

Pope Leo XIV praises Newman's lasting legacy: "Education helps everyone become saints"

On Saturday 1 November, Catholics celebrated the declaration of St John Henry Newman as the 38th Doctor of the Church by Pope Leo XIV.

In addition to this historic honour, St John Henry Newman was also made co-patron of Catholic education, alongside St Thomas Aquinas, and on 3 November 2025, it was announced that Newman would be the new Patron Saint of the Pontifical Urbaniana University in Rome.

In his homily at the Mass celebrated in St Peter's Square, Rome, on the day of the declaration, Pope Leo XIV said, "The lasting legacy of Saint John Henry Newman includes some very significant contributions to the theory and practice of education."

He continued, "The contribution that each person can make is uniquely valuable, and the task of educational communities is to encourage and cherish that contribution. Let us not forget that at the heart of the educational journey we do not find abstract individuals but real people... We are called to form people, so that they may shine like stars in their full dignity. We can say, then, that from a Christian perspective education helps everyone to become saints. Nothing less will do."

Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop of Westminster, was a concelebrant at the Mass with the Pope. Following the Mass, Cardinal Nichols said, "It is difficult to find words to convey the immensity of this moment. We are being told beyond doubt that this man, in his life and all that he wrote, both as a priest of the Church of England and as a Catholic, is a sure guide and teacher of the true faith of the Catholic Church. I rejoice that in a man described as 'an essentially English figure' is to be found, without dissonance or discomfort, a full expression of Catholic faith."

The declaration of Newman as a Doctor of the Church formed the culmination of events for the Jubilee of Education which took place on 27 October – 1 November.

Catholic schools across England and Wales were recognised by the Vatican for their extraordinary response to the Jubilee Year, hailed as a powerful sign of hope for their communities and beyond.

Over 1,000 Catholic schools made a 'Jubilee Pledge' this year – a long-term, whole-school commitment to continue to journey as Pilgrims of Hope and to live out Catholic Social Teaching ... To read more, go to <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/pope-leo-xiv-and-newmans-lasting-legacy-education-helps-everyone-become-saints/>



Body Building



Why commemorate a church dedication that happened in fourth-century Rome? First, because St. John Lateran is no ordinary church—it's the cathedral church of the Pope and still known as "the mother of all the world's churches."

But more than that, because God has from all time intended the church building to be a symbol of His Church and our bodies. This is what the readings for today's feast invite us to consider. God's prototype for the church is the Jerusalem Temple, described in this week's First Reading and Psalm. It's God's "holy dwelling," site of His presence in our midst, source of "living waters"—of all life and blessing. But God intended the Temple to give way to the Body of Christ.

That's what our Lord's words and actions in Sunday's Gospel are intended to dramatize. Christ's Body is now the dwelling of God's "glory" among us (see John 1:14). It's the new source of living waters John 4:10,14; 7:37-39; 19:34), the living bread John 6:51), the new sanctuary where people will worship in Spirit and truth John 4:21,23). By Baptism, we are joined to His Body in the Church.

Sunday's Epistle says the Spirit of God comes to dwell in us and makes us "God's building...the temple of God" (see also 1 Corinthians 6:9). Jesus drove out the sellers of oxen, sheep and doves, signaling an end to the animal sacrifices that formed the worship of the old Temple. In the spiritual worship of the new Temple, we offer our bodies—our whole beings—as a living sacrifice. Like living stones (see 1 Peter 2:5) built on the cornerstone of Christ (see Mark 12:10; Acts 4:11), together we are called to build up the new Temple of God, the Church.

As the Jerusalem Temple was, so the Church will always be under construction—until at last it is perfected in the new Jerusalem, our mother Church, come down from heaven (see Revelation 21:3,10, 22; 22:1; Galatians 4:26).

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



THE DEDICATION OF THE LATERAN BASILICA

Entrance Antiphon:

I saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband.

First Reading: Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 46

The waters of a river give joy to God's city, the holy place, the abode of the Most High.

Second Reading: Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

I have chosen and consecrated this house, says the LORD, that my name may be there for ever.

Alleluia.

Gospel: John 2:13-22

Communion Antiphon: Pt 2:5

Be built up like living stones, into a spiritual house, a holy priesthood.

SATURDAY 8th November ... Our Lady on Saturday

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... **Confession after Mass**

1:00 pm Baptism Ethan Tembo ... St John Wallingford

4:30 pm Adoration and confession before Vigil Mass St John Wallingford

5:00 pm Vigil Mass St John Wallingford ... Clifford Family RIP (Noel Clifford)

5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot

6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Anthony & Christina Shum RIP (Shum Family)

SUNDAY 9th November ... The Dedication of the Lateran Basilica

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Diya Leneesh's Intention (Soniya Mathew)

11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford ... Evie Redmond & Family (Armelle)

MONDAY 10th November ... NO MASS ... St Leo the Great

TUESDAY 11th November ... St Martin of Tours

12:00 noon Mass St John Wallingford ... Valmai Atsoparthis RIP

WEDNESDAY 12th November ... St Josaphat

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Doreen Richardson RIP (Anna Richardson)

THURSDAY 13th November

9:30 am Mass St John Wallingford ... Noel Clifford Thanksgiving (The Thursday Group)

FRIDAY 14th November

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Camilla King's Birthday Thanksgiving

11:00 am Funeral William Kinsella ... English Martyrs Didcot

SATURDAY 15th November ... St Albert the Great

9:30 am NO MASS

4:30 pm Adoration and confession before Vigil Mass St John Wallingford

5:00 pm Vigil Mass St John Wallingford ... David Watson RIP (Anke Watson)

5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot

6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Deceased Family & Friends of Lazarus Family (J Lazarus)

SUNDAY 16th November ... St Edmund of Abingdon

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Sheila Armstrong's Intention (Ruth Parsons)

11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford

1:00 pm Baptism Zac Potter ... English Martyrs Didcot

In your prayers, please remember: Margaret O'Connor, Anne O'Brien, Jenny Evans, Mary Guinan, Ann Tomline, Joan Walker, Joan Russell, Joan Turner, Nina Oakes, Jacob Oakes, Pat McLoughlin, Barry Molloy, Annie Furlong, Laura Falavina, and all the sick and housebound.



DEATH/FUNERAL NOTICE

William Kinsella RIP ... Requiem Mass @ 11am, Friday 14th November, Didcot



Baptism

We rejoice with the parents and godparents of Ethan Tembo, who through the sacrament of Baptism, will be made a member of the body of Christ this weekend. We also rejoice with parents and godparents of Zac Potter, who through the sacrament of Baptism, will be made a member of the body of Christ in the next weekend, and the parents and godparents of Poppy Johnson who received her baptism last weekend.

In your prayers, remember Ethan Tembo, Zac Potter, and Poppy Johnson. We invoke God's blessings on them as they grow.



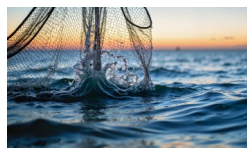
Neurodiversity and our Faith research

The Catholic Bishops' Conference of England & Wales and Birmingham Newman University are conducting research into Neurodiversity and our Faith. If you are an adult neurodivergent Catholic or a caregiver of a neurodivergent Catholic, they would like to hear from you. Your experiences will help them to become more inclusive and responsive to your needs. To find out more and to complete the short surveys, please visit: www.godwhospeaks.uk/neurodivergent-catholic-surveys/. If you have any questions about this research, please email fleur.dorrell@cbcew.org.uk.



Cast out your Nets

CHARIS Portsmouth is happy to welcome you to Cast out your Nets, an online evening of renewal focusing on evangelisation, on Thursday 13th November from 7:15 to 9:15pm. Our main speaker will be Fr Chris Thomas, who is involved in running the Irenaeus Project in Liverpool, while Mike Watson, a parishioner from Bracknell will also give his testimony. Come and see what the Lord has in store for you! To join the meeting, please register [here](#) for the Zoom link to be sent to you nearer the time.



Pilgrimage to Portugal (Lisbon and Fatima)

The parish of St Swithun Wells is organising a pilgrimage to Lisbon and Fatima (Portugal) from Thursday 30th April to Monday 4th May 2026. We will visit Lisbon, the birthplace of St Antony, the site of the Apparitions of Our Lady in Fatima and Tomar. There will be Mass every day and procession of candles in Fatima. The price is £879 per person for half-board accommodation. Breakfast and dinner are included. Three-star hotel accommodation for two nights in Lisbon and two nights in Fatima. This price is valid until 14 November 2025. For more information, please go to <https://www.allsaintstravel.co.uk/ls1103/>.



ARoRE Mini-Retreat for Spiritual Renewal

ADoRE morning of spiritual renewal will be on 22nd November from 10am to 1pm on Zoom. The theme is "PILGRIMS OF HOPE - SIGNPOSTS TO THE KINGDOM." — How we can revitalise Parishes to show people the way and share our hope with the lost. The programme includes Mass, Adoration, Praise, Prophecy, Prayer for the gifts of the Holy Spirit and inspiring talk from guest speaker Dr. Hannah Vaughan-Spruce. Register in advance for Zoom meeting 10.00-1.00 at bit.ly/ADORE22NOV2025 or scan the QR code provided. For more information, please go to www.altonrenewal.com or refer to the poster on our notice board.



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.

Envelopes and Dedicated Spots for Souls Departed

In the month of November, we remember all those who have died. We remember their kind deeds, the things they did for us and for other people; we remember how we loved them and how they loved us, and we pray we will be united with them again on the last day. We also pray for those who have died that we never knew. We pray for those who have died for our freedom, and we pray for all those who have died alone with no one to remember or pray for them. By remembering those who were loved, they are never really gone from us. As a parish, we shall offer prayers from now till the end of the month.

As our practice, the foots of the altar (Wallingford) and the baptismal font (Didcot) are decorated to enable us to place the names of our loved ones to be prayed for during the month of November, daily. Please put as many names as you may desire, but **NO CASH**. Please make out time daily to say private prayers for souls that are yet to be united with the angels and the saints.



Parish Fire Drills

In order to reinforce our Parish Fire Emergency Plan, two fire drills, one in Didcot and one in Wallingford, will be carried out during a Sunday mass in the month of November. Announcements will be made at the beginning of the mass. Parishioners should listen to the instructions given by our announcers and stewards to evacuate the church and reach the assembly point through the fire exits during the fire drills. If you have any concerns and questions about the fire drills, please contact the Parish Office. Thank you.



Thursday 18th December is Pastoral Area Confession Day

English Martyrs Church Didcot will once again be the host parish to the Oxfordshire Pastoral Area End-of-Year Advent Confession on **Thursday 18th December at 7pm**. We will welcome all the priests and parishioners from all the eleven parishes of our pastoral area this evening.

This will be the last Confession Day for our parishioners. Saturday confessions sessions in Didcot and Wallingford will not be opened until February 2026.

First Holy Communion Preparation Class 2025-26

The First Holy Communion Preparation Class is open for application. We welcome children in our parish **aged 7 or above**. Parents can download and print the [First Holy Communion Form](#) from the parish website. Please follow the instructions to complete the form and **submit the completed form to the Parish Office with a photocopy of your child's Baptism Certificate**. The deadline of application is **Wednesday 12th November**. Please contact the Parish Office if you have any questions.



Confirmation Preparation Class 2025-26

Our Confirmation Preparation Classes would soon begin. We are now open for application for young people in our parish **aged 13 and above**. To do this, parents can download, print and complete the Confirmation Form from [here](https://www.didcotandwallingfordcatholicchurches.org/forms) or visit the parish website at <https://www.didcotandwallingfordcatholicchurches.org/forms>.

Bishop Philip Egan will confer the sacrament for all 11 Churches in our Pastoral Area here in our parish of the English Martyrs, Didcot, on **Friday 5th June 2026**. Please hurry, and register.



An Invitation to Catholic Women

On Saturday 29th November, Catholic Mothers Portsmouth and Catholic Mothers Southampton invite Catholic Women, including those with babes in arms, to join them from 9:30am - 4pm at Sacred Heart Church in Waterloo (PO7 7SR) for a Women's Retreat Day. The speaker will be Fr Thomas Hiney. Lunch will be provided and a donation of £10 per person is suggested. You can book via the QR code provided or by emailing catholicmotherssoton@gmail.com.



Catholic Mothers' Group in East Hendred

We run a mothers' group at St Mary's, East Hendred on the First Wednesday of every month from 9:45am (after 9am mass) to 11am. It is an opportunity for mothers to pray the rosary together, talk together and support each other while our children play. Please refer to our poster on your notice board for more information.