New Bishop of Arundel & Brighton calls for care for those in need and a growth in holiness, as he begins ministry

Catholic across Sussex and Surrey welcomed a new bishop on Monday 19 October, when Bishop Stephen Wang was ordained as the sixth Bishop of Arundel & Brighton.

Pope Leo XIV announced Bishop Stephen's appointment in July. Monday's Mass of Ordination at the Cathedral of our Lady and St Philip Howard was attended by His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, clergy, consecrated men and women, and lay faithful, with representatives of other Christian traditions and the Muslim, Jewish and Hindu communities, united in marking this important moment in the life of the Diocese.

The presider was the Most Reverend John Wilson, Archbishop of Southwark, with the Most Reverend Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster, and His Eminence Cardinal Vincent Nichols, Archbishop Emeritus of Westminster, serving as co-principal ordaining bishops.

Highlighting the importance of service and accompaniment, Archbishop John said:

"A bishop is called to shepherd God's people in the footsteps of Christ, the Good Shepherd. I know Bishop Stephen will lead the people of Arundel & Brighton towards the Lord Jesus, especially by seeking out those who are lost, and walking together with those he will serve. May the Lord Jesus strengthen Bishop Stephen and guide him as he shepherds his people."

Bishop Stephen converted to Catholicism as a teenager. Reflecting on his journey of faith in a speech at the end of the Mass, he said, "I'd come to know Jesus and his Church; I knew I wanted to belong, but I had no idea where it would lead." He studied Theology at Cambridge University and later completed a PhD exploring … To read more: New Bishop of Arundel & Brighton calls for care for those in need and a growth in holiness, as he begins ministry. - Catholic Bishops' Conference

Love Commands

Jesus told His disciples that He came "not to abolish" the Old Testament Law "but to fulfil" it (Matthew 5:17). And in today's Gospel, He reveals that love—of God and of neighbour—is the fulfilment of the whole of the law (see Romans 13:8–10).

Devout Israelites were expected to keep all 613 commands found in the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Bible. Jesus says today that all these, and all the teachings of the prophets, can be boiled down to just two verses of this Law (see Deuteronomy 6:5; Leviticus 19:18).

In this distillation, He seems to summarize the two stone tablets on which God was said to have engraved the Ten Commandments (see Exodus 32:15–16): The first tablet set out three laws concerning the love of God, such as the command not to take His name in vain; the second contained seven commands regarding love of neighbour, such as those against stealing and adultery.

Love is the hinge that binds the two tablets of the Law. We can't love God, whom we can't see, if we don't love our neighbour, whom we can (see 1 John 4:20–22). But this love we are called to is far more than simple affection or warm sentiment. We must give ourselves totally to God—loving with our whole beings, with all our heart, soul, and mind. Our love for our neighbour must express itself in concrete actions, such as those set out in today's First Reading.

"We love because he first loved us" (1 John 4:19). As we sing in today's Psalm, He has been our deliverer, our strength when we could not possibly defend ourselves against the enemies of sin and death.

Grateful for our salvation, we show others the love that God has shown us. In this we become imitators of Jesus, as Paul relates in today's Epistle—laying down our lives in ways large and small, seen and unseen, our daily living offered as a continual "sacrifice of praise" (see John 15:12–13; Hebrews 13:15).

Scott Hahn

English Martyrs
Vale of White Horse
Pastoral Area

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30TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Entrance Antiphon:
Let the hearts that seek the Lord rejoice; turn to the Lord and his strength; constantly seek his face.

First Reading: Exodus 22:21-27

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 18
I love you, LORD, my strength.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia.
If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, says the Lord, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him.
Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

Communion Antiphon: Ps 32:18-19
We will ring out our joy at your saving help and exult in the name of our God.

SATURDAY 24th October … St Anthony Claret
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 … Dora's Intentions
5.50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot
6.30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot … Barbara Thacker's Intentions (Annie Furlong)

SUNDAY 25th October
9.00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot … Gillian Ann Lee's Intentions (Maureen Walker)
11.00 am Mass St John Wallingford

MONDAY 26th October … NO MASS … Ss Chad & Cedd

TUESDAY 27th October
12.00 noon Mass St John Wallingford … Terry O'Brien's Intentions

WEDNESDAY 28th October … Ss SIMON & JUDE
9.30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot … Doreen Richardson RIP (Anna Richardson)

THURSDAY 29th October … St John Paul II
9.30 am Mass St John Wallingford

FRIDAY 30th October
9.30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot … Jude Ajakaiye's Birthday Thanksgiving

SATURDAY 31st October … Our Lady on Saturday
9.30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot … Confession after Mass … Thomas & Agnes Lightfoot RIP
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 1st November
9.00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot … John Hui's Birthday Thanksgiving (Ada & Jordan Hui)
11.00 am Mass St John Wallingford

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

Bamenda Sunday

This weekend is Bamenda Sunday, a celebration of a partnership between our two dioceses where we learn, pray and support each other. An important part of the link has been the support we have sent over the years. Your generosity has made a huge impact on the lives of many of the poorest and most vulnerable people in Bamenda, and it most sincerely appreciated by them. You can read how your donations have supported Caroline and Stephen in the Bamenda Sunday newsletter. Please give as generously as your contributions really do transform lives. Follow this link or use the QR code to see the different donations options and gift aid if you can. Thank you.

New Film on St. Peter's Tomb

On the 400th anniversary of the consecration of St Peter's Basilica, a new film explores the faith, history and archaeology at its heart. The trailer premiered at the Rome Film Festival and features Pope Leo XIV reflecting on St Peter. The film Pétros ení: Alla scoperta delle origini (Pétros ení: Discovering the Origins) premiered on 16th October, at the Rome Film Festival. Produced by AF Films in collaboration with Vatican Media and the Fabric of St Peter, to mark the 400th anniversary of the consecration of St Peter's Basilica on 18th November 1626, the documentary is directed by Paula Ortiz, written by Andrea Tornielli, narrated by American actor Chris Pratt and features an appearance by Pope Leo. Click here to watch the trailer.

Parish Evangelisation Formation Day

You are warmly invited to join us for a morning as we explore how parish groups, one of our Diocese's Six Holy Habits, can deepen our faith and impact our parishes as they become welcoming places for all. The "Parish Cell System" (often called PECs) focuses on transforming parishes into active, missionary communities through small, home-based groups (cells) focused on relationship-building and scripture. More information is available here. This day will help you:

- Deepen your understanding of evangelisation and missionary discipleship.
- Learn how parish cells can foster faith, community, and outreach.
- Gain practical tools for leading and growing a parish group.
- Meet and learn from others.
- Be encouraged.

This day will be held at Christ the King, Reading (408 Northumberland Ave, Reading RG2 8NR), **on Saturday 31st October**, 10:00am – 1:30pm. Lunch will be provided as part of the day. Please register here or email Meghan, as this helps us with ensuring we have enough food and have catered for people's needs.

Bishop Philip Shares Rosary Praying Resources

Bishop Philip Egan: A few years ago, with the help of students from St. Peter's Catholic School in Bournemouth, I made a recording of the 20 Mysteries of the Rosary. These were produced as CDs and I sent out thousands of them across the Diocese. Nowadays, people use CDs much less, so I have transferred the recordings into digital audio files. I have these on my phone, which means in my car I can pray the Rosary while driving or going out for a walk. This month of October is traditionally the month dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. The Rosary is a wonderful prayer for us to say, praying to Our Lord for protection from all danger, sickness and evil. If you need help in saying the Rosary, click below for a simple explanation and to download the digital audio files for your use. I'd like to encourage you to say the Rosary each day this month. You can access the rosary recording here and a guideline to praying the rosary here.

Commemoration of All Souls

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. By remembering those who were loved, they are never really gone from us. As a parish, we will offer **two masses** on **Monday 2nd November Commemoration of ALL SOULS**: **12pm St John Wallingford and 6pm English Martyrs Didcot**. Also, as our normal practice, the foots of the altar in Wallingford and the baptismal font in Didcot will be decorated. From 1st November, please make use of the **November Dead List Envelope** to place the names of our loved ones to be prayed for during the month of November and place them in the decorated area inside the church. 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 First Holy Communion Preparation Programme 2026-27

Our parish First Holy Communion preparation programme of 2026-27 is now open. Parents with children in primary school Year 3 to 6 can now apply to join our First Holy Communion programme here. Completed application forms should be submitted with a **photocopy** of your child's Baptism Certificate to the designated space at English Martyrs Church Didcot (see picture). Classes will be **on Saturday afternoons from 2.30pm to 4pm**. Start dates and details to follow soon. Contact the Parish Office if you have questions. **The DEADLINE of application is next Sunday 1ST NOVEMBER.**

Night of Light 2026

The parish event Night of Light will be **next Saturday 31st October at English Martyrs Didcot**. The Night will begin after the 6.30pm evening mass. An evening of games, crafts and food. Dress up in your favourite saints' costume or biblical characters and have fun with your friends celebrating the All Hollow's Eve in our Catholic parish! If you have not signed up yet, please register your interest by signing up after Sunday mass in Didcot or send an email to the Parish Office.

English Martyrs Gospel Group Meetings

The English Martyrs Gospel Reading Group meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be on **27th October and 10th November. See you at 7.30pm** in the Tearoom. Contact Nick Spencer at 07870505520 if you have any questions.

Praying the Rosary in Wallingford

October is the month of Our Lady of the Rosary. In St John Wallingford, please come and pray the rosaries with us **every Tuesday at 11.25am in the month of October**.

Thank you for celebrating World Mission Sunday

Thank you for your donations to the World Mission Sunday appeal. Your prayers and support will help missionaries work alongside communities worldwide, regardless of background or belief. Please continue to pray for all who share the love and hope of Christ with our sisters and brothers in need throughout the world. To support mission year-round, visit **missio.org.uk** or call **020 7821 9755** (office hours).

Parish Safeguarding

Our safeguarding minister for all adults and children safeguarding issues is Terez Moore. Please contact Terez via safeguarding.didwal@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. If there is no response and, in an emergency, dial 999.

Careers - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth: Current job openings across the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth.