

Pope Leo XIV appoints Fr Stephen Wang as new Bishop of Arundel and Brighton

His Holiness Pope Leo XIV has today appointed Fr Stephen Wang as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Arundel and Brighton.



Ordnained to the priesthood on 3 January 1998, Fr Wang has spent the last five years as Rector of the Venerable English College, one of two English and Welsh seminaries in

Rome training men for the priesthood.

On hearing of his appointment, Bishop-elect Stephen Wang, said:

“This appointment has come as a huge surprise. I feel a mixture of gratitude and trepidation; an excitement and curiosity about all that lies ahead; and above all, a sense of peace. I’m grateful to Pope Leo for calling me and putting his trust in me, and to Archbishop Moth for all his care for the Diocese over these years.

“I’m sad to be leaving the Venerable English College, and the Diocese of Westminster. But I am overjoyed at the thought of coming to Arundel and Brighton, getting to know the people, and working together to build God’s Kingdom. Coming from a landlocked diocese where the hills are no bigger than London buses, I look forward to some wild swimming and walks on the South Downs.

“I will need lots of prayers and support. I hope that even with all my weaknesses I can be a loving shepherd, a spiritual father, and a brother as well. I know that if we put the love of Jesus and Mary at the centre of everything we do, and always seek to love and serve one another, then we cannot go wrong. Jesus will guide us through his Holy Spirit, lead us to the Father, and help us to lead others along the same path.”

Archbishop Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster and President of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England and Wales, was Bishop of Arundel and Brighton from 2015 to 2026. Reflecting on Fr Wang’s appointment, he said:

“I warmly welcome the appointment of Bishop-elect Stephen Wang as the Bishop of Arundel and Brighton and thank Pope Leo XIV for providing for the needs of the diocese ... To read more: Bishop-elect Stephen has served the Church in many roles, most recently as the Rector of the Venerable English College in Rome ... [Pope Leo XIV appoints Fr Stephen Wang as new Bishop of Arundel and Brighton - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

The Word's Return

Today’s readings, like last week’s, ask us to meditate on Israel’s response to God’s Word—and our own. Why do some hear the word of the kingdom, yet fail to accept it as a call to conversion and faith in Jesus? That question underlies today’s Gospel especially.



Again, we see, as we did last week, that the kingdom’s mysteries are unfolded to those who open their hearts, making of them a rich soil in which the Word can grow and bear fruit.

As we sing in today’s Psalm, in Jesus, God’s Word has visited our land to water the stony earth of our hearts with the living waters of the Spirit (see John 7:38; Revelation 22:1).

The first fruit of the Word is the Spirit of love and adoption poured into our hearts in Baptism, making us children of God, as Paul reminds us in today’s Epistle (see Romans 5:5; 8:15-16). In this, we are made a “new creation” (see 2 Corinthians 5:17), the first fruits of a new heaven and a new earth (see 2 Peter 3:13).

Since the first humans rejected God’s Word, creation has been enslaved to futility (see Genesis 3:17–19; 5:29). But God’s Word does not go forth only to return to Him void, as we hear in today’s First Reading.

His Word awaits our response. We must show ourselves to be children of that Word. We must allow that Word to accomplish God’s will in our lives. As Jesus warns today, we must take care lest the devil steals it away or lest it be choked by worldly concerns.

In the Eucharist, the Word gives Himself to us as bread to eat. He does so that we might be made fertile, yielding fruits of holiness.

And we await the crowning of the year, the great harvest of the Lord’s Day (see Mark 4:29; 2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 1:10)—when His Word will have achieved the end for which it was sent.

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: didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

(Office Hours Tuesday–Friday 9am to 2pm) Telephone: 01235812338
15 Manor Crescent, Didcot OX11 7AJ

Fr Dominic Adeiza’s email: dadeiza@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Safeguarding email: safeguarding.didwal@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
SVP contact: 07516 701917



15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Entrance Antiphon:

As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.

First Reading: Isaiah 55:10-11

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 65

Some seed fell into good soil and yielded its fruit.

Second Reading: Romans 8:18-23

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

The seed is the word of God, Christ the sower; all who find him will live for ever.

Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 13:1-23

Communion Antiphon: Ps 83:4-5

The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house, for ever singing your praise.

SATURDAY 11th July ... ST BENEDICT

9.30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... **Confession after Mass** ... Kershaw Family in Thanksgiving

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 ... Rev William Taylor RIP (Evelyn Sanders)

SUNDAY 12th July

9.00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot

11.00 am Mass St John Wallingford

MONDAY 13th July ... NO MASS ... St Henry

TUESDAY 14th July ... St Camillus of Lellis

12.00 noon Mass St John Wallingford ... Fr Dominic’s Intention (Noel Clifford)

WEDNESDAY 15th July ... St Swithun

9.30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Elizabeth White RIP

THURSDAY 16th July ... Our Lady of Mount Carmel

9:30am Mass St John Wallingford ... Canon Peter Good Health

FRIDAY 17th July ... St Bonaventure

9.30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot

SATURDAY 18th July ... Our Lady on Saturday

9.30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... **Confession after 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

SUNDAY 19th July

9.00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot

11.00 am Mass St John Wallingford ... Colin Moran Good Health (Cathy Redman)

In your prayers, please remember: Margaret O'Conner, Jenny Evans, Mary Guinan, Ann Tomline, Joan Walker, Joan Turner, Nina Oakes, Jacob Oakes, Pat McLoughlin, Barry Molloy, Annie Furlong, Canon Peter Turbitt, Charles Hunt and all the sick and housebound.



Sea Sunday Second Collection 2026

Seafarers and fishers play a vital role in all our lives, but they often work in difficult and dangerous conditions. Conflicts around the world are increasing risks to their safety, especially for crews travelling through regions such as the Strait of Hormuz.



Many also face abandonment by employers, long separations from family, stress, and poor mental health. Stella Maris (formerly known as Apostleship of the Sea) is the maritime charity of the Catholic Church. Its chaplains and ship visitors provide practical help and pastoral care to seafarers and fishers in the UK and around the world.

To make an online donation, please [click here](#) or scan the QR code as provided. After our Sunday masses, you can pay by cash for the Second Collection or use the payment device to make your payment.



Stop Assisted Suicide Being Legalised

Assisted suicide campaigners have sadly brought back the Leadbeater Bill. This can be stopped if MPs vote down the Bill on 11 September. Right To Life UK has launched an EasyAction tool to help you email your MP to ask them to vote NO to assisted suicide in the vote in the House of Commons on 11 September. Please take 30 seconds to email your MP today to ask them to vote NO to assisted suicide: <https://righttolife.org.uk/Sept11vote>

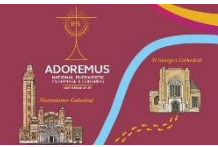


CAFOD-DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal

You can help our neighbours affected by the 24 June earthquakes in Venezuela with emergency shelter, water and food. CAFOD is already working with local Church partners to support people who have lost their homes, but we need your support to help more survivors. Your donation will provide essential supplies and help families rebuild their lives. Donate to the CAFOD-DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal today: [DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal](#) or call 0300 999 0030 or scan the QR code. Please keep our neighbours in Venezuela in your prayers.



Adoremus 2026



Adoremus is a National Eucharistic Congress initiated by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to deepen devotion to the Eucharist and encourage adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. Canon Michael Dennehy invites you to join the Diocesan contingent. The next Adoremus event is due to take place in London on **Saturday 10th October 2026**, with Mass, a Eucharistic Procession and Benediction. Book your place on the

Adoremus Pilgrimage by **3rd August, 2026** to travel by coach, departing St Edmund's Church, The Avenue, Southampton, then Winchester Services, Fleet Services and on to London. To book a place please register using the form either by [clicking here](#) or scanning the QR code provided.



Didcot Festival of Cultures

Didcot Festival of Cultures will be **this Saturday 11th July in Cornerstone Arts Centre from 10am to 3pm. Free entry.** The CTDD (Churches Together for Didcot & District) will have a table in the gallery to showcase how we celebrate our cultural differences in churches and communities in the area, with a small display of English Martyrs Pentecost Celebration images from last year. Go and support them on 11th July. If you are also interested in helping to man the CTDD table and socialise with others from churches in our area, please let the Parish Office know.



Parish Safeguarding

Our Safety Officer for all adults and children safeguarding issues is Stefania Harford. Please contact Stefania via the parish office on 01235 812338. If there is no response and, in an emergency, dial 999.

Seniors' Lunch Cancelled

Due to heat conditions, the original **July Seniors' Lunch 'Posh Ploughman's' Lunch on Thursday 16th July will now be cancelled.** Our Seniors' Lunch Team has decided to postpone the lunch to a later date in August (tentatively on Thursday 6th August subject to weather conditions at the time). More information will be available soon on our parish newsletters and notice board. Stay well and hydrated in the heat everyone!

Mass and Confessions for Hong Kong Catholics in Didcot

Our parish is happy to welcome Fr Robert Wong SVD from the Taiwan Catholic Diocese this summer. Fr Wong will be in Didcot from 5th to 8th August, residing in a parishioner's home. Fr Wong will host a **Faith Sharing Session (in Cantonese) at English Martyrs Didcot Tearoom on Friday 7th August at 7pm.** Please bring food to share. On **Saturday 8th August at 4pm in English Martyrs Didcot**, there will be a **vigil mass in Cantonese. Confession time before mass will start at 3pm.** Tea and refreshments will be served after mass.

Please kindly pass this information on to any Hong Kong Catholics you may know in Didcot and surrounding areas. To register your interests, please contact Ada Chim (Didcot), Anna Sze (Bicester), Derek Ng (Kidlington, Headington) or email to oxhkcaths@gmail.com. For more information about Hong Kong Catholic Migrants Pastoral Coordination Group, visit [UKHKCaths Facebook Page](#).



Registration For All Parishioners

If you have not yet registered on our new online Parishioner Registration system which we had started asking for earlier this year, please REGISTER NOW! For those who have previously registered with a paper form, please kindly re-register with us on our new online system because our previous record is no longer valid under the new General Data & Privacy Requirements of our diocese. Registration is the only way for you and your family to be kept in our parish record, which is required for a lot of important processes, such as preparing for a sacrament or requesting for documentation proofs of your Catholic identity. The online registration process is simple and quick. Links and QR Codes for registration can easily be accessed from our [parish website](#) and our noticeboards. Weekly newsletters will be emailed to you every week if you have given us your consent to receive newsletters by email in your registration.

If you are not yet a Gift Aider, please also consider becoming a Gift Aider. If you are a UK taxpayer, you have nothing to lose. Please register [here](#). You can reach the parish finance administrator, Helen Cooper by [email](#) for enquiries.



Didcot & Wallingford Enquirers' Group

Interested in finding out more about the Catholic Church? Maybe interested in becoming a Catholic? Or maybe you're baptised but never received First Holy Communion or Confirmation? Why not come along to our Enquirers' Group, **starting Wednesday 15 July, 7.30pm at English Martyrs Didcot Tearoom?** Meetings over the summer are planned for **15 July, 5 August, 17 August.** Meetings will be very informal: bring your questions; we will provide the tea and biscuits! Any queries, please contact the parish office or speak with Angela Gray, Carolyn Fishwick, Jude Ajakaiye or Nick Spencer. Please download the [RCIA form](#) from our website. Printed copies are also available in both churches now. To enrol in our Enquirers' Group, please register to become our parishioners from our [parish website](#) if you have not already registered.

Live Streaming Preparation for Masses in Didcot

We would like to let you know that we are now preparing for live streaming of all our masses here in English Martyrs Didcot. With the technical help from Vince Rosso and the support from Fr Dominic and the Parish Pastoral Committee, we are in the process of setting up our equipment for live streaming. We will share our live streaming platform with you through our weekly newsletters, website and Facebook when it is ready. In the meantime, Vince will continue to broadcast Sunday masses in Didcot via "Facebook Live" which can be viewed on [English Martyrs Catholic Church Didcot Facebook page](#).



[Careers - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth](#): Current job openings across the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth.