

Archbishop Wilson: you can find hope in Eucharistic adoration

As part of the Jubilee year, the Archbishop of Southwark is encouraging people to turn to the Lord Jesus in Eucharistic adoration and have their hopes “fulfilled by Christ”

The theme of Jubilee 2025 is “pilgrims of hope”, with Pope Francis calling on the world to “fan the flame of hope that has been given us”. In a recorded message posted on YouTube, Archbishop John Wilson explained that the Lord Jesus “is the reason for the hope within us” and called on us all to become Eucharistic disciples this year by finding hope in Eucharistic adoration.



The Archbishop of Southwark explained that: “it is by understanding that the Lord Jesus is present in the Eucharist, that we can begin to understand why worship before the Blessed Sacrament provides such fulfilment”.

He has therefore urged people to make spending time in Eucharistic adoration to find the hope Christ offers a priority for 2025.

Eucharistic adoration is an act of worshiping and adoring the Lord Jesus, who is truly present in the Eucharist, before a Tabernacle or Monstrance. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that “because Christ Himself is present in the sacrament of the altar, He is to be honoured with the worship of adoration”.

In his message, posted on YouTube and social media, the Archbishop drew on Scripture – which he said is “the light that guides our path” – to see where we are encouraged to take part in Eucharistic adoration.

The Archbishop used the story of Martha and Mary in the Gospel of Luke, where the Lord Jesus explains that Mary – who chose to sit at His feet and listen to His teaching – chose “the good portion, which will not be taken away from her”.

Archbishop John said this passage shows: “what Eucharistic adoration offers. A chance to be with the Lord and hear Him. Adoration is a chance to move away from the busyness of life, the distractions, the preparations and just truly be present with the Lord. Who is present there with us. This is what He wills, this is what He never wants taken away from us”.

Explaining the merits of Eucharistic adoration, Archbishop John said: “we are all Eucharistic disciples and we must all constantly return to Eucharistic adoration. This means reorienting our lives as disciples toward Christ, living for him and befriending him in the Blessed Sacrament” ... To read more, visit <https://www.cbcew.org.uk/archbishop-wilson-you-can-find-hope-in-eucharistic-adoration/>

Presenting the Present

Today’s feast marks the Presentation of the Lord Jesus in the Temple, forty days after he was born. As the firstborn, he belonged to God. According to the Law, Mary and Joseph were required to take him to the Temple



and “redeem” him by paying five shekels. At the same time, the Law required the child’s mother to offer sacrifice in order to overcome the ritual impurity brought about by childbirth.

So the feast we celebrate shows a curious turn of events. The Redeemer seems to be redeemed. She who is all-pure presents herself to be purified. Such is the humility of our God. Such is the humility of the Blessed Virgin. They submit to the law even though they are not bound by it.

However, the Gospel story nowhere mentions Jesus’ “redemption,” but seems to describe instead a religious consecration—such as a priest might undergo. Saint Luke tells us that Jesus is “presented” in the Temple, using the same verb that Saint Paul uses to describe the offering of a sacrifice (see Romans 12:1). Another parallel is the Old Testament dedication of Samuel (1 Sam 1:24-27) to the Temple as a priest.

The drama surrounding Jesus’ conception and birth began in the Temple—when the Archangel visited Mary’s kinsman, Zechariah the priest. And now the story of Jesus’ infancy comes to a fitting conclusion, again in the Temple.

All the readings today concern Jerusalem, the Temple, and the sacrificial rites. The first reading comes from the Prophet Malachi, who called the priests to return to faithful service—and foretold a day when a Messiah would arrive with definitive purification of the priesthood.

Likewise, the Psalm announces to Jerusalem that Jerusalem is about to receive a great visitor. The Psalmist identifies him as “The LORD of hosts . . . the king of glory.”

Christ now arrives as the long-awaited priest and redeemer. He is also the sacrifice. Indeed, as his life will show, He is the Temple itself (see John 2:19-21).

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THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD YEAR C

Entrance Antiphon: Ps 47:10-11

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 24

The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory!

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18

Gospel Acclamation: Lk 2:32

Alleluia, alleluia!!

A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.

Alleluia!

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

Communion Antiphon: Lk 2:30-31

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.

SATURDAY 1st February ... Our Lady on Saturday

9:30 am NO MASS ... English Martyrs Didcot

4:30 pm Adoration 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 ... François Tanguy, Pedro Salazar & Liam Payne RIP (Cristina Yepez)

SUNDAY 2nd February ... The Presentation of the Lord

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Soniya Mathew’s intention

11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford

MONDAY 3rd February ... NO MASS ... St Blaise, St Ansgar

TUESDAY 4th February

12:00 noon Mass St John Wallingford ... David Kearney RIP

WEDNESDAY 5th February ... St Agatha

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Anne Furlong’s intention (David Woodley & Anne Johns)

THURSDAY 6th February ... St Paul Miki & Companions

9:30 am Mass St John Wallingford ... Patt & Chris Watts RIP

FRIDAY 7th February

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Zeke Ajakaiye’s birthday thanksgiving (Mum & Dad)

SATURDAY 8th February ... St Jerome Emiliani, St Josephine Bakhita

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Confessions after Mass

4:30 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass St John Wallingford

5:00 pm Vigil Mass St John Wallingford ... Kevin Deane RIP (Ian and Gay Bosley)

5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot

6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot

SUNDAY 9th February

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot

11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford ... Josephine Moran RIP (Cathy Redman)

In your prayers, please remember: Anne O'Brien, Jenny Evans, Mary Guinan, Ann Tomline, Joan Walker, Joan Russell, Joan Turner, Nina Oakes, Jacob Oakes, Pat McLoughlin, Barry Molloy, David Woodley, Ann Furlong and all the sick and housebound of our churches.



Pope Francis: Suffering becomes 'occasion for transformative encounter' with God

Pope Francis emphasized how suffering can become "an occasion for a transformative encounter" with God in a new message released Monday, describing three distinct ways the divine draws close to those experiencing illness and hardship.

In his message for the 2025 World Day of the Sick — signed 14th Jan at the Archbasilica of St. John Lateran — the pontiff pointed to presence, gift, and sharing as profound paths of providential companionship during times of trial.

He also addressed all those "who are ill or who care for the suffering," telling them: "Your journey together is a sign for everyone: 'a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope.'" The 88-year-old pope wrote from personal experience, having faced several health challenges in recent years, including knee problems requiring a wheelchair, respiratory infections, and, most recently, a fall resulting in a forearm contusion. "In times of illness, we sense our human frailty on the physical, psychological, and spiritual levels," the pope wrote. "Yet we also experience the closeness and compassion of God, who, in Jesus, shared in our human suffering."



The pope points out that the first way of being close to God is through presence, noting that suffering "becomes an occasion for a transformative encounter, the discovery of a solid rock to which we can hold fast amid the tempests of life."

Addressing the second aspect — gift — the pope cited Venerable Madeleine Delbr el, emphasizing that hope comes primarily from the Lord as "a gift to be received and cultivated."

In the message released Monday, the pope explained that the third dimension of divine closeness manifests through sharing, particularly in health care settings where mutual enrichment often occurs between patients, medical staff, and family members.

The pope concluded his message with a special word of gratitude to health care workers and those who care for the sick, calling their shared journey "a hymn to human dignity, a song of hope." He entrusted all who are ill to the intercession of Mary, Health of the Sick, and asked for prayers for himself. (Source: Catholic News Agency)

Pilgrimage to Westport, Knock & Co. Mayo

Are you interested in joining an escorted pilgrimage tour in this Jubilee Year? Knock Pilgrimages <https://www.knockpilgrimages.com>, a pilgrimage tour company in Ireland is organising a tour to Westport, Knock & Co Mayo on 10th March 2025. The price for the tour is £799.00 pps. Price includes flight, 10kg hold luggage, 4 nights in 4* Castlecourt Hotel, Westport with Dinner, Bed & Breakfast. Lunch is included on three days. All entertainment, excursions and transport are included. Places to visit include Knock, Galway City, Kylemore Abbey, Croagh Patrick, Ballintubber Abbey, and Quiet Man Museum. Single supplement on Enquiry. Please contact 01268 762 278 or 07740 175557 or email knockpilgrimages@gmail.com.



Pilgrimage to Lisieux by St Swithun Wells Parish

Fr Raffaele Cossa, Parish Priest at St Swithun Wells Parish invites readers to join the parish on Pilgrimage to Lisieux from Friday 23rd to Monday 26th May. The Pilgrimage to Lisieux Friday 23rd to Monday 26th May will be led by Fr Raffaele Cossa and Fr Mario Toma from St Swithun Wells Parish and will visit the place where St Therese lived and the surrounding area. The Pilgrimage is organised with Tangney Tours and cost will be approximately £500 per person, depending on numbers, and includes

- Coach travel from St Swithun Wells parish
 - Ferry crossing - Portsmouth to Caen
 - 3 Nights half board - at Ermitage, Lisieux
 - Visit to Alencon - birth place of St Therese
- For further information and a booking form, please contact St Swithun Wells Parish Office on 023 80273882 or Clare Barkaway at Tangney Tours 01732 886666. [Image: Adobe Stock].



CAFOD Parish Volunteer Needed

Could your new year's resolution be to help promote CAFOD's fast days at English Martyrs and St John the Evangelist? We need a CAFOD Parish Volunteer to represent both English Martyrs and St John. You will represent us in the upcoming Lent Fast Day which is on Friday 14th March, and help us keep in touch with the news and activities of CAFOD. Please let Ada or Fr Dominic know if you can help. For more information, you can contact Jo Lewry from CAFOD by email jolewry@cafod.org.uk or phone 07710 094447. Your desire for a better world will help connect your community with those overseas and enable our sisters and brothers in the poorest places in the world to lift themselves out of poverty. "When people are in need, giving money is not the only way to help. With volunteering, you give your time and skills to make a difference."



February Seniors' Lunch 13th February

Seniors' Lunch is back! The first Seniors' Lunch in 2025 will take place on Thursday 13th February at 12:00 pm in our Tea Room in Didcot. Please invite anyone in the parish or people you know who want to get connected and enjoy a hot meal with us. At the same time, we are still recruiting volunteers who can help in cooking the seniors' lunch, shopping for food and doing preparation for the monthly lunches and to take the place of Kim and Douglas, our two most valuable chefs. Please let Ada or Jacqui know if you are available and have both time and culinary skills to share. Thank you.



Prophecy Now Conference with Cor et Lumen Christi Community 8th February

The Prophecy Now Conference with Damian Stayne, the founder of Cor et Lumen Christi Community will be back on 8th February at 9:00-9:30am in Chertsey Hall KT16 9DR. This conference will seek to uncover the deep mystery of why God has exalted prophecy so high in his plans for creation and the history of God's people. As well as teaching the conference will model higher levels of prophetic ministry through which Damian and his team will seek to minister prophetically to many of the participants. An inspiring and dynamic preacher, Damian has ministered to hundreds of thousands in five continents. There is a non-refundable token registration fee of £10 to cover some of our initial expenses and reserve a place. There will be an opportunity for participants to make an offering at the conference. For more information and registration about the conference, please contact corlumenchristi@gmail.com.



Recruitment of Accountant for St Amand's Catholic Primary School

The School Governors of St Amand's Catholic Primary School are looking for someone with an accounting background/experience of auditing basic accounts, who can spare an hour or two to do a basic audit of our School PTA's accounts and the School Building Fund account. This shouldn't take more than a few hours and the school would be very grateful for anyone who is willing to offer their time to help us out. Please contact Debbie Morton, office.3855@st-amands.oxon.sch.uk or 01235833342 in the school office if you feel can you help. Thank you.



Overhead Projectors and New Audio System installed at English Martyrs Didcot

We are delighted to announce that two overhead projectors and a new audio system have been installed at English Martyrs Didcot on 20th and 21st January. The new audio system provides two wireless microphones and improved control of our existing audio system. The new projectors will come in use in February, providing image projections on two new screens. These will be used to project lyrics for the hymns and other information during the mass. We would like to thank Fr Dominic, the Diocese of Portsmouth, and our Finance Team for their hard work to make this happen. We hope the new audio and visual facilities will help to provide a better church experience for our parishioners, and look into future opportunities to allow a variety of activities to take place in our church. We welcome suggestions and thank you all for tolerating the inconveniences caused during the installation work during the week.

