

## Pope heading to Dubai for COP28 climate summit

The Holy See's Press Office has confirmed that Pope Francis will make an Apostolic Visit to Dubai for the COP28 climate summit.

"Accepting the invitation of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, President of the United Arab Emirates," the Director, Matteo Bruni, noted in a statement. "His Holiness Pope Francis will make the previously announced trip to Dubai from 1 to 3 December 2023, on the occasion of the upcoming Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework



Convention on Climate Change (COP28)."

In a recent interview with Italian television, the Holy Father had said he would be traveling to the Emirates for the occasion.

This marks the first time a Pope has attended the UN climate summit.

**Second visit to the Emirates**

The early December visit will mark Pope Francis' second visit to the United Arab Emirates, after his first Apostolic Journey to the Muslim-majority nation's capital of Abu Dhabi in February 2019.

Pope Francis had been the first Pope to ever visit the Arabian Peninsula, and the first to celebrate Mass for the Gulf nation's Catholic community, composed primarily of immigrants.

During that visit, the Holy Father signed the Document on Human Fraternity for World Peace and Living Together at an interfaith summit, along with the Grand Imam of Al Azhar, Al Tayyeb, which would inspire the foundations for the Pope's subsequent encyclical on human fraternity, Fratelli Tutti, in 2020.

### Appealing to protect Creation

Pope Francis, who chose his name after St. Francis of Assisi, has, since the start of his papacy, drawn attention to the need to protect our Common Home. This dedication led him to write his 2015 landmark encyclical on the environment, Laudato si, and his subsequent Apostolic Exhortation which built on the encyclical, Laudate Deum, which was published recently, on 4 October 2023, the Feast Day of St. Francis.

In the recent Exhortation, addressed to all people of good will on the climate crisis, the Pope warns that we are at "a breaking point," and that action must be taken before it is too late, to protect future generations.

Source: *Vatican News*

## Calling the Fathers

Though they were Moses' successors, the Pharisees and scribes exalted themselves, making their mastery of the law a badge of social privilege. Worse, they had lorded the law over the people (see Matthew 20:25). Like the priests Malachi condemns in today's First Reading, they caused many to falter and be closed off from God.

In a word, Israel's leaders failed to be good spiritual fathers of God's people. Moses was a humble father figure, preaching the law but also practicing it—interceding and begging God's mer-



cy and forgiveness of the people's sins (see Exodus 32:9-14; Psalm 90).

And Jesus reminds us today that all fatherhood in the family or in the people of God—comes from the Father in heaven (see Ephesians 3:15).

He doesn't mean we're to literally call no man "father." He Himself referred to Israel's founding fathers (see John 7:22); the Apostles taught about natural fatherhood (see Hebrews 12:7-11) and described themselves as spiritual fathers (see 1 Corinthians 4:14-16).

The fatherhood of the Apostles and their successors, the Church's priests and bishops, is a spiritual paternity given to raise us as God's children. Our fathers give us new life in Baptism and feed us the spiritual milk of the Gospel and the Eucharist (see 1 Peter 2:2-3). That's why Paul, in today's Epistle, can also compare himself to a nursing mother.

God's fatherhood likewise transcends all human notions of fatherhood and motherhood. Perhaps that's why the Psalm chosen for today includes one of the rare biblical images of God's maternal care (see Isaiah 66:13).

His only Son has shown us the Father (see John 14:9) coming to gather His children as a hen gathers her young (see Matthew 23:37). We're all brothers and sisters, our Lord tells us today. And all of us—even our spiritual fathers—are to trust in Him, humbly, like children on our mothers' laps.

Scott Hahn



English Martyrs  
Vale of The White  
Horse Pastoral Area

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## 31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A (WK III)

**Entrance Antiphon:** Ps 37:22-23

Forsake me not, O Lord, my God; be not far from me!  
Make haste and come to my help, O Lord, my strong salvation!

**First Reading:** Prophet Malachi 1:14b-2:2b, 8-10

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 130

Keep my soul in peace before you, O Lord

**Second Reading:** Thessalonians 2:7b-9, 13

**Gospel Acclamation:** Cf. Jn 6:68

**Alleluia, alleluia!** You have only one Father, and he is in heaven; you have only one Teacher, the Christ! **Alleluia!**

**Gospel:** Matt.23:1-12

**Communion Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 15:11  
You will show me the path of life, the fullness of joy in your presence, O Lord.

### SATURDAY 4th November- St Charles Borromeo

9:30 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 ...Noel Clifford...Birthday Thanksgiving

5.50pm Adoration before Vigil Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot...

6.30pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs, Didcot....All Holy Souls (Douglas Henderson)

### SUNDAY... 5th November....31st Sunday in Ordinary Time.

9:00am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot- Thanksgiving for God's Favours, Mr/Mrs Cardozo

11:00noon Mass St John's Wallingford - Feyintoluwa Adams ...Birthday....Mrs Ede

### MONDAY 6th October-.....NO MASS

### TUESDAY 7th October....St. Willibrord ....NO MASS

Kindly attend masses in the Pastoral Area

### WEDNESDAY 8th November-

9:30am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot..Thanksgiving for God's Favours, Mr/Mrs Cardozo

### THURSDAY 9th November.....The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

9:30am —Mass St John's Wallingford... Thomas James Jeffery (Christine Jeffery)

### FRIDAY 10th November... St Leo the Great

9.30.a.m Mass at the English Martyrs, Didcot...Good Estate of Rosemary Jacobs (Mary Almeida)

### SATURDAY 11th November- St Martin of Tours

9:30 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....Deceased Family and Friends (Julie Lazarus)

### SUNDAY... 12th November....32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

9:00am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot-

11:00noon Mass St John's Wallingford -



In your prayers, please remember: Jenny Evans, Mary Guinan, John Logan, Ann Tomline, Joan Walker, Terry Appleyard, Joan Russell, Joan Turner, Nina Oakes, Jacob Oakes, Jidechi Ejofofor, Pat McLoughlin, Margaret Healy, Barry Molloy, David Woodley, Annie Furlong, Fr Philip Harris, all the sick and household.



### All Souls In November

The opportunity to remember and pray for the souls of our loved ones and others the whole month of November is here again. Envelopes are available at the entrance of the Church for you to insert names of those you wish to be remembered in prayers. Please do NOT include cash. Return the filled envelope to the designated place for the prayers. Special thanks to the Flower Ladies for preparing a special spot for this.



### Launch of the National Tribunal Service of England and Wales



On Saturday, 4 November, the Catholic Church in England and Wales will officially launch its National Tribunal Service (NTS) at a Mass in Westminster Cathedral that will be celebrated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols.

The purpose of this National Tribunal is to enhance impartiality, transparency and consistency in the application of canon law across its jurisdiction in penal cases. Canon law is a code of ecclesiastical laws – laws relating to the Church – that govern its administration. It will be involved in many aspects of penal law affecting clergy, religious and lay people.

The Tribunal was proposed by the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales at their November 2022 Plenary Assembly following the recommendations of the Elliott Review into Safeguarding Structures and Practice in

the Church. The Apostolic Signatura, the Holy See's Supreme Tribunal that ensures that justice in the Church is correctly administered, granted approval for this National Penal Tribunal on 4 May 2023.

In a letter to the President of the Bishops' Conference, Cardinal Nichols, the Prefect of the Apostolic Signatura, Cardinal Dominique Mamberti, described this news of the formal launch of the Tribunal's work as a "momentous occasion in the life of the local Church" and assured everyone involved of his prayers.

He wrote: "May the ministry of justice undertaken by the newly instituted Tribunal faithfully reflect the Face of Christ, Justus Judex, as so exemplified by that immaculate Speculum Justitiae, the Virgin Mary."

Father John Poland JCD, a priest of the Archdiocese of Liverpool who has been instrumental in the creation of the Tribunal said: "Fairness and justice lie at the heart of our Christian life. The establishment of the NTS demonstrates the commitment of the Church in England and Wales to promote and encourage consistent and fair practice in the determination of penal cases in accordance with the law of the Church, and so to foster confidence in a just outcome for all those involved."

### Autumn 2023 Cost-of-Living Statement

The Department for Social Justice has noted that recent events have further exposed the fact that too many people live in a position where they lack financial security and risk falling into a spiral of poverty and debt. Ahead of the Government's 2023 Autumn Statement, the Department for Social Justice urges the Government to consider seriously policies to address these problems, whilst not neglecting our obligations to aid poorer countries or to reduce carbon emissions.

In this statement, we recognise that the cost-of-living crisis is multi-faceted and requires actions at a range of levels, including Government, civil society and the Church. However, with the Government's Autumn Statement imminent, we are making the following specific requests of the Government:

- The taxation system should treat justly those with family, child-rearing and other caring responsibilities.
- The Government should examine with urgency and seriousness how policies relating to the provision of housing can reduce costs for families and ensure that families can have a stable and decent home. Housing costs today are at their highest levels relative to incomes since the 1870s.
- The Government should not neglect the need for a just transition to greener energy but should also consider carefully how different sections of society bear the costs.
- The world's poorest people should not be further victims of the cost-of-living crisis in our own country. The Government should return to spending 0.7 per cent of national income on foreign aid.
- Welfare benefits should be fully uprated to reflect increases in the cost of living, with priority being given to families with children.
- The two-child cap on universal credit payments should be removed or, at the very least, suspended pending a review of its impact.

Bishop Richard Moth Chair, Department for Social Justice  
Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales



### Calling All Musicians and Singers

English Martyrs is looking for more singers and instrumentalists to help lead the music at Masses on 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month. On 3rd Sundays of the month we would love young musicians of the parish, of secondary school age, to help us, starting on 17 December. On 1st Sundays we are looking for all who sing or play – perhaps you would like to join as a family? The gift of music is so precious and it is so rewarding to share it with others – please offer your gifts back to the Lord by serving Him and your fellow parishioners. Please approach anyone in the music group or contact the parish office.

### Rosary for Peace At English Martyrs

The world desperately needs peace. Come let us offer the world peace through prayers before our loving Father in the Most Blessed Sacrament on the Altar. From Saturday 11th November the Rosary will be prayed during Adoration before Mass at 8:50am. Please join in. This shift will replace our after mass Rosary.

### Our First Holy Communion Prep Begins Today

Our First Holy Communion Preparation will begin this Sunday, November 5th. Parents who have not filled the forms, provided the supporting documents to the office or the First Holy Communion Team have a few weeks to do so. As usual, this will be for both Churches of Wallingford and Didcot. We encourage parents to consider being part of this preparation. We shall insist on 100% active participation. If there is anyone who desires to support the Preparation Team, please speak with Mary or Jess. The venue for the preparation sessions shall be at the English Martyrs, Didcot. If there will be any change or adjustment, this will be communicated to you. Please visit the parish website to fill the form.

### Rethink Remembrance: Poppy Appeal 2023

Your poppy supports the Armed Forces community, past and present. The Royal British Legion is asking the nation to Rethink Remembrance by recognising the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces community, past and present. By wearing a poppy, you aren't just remembering the fallen: you're supporting a new generation of veterans and service personnel that need the charity's support. Buying and wearing your paper poppy is the easiest way to support, but there are lots more fundraising ideas from shopping at the RBL online shop to joining Poppy walks or baking poppy cakes.

### Bamenda Sunday

Today, let us celebrate Bamenda Sunday. Let us give thanks for our link with the Archdiocese of Bamenda and for the ministry of their five priests serving in our Diocese; praying for our brothers and sisters in Bamenda and for the restoration of peace and justice in the region; and giving to our annual appeal to support projects in Bamenda in 2024, the 50th anniversary of the formation of the link! Please read our annual Bamenda News for an update, which can be accessed on the Bamenda and Portsmouth website: <https://www.bamendaandportsmouth.com/index.php> Donations can be made via the parish second collection or online securely at: <https://www.bamendaandportsmouth.com/donate.php> where gift aid and standing order forms can also be downloaded and bank details can be found for direct transfers. If you already have gift aided your donations to Bamenda, please complete and submit a new form to address the change of name to CDP Bamenda Commission. Thank you for your generosity!

### Come Join Men's Group

Experience the benefits of sharing with Catholic men and the wonderful spiritual and emotional support I receive from all the group members. I will share the blessings and miracles I have experienced in the Windsor Men's Group. Fr. Dominic is keen and supportive of this initiative and this is one of Bishop Philip's 'six habits' to join a small group. I will model our parish Men's Group on the same proven format. It's very relaxed and casual. There is no 'Bible Study'. We share our well-being during the past month in a trusted and confidential space and we each gain a lot of support. We spend 30 mins each sharing our thoughts and insight of the mass reading of the day and finish with intercessory prayer. The meeting duration is 1 1/2 hrs. 6:30-8pm There is no requirement or commitment to attend every month as we all have work and family commitments. Please pray for the new group. Do contact me if you would like to know more? Being relatively new to the parish I would certainly like to get to know more of the parish men. Jesus says: Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. Geoff Hassett 07874155465 [geoffhassett@gmail.com](mailto:geoffhassett@gmail.com)

### Mass in the Children's Liturgy Room

Weekday masses are now celebrated in the Children's Liturgy Room, here in Didcot. This begins with private adoration, except when otherwise advertised. The move to celebrate in the Liturgy Room is to cut down on the cost of heating the main Church with only a handful of people in attendance. Kindly bear with us and come, let us pray and adore the Lord. Be blessed