.m Funeral of Kate Holland in St John's Wallingford

### TUESDAY 13th December St Lucy

11:30am St John's, Wallingford, Rosary for peace

12:00noon Mass St John's, Wallingford, Holy Souls esp. Foss family (D. Kennedy)

### WEDNESDAY 14th December St John of the Cross

9:30am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot— Antonia & John Beard RIP

### THURSDAY 15th December

9:30am Mass at St John's Wallingford, - Alison Richard Almeida & Family (Gay Bosley)

### FRIDAY 16th December

9:30am Mass, English Martyrs, Didcot— Barbara Wilson RIP Foundation

### SATURDAY 17th December, Our Lady

9:30 Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot,

Rosary for Peace and confessions 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 18th December Fourth Sunday of Advent

9:00am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot—

11:00noon Mass St John's, Wallingford—



In your prayers, please remember: Jenny Evans, Mary Guinan, Maureen & John Logan Ann Tomline, Joan Walker, Terry Appleyard, Joan Russell, Joan Turner, Nina Oakes, Jacob Oakes, Jidechi Ejiofor, Pat McLoughlin, Margaret Healy, Barry Molloy, David Woodley, Gladys Marr, Maureen Clifford, Marie Simon, Annie Furlong and all the sick and house-bound of our churches.



### Develop Six Holy Habits

In October, Bishop Philip wrote a Pastoral Letter to all. In it, he wrote... "this Christmas, I am going to send you a prayer book. I will also write again, because I want us all to engage in a diocesan Year of Prayer to the Holy Spirit, asking God the Holy Spirit to enliven us and to lead us.

Indeed, I am going to ask you to establish or pledge to develop six holy habits:

- \*to keep Sunday special, a family day, by attending Mass;
- \*to spend 5 minutes a day in prayer using the Scriptures;
- \*to do penance on Fridays, and to serve the poor and needy; every fortnight to make a Holy Half Hour before the Blessed Sacrament;
- \*to go to Confession once a month; and
- \*to join a small group for formation, prayer and fellowship.



### Children's Liturgy Christmas Cards Still On Sale

Thank You for the support you have given to our children who made Christmas cards for sale in support of our local foodbank and children in Ukraine. The response has been overwhelming. Indeed, Christmas is Joy, and this you are giving freely. There are still some more this Sunday. Each card will be 50p. Donations are welcome. Jacque and Gay

### Celebrating International Migrants Day

December, 18th is International Migrants Day. Immigration is a key part of the society we live in. Many of us are migrants, and all of us benefit from the contribution that migrants bring.

"I was a stranger and you welcomed me." (Mt 25:35) Today the immigrant comes before us like that 'stranger' in whom Jesus asks to be recognised. To welcome him and to show him solidarity is a duty of hospitality and fidelity to Christian identity itself. Prayer is the best gift. Offer Prayers.

### Christmas Raffle

We have a brand-new ASUS Motherboard PRIME A520M-K, worth £91, which has been gifted to us by one of our parishioners. It is used for fine tuning computer and is our First Prize. We would like parishioners to bring other prizes for the raffle from this weekend. We planned to draw the prizes on 18th December after 9am mass at the English Martyrs Didcot. Remember, this is to aid our finances. Thank You! Brian



### Cake Raffle

This Christmas calls for our Churches to wear a look. Flowers and flowers would bring joy and lift our hearts and minds in prayers. We have Cake Raffle and loads more for weekends of December 10/11 in Didcot and Wallingford. The proceeds shall be used for the flowers. Donations are welcome. Thank you! Camilla

### 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.

### THE CHOSEN TV SERIES: Join The 25-Day Prayer Challenge

Advent is here, a season of preparation, hope, and joy as we await the birth of Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. As in every Advent, we are called during this time to prepare our hearts for his miraculous birth.



Hallow is a Catholic meditation and prayer app, launched in 2018. It has had more than four million downloads and has been used to pray more than 100 million times across 150 countries, according to the press release. It can be downloaded on the App Store and Google Play. Consider being part of a worldwide movement by participating in the Advent #Pray25 Challenge featuring the cast of "The Chosen," the hit streaming series about Jesus and his first disciples.

We have the Poster book for The Chosen at the back of both Churches on a Stand. Feel free to view it, borrow it (return before weekends) and share your thoughts with family and friends.

### Give As You Live

The Christmas Collection is an opportunity for Parishioners to acknowledge the dedication, service and witness our parish priests offer across our Diocese. In addition to the usual ways of giving for this collection, donations may be received via an online giving page, set up specifically for each parish. You will doubtless be aware of the potential additional financial benefits online giving brings to a parish.

To support our new parish priest, please click on - <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/didcot-and-wallingford-english-martyrs-and-st-john-the-evangelist-catholic-parish-christmas-collection--2022>. Give As You Live at Christmas. Thank you! Liza, Portsmouth

### Home Group Is Here Again

Home Group is restarting in January 2023, on the first and third Wednesdays of each month, 7.30 – 9.30pm. We will worship, share our journey in faith and support one another in prayer, love and friendship. We will be watching "The Chosen" together, a marvellous series about Jesus and his followers; it will give us much to reflect on about our own journeys with Jesus. We meet in Carolyn Fishwick's home. If you would like to join us speak to Carolyn or contact the parish office.

### The Hungry and the Homeless

For thousands, Christmas is a reminder that life is too hard. In particular, the hungry and the homeless haven't much to look forward to. Part of our Christmas preparation is making sure that we share our money, time and skill.

To do:-

- Visit a charity website that supports the homeless. If you are in a position to make a donation, make a donation. If not, look for other ways to help, writing a letter to your MP or signing an online petition are easy ways to help.
- Food banks have been in the news a lot lately and are on the increase. Look out for 'two for one' offers at your supermarket and donate your 'free' item.

### Christmas Crib Collection

Crib offerings from Christmas this year are being donated to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. Our children are planning this year's Christmas crib. Please visit and leave donation. The sum collected will then be sent on to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre. Our Christmas Tree is up. Thanks to John Elsley and family.

**Our Church, the English Martyrs Didcot will be open daily for private prayers between 8am and 5pm.**