

St Peter's Catholic Church

Abbey St. Eynsham Oxon OX29 4HR

www.stpeterseynsham.org.uk

The parish is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham Registered as a Charity (234216)

Archbishop Bernard Longley

Parish Priest: Fr Mark Lagorio 01865 881613 ; Email : fr.mark.lagorio@rcaob.org.uk

Parish Webpage: <https://stpeterseynsham.org.uk/>

Parish Safeguarding Representative:

Domenico Caprotti sg.stpeter.eynsham@rcaob.org.uk

*The Parish operates in accordance with Statutory Safeguarding Guidance and the National and Archdioceses policies & procedures at all times. Our Parish Safeguarding Representative is Domenico Caprotti: He can be contacted on sg.stpeter.eynsham@rcaob.org.uk or alternatively the Diocesan Safeguarding team can be contacted on 0121 230 6240/
safeguarding@rcaob.org.uk if you have any concerns.*

PLEASE ACCESS THE NEWS SHEET BY VISITING OUR WEB PAGE.

PLEASE ONLY TAKE A HARD COPY IF YOU DO NOT HAVE INTERNET ACCESS

Sunday 10th March – 4th Sunday in Lent - Year B - Laetare
Year of Prayer – See Below for full details

Saturday (for Sunday) 5pm – Richard Board R.I.P.

Sunday Mass 10am – Dr Revel Elliot R.I.P.

Mass Times This Week

Monday 10am – Jayne Kenny R.I.P.

Tuesday 10am – Special Intention (M&NP)

Thursday 10am – In Thanksgiving

Thursday 10am – Private Intention (KO)

Friday 10am – *Followed by Exposition this for half an hour*

Sunday 17th March – 5th Sunday in Lent - Year B

Saturday (for Sunday) 5pm – Marino Paiolo R.I.P. (Anniversary)

Sunday Mass 10am – John Praniuk R.I.P.

Children's Liturgy of the Word – Sundays 10am Mass

Confessions Saturdays 4.30pm & On Request

TEA & COFFEE IS SERVED AFTER SUNDAY MASS – ALL WELCOME

Anniversaries: Please pray for those who have died recently, especially John Praniuk & Jayne Kenny, and for all those whose anniversary occurs at this time, especially Harold Deane, Vicky Day, Alvah Tucker, James Brady, Lynne Minch, & Eileen Hannawin. May they rest in peace.

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Sunday 10th March



Last Week: Church Collection: **£307.00** Thank You
Cathedral Maintenance (Annual) - £38 Thank You
THIS week – B & M

Eynsham Abbey Singers - Informal concert Wednesday 20 March 4pm.



'Tragedy and Triumph'

Sacred Music for Lent and Eastertide: Victoria, Vivanco, Byrd, Alonso Lobo
Eynsham Abbey Singers, directed by David Allinson

Informal concert Wednesday 20 March 4 p.m.

St Peter's Church, Abbey Street, Eynsham

Retiring collection for charity

All Welcome

READING REFLECTION FOR 4th SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR B

This Sunday is known as "*Laetare*" Sunday from the Latin word for "Rejoice", proclaimed by Isaiah which begins our entrance antiphon. It is a reminder that Lent is not all doom and gloom but a time of joy as we draw closer to Christ.

Easter is in the air. In the northern hemisphere this is marked by new flowers and fresh bird songs. In Great Britain it is also known, since the 13th century, as “Mothering Sunday”. The later “Mothers Day” captures the same loving recognition of the grace of motherhood.

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23

The books of Chronicles are history books which run parallel with the books of the Kings. They provide useful historical context for persons and events which we would only know about from their own personal writings. Today, the chronicler writes about the time of captivity and of how Judah’s enemies made a mockery of all the prophets whom the Lord sent. Jesus’ own parable of the wicked husbandmen in Matthew and Luke exactly mirrors this rejection of God’s attempt to save his people. Finally, the prophecies are fulfilled by a good king, Cyrus of Persia, who ends the captivity and allow the Jews to return to Jerusalem.

Ephesians 2:4-10

Paul recalls the message of the prophets that we were dead through sin but in our time God has raised us up again to be with Jesus. He introduces a new word, “grace” – found in many of his letters. This is the free gift from God alone whereby we are freed from our sins and thereby saved. Our salvation is completely God’s doing and none of us can claim any credit.

‘Light of the World’ 1851 – 1854 – Painting by William Holman Hunt



“The one who lives by the truth comes out into the Light” Jn 3:20-21.

John 3:14-21

Today, we continue with the Gospel of John and we hear one of Jesus’ most penetrating prophecies of his own mission and future. Jesus is engaged in a controversy with the good Pharisee, Nicodemus. He has just proclaimed that unless a man be born again from above he cannot see the kingdom of God. The puzzled Nicodemus takes this to mean that a man must return to his mother’s womb but Jesus is alluding to baptism. Yet even baptism has no efficacy unless the Son of Man, is raised up. Now He is alluding to his cross but to illustrate this startling truth he refers to the story of the serpent symbol in the desert in the time of Moses which was raised up so that those who looked upon it could be saved. This is the origin of the pharmacists’ symbol. Nicodemus searches for Truth: It is Christ the ‘Light’ who leads us into all truth.

Prayers for the sick: Please keep in your prayers all our sick and housebound, especially, Peter Glare, Kitty Jennings, Stephanie Tucker, Wilf Murray, Muriel Dell, Debbie Rooke, Valdis Culverwell, Dot Walker, Paul Morrill, Frances Flatman, Philomena Knox, Sara Ruane, Colin Flett, Margaret Edwards, & Frances Morill.

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week begins with **Palm (Passion) Sunday** 24th March

The Holy Triduum begins with the Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 8.00pm on **Maundy Thursday** 28th March. At this Mass we shall have the reenactment of the washing of the disciples feet. Immediately after Mass there will be watching at the Altar of Repose in silent Prayer until 10pm.

Good Friday - 29th March - we have the Solemn Passion of Our Lord and veneration of the Cross and Holy Communion at 3.00pm.

The Easter Vigil is on Saturday 30th March at 8.00pm.

Easter Sunday Mass 31st March at 10.00am.

Parish Financial Report/Returns Year End 2023

The Parish Financial Returns have now been submitted and accepted by the Archdiocese Treasurer. My thanks to Mary Methley, Parish Treasurer, for all her help in ensuring that our accounts are compliant with Diocesan Guidelines, and for her work throughout the year in keeping the OPAS figures up to date on behalf of the parish. My thanks, also, to Margaret Stevens, Chair of Finance, and to the

finance committee for all their support, and for the advice they have given to me throughout the year: I am most grateful.

Thank you to all those who have so generously supported the parish financially. You will see from the 2023 Report that there was a modest surplus. Thank you, also, to those who are able to Gift Aid their regular donations in support of our church. This makes a significant difference to our overall income. Our thanks to Bill Phillips, Parish Gift-Aid Organiser, for his generosity of time in ensuring we can make a Gift-Aid claim each year. If you are able to Gift-Aid your donations to St. Peter's, or if you would like to increase the amount you are already donating through Gift-Aid, please contact Bill Phillips.

Hard copies of the Financial Report will be available at the rear of the church: Parish/Church Copy will be on the church notice board. If you have any queries, please speak with Margaret Stevens (Chair) or one of the Finance Committee members. Thank you.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Eynsham Abbey Singers: Informal Concert at St. Peter's – Wednesday 20th March.
- Parish Harvington Hall Visit – May 17th Depart by coach from St Peter's in the morning (Full details nearer the date).

YEAR OF PRAYER – 2024

Preparing for the Jubilee Year 2025

In preparation for the 2025 Jubilee Year - entitled "Pilgrims of Hope" - 2024 has been

designated as a Year of Prayer by Pope

Francis. With its focus on the Our Father, it

presents us with a great opportunity to go back to the basics of prayer.

- Making the Most of the Year of Prayer -

Our Jubilee Preparatory Commission, which Pope Francis has asked each diocese to establish, wants to encourage every Catholic to reflect on their life of prayer: what they pray, how they pray & why they pray. This is for two reasons:

1. To encourage Catholics to deepen their prayer life and love of God;

2. For each Catholic to help at least one other person to pray during the Year of Prayer.

There are already a growing number of resources on the Diocesan & Office for Mission websites to help you, so that our Archdiocese can have, as its focus, missionary prayer and accompaniment during 2024.

- An Invitation -

Archbishop Bernard Longley calls on everyone to take part in this Year:

"The Year of Prayer starts on the first Sunday of Advent (3rd Dec). Pope Francis desires to see the Our Father become the "life programme" of every disciple, and so I invite our Diocesan family to prepare for the Jubilee Year, "Pilgrims of Hope", through a deeper devotion to prayer in this Year of Prayer!

"At our recent Bishops' Conference meeting, we resolved to work towards a renewal of our adoration of Jesus Christ and our service of neighbour. I pray that our Lord will guide us to become a more synodal, missionary and prayerful Church, as we approach the Holy Year."

St Peter's Choir: Singers and musicians are always welcome to join us at St Peter's. If interested, please speak to Jane Shaw or any member of the choir. Thank you.

Transport Volunteers: Saturday evening Mass & Sunday morning

Thank you to those who have offered the occasional lift for our frail and elderly parishioners which will enable them to come to Holy Mass. If you would like to support the elderly and frail of the parish in this way, please contact Fr. Mark.

MASS INTENTIONS

If you would like to have a Mass said on a particular date for a loved one, either an anniversary Mass, birthday, special intention, etc., please be sure to arrange this well in advance so as to avoid any disappointment. I do my best to say Mass on the date requested but this is not always possible so I ask for your understanding. The Mass is the most precious & effective way in which we can assist our departed loved ones, for it is the offering of Christ Himself. Our prayer, & the prayer of the Mass, is an expression of our continued love for those who have died. May they rest in peace, Amen. For Mass Intentions, it would help if you would kindly use the 'Mass Intention Envelopes' which are provided on the table at the rear of the church. Simply complete the details, suggesting the date

preferred, (if the date you prefer is not available I shall celebrate the Mass on the nearest date to it unless requested otherwise). Please indicate whether the intention is for someone living or deceased, and/or anniversary, or Special Intention and put the Mass Offering envelope through the presbytery letter box or hand it to the priest after Mass. Thank you.

CHURCH CLEANING – VOLUNTEERS

I am most grateful for the help received for the cleaning of the church and the Tolkien room. But we are now in need of a few more willing hands – the ‘Holy Dusters’ – so that the church is cleaned more regularly and kept beautiful for our collective worship and celebration of the Sacraments. If you would like to serve the parish in this way, and can spare an hour or so once a month, please contact Fr. Mark. Thank you.

STANDING ORDERS

Thank you to those of you who have created a standing order (SO) through your bank in order to maintain some income for the parish at this time. You can do this directly with your bank: Just let them know how much you would like to give each month. If you need parish Bank Account details, please email me.

If you need any forms so as to Gift-Aid your SO, please let me know. I can send you an e-copy of the Gift-Aid form. Thank you.

ONE-OFF Donations: Bank Transfer: For our bank details please email stpeterschurcheynsham@gmail.com

CHEQUES: If you are not able to set up a SO or make a bank transfer, it would help a great deal if you are in a position to post a Cheque, say monthly, as your contribution so that we can avoid too great a shortfall for the year. Thank you very much for your donations received by post or bank transfer.

GATEHOUSE DONATIONS – Donations to Newland Street.

Gatehouse is welcoming home-made cakes, sandwiches etc. All donations need to be labelled with your name, date and contents. Please contact Marie Bridge to receive labels: marie.bridge1@gmail.com

Please deliver donations to 15 Newland St Eynsham OX29 4LB on the Sunday morning of our Gatehouse weekends.

Clothing Donations - Due to limited storage capacity and rapidly fluctuating availability, anyone who would like to donate clothing should first email clothes@oxfordgatehouse.org and check that any items they want to donate are needed at that specific time, and, if so, to make arrangements with Gatehouse for dropping them off. Priority items are blankets, sleeping bags, men's gloves (fleece/waterproof), men's trousers and jogging bottoms, men's boots, shoes, trainers, and rucksacks.

Gatehouse Financial Donations

Gatehouse continues to value its support from St. Peter's and is currently operating 4 separate but interlinked services which include a food and drink delivery service to the vulnerably housed, a food, drink and clothing takeaway service 6 evenings a week, a bespoke one to one remote service on a wide range of emotional and practical needs, and a new counselling service.

If you would like to make a financial donation please visit:- <http://www.justgiving.com/gatehouse>

You can also access this link to GATEHOUSE from the parish web page at any time - <https://stpeterseynsham.org.uk> and click on link.

Parish News Sheet.

If you need to receive a prompt, a reminder, to access the news sheet each week via the parish web page, please let Marie Bridge have your email address. Her email is - stpeter.eynsham@rcaob.org.uk Thank you.