

## Pope calls for October to be dedicated to praying for peace in Ukraine

Insisting that there is “a need for more prayer, for conversion, and an end to the conflict” in Ukraine, and in a response to a request from Ukrainian Bishops, Pope Francis “expressed his desire that during the month of October, especially in [Marian] Shrines, the Rosary be dedicated to peace and reconciliation in Ukraine.”

The appeal to dedicate October to prayers for peace in Ukraine came during a meeting with the Bishops of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, who are holding their annual Synod in Rome.

### Suffering of the Ukrainian people

At the beginning of the nearly two-hour encounter, the Pope was greeted by Major Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk, “who recalled the painful situation in which his country finds itself, with an increasing number of dead, wounded and tortured people, and who thanked the Pope for the affection shown in so many ways and on so many occasions.”

A statement from the Holy See Press Office noted that, following the greeting from Major Archbishop Shevchuk, several of the assembled bishops shared with the Pope their stories of “the suffering that the Ukrainian people are experiencing in different places and in different ways.”

### Pope Francis expresses closeness

The Press Office noted that the Holy Father “listened attentively” to their testimony, and “with some brief interventions, expressed his feelings of closeness and participation in the tragedy that the Ukrainians are experiencing, with a ‘dimension of martyrdom’ that is not spoken about enough, subjected to cruelty and criminality.”

He also spoke about “his sorrow for the sense of helplessness experienced in the face of war,” which he ascribed to “the devil, who desires to destroy.”

Pope Francis turned his thoughts especially to the Ukrainian children he has met. “They look at you and have forgotten their smile,” he lamented. “This is one of the fruits of war: taking children’s smiles away from them.”

### Following the way of Jesus

Finally, the statement noted, Pope Francis “recalled the example of Jesus during the Passion, who did not remain a victim of insults, torture, and crucifixion, but bore witness to the courage to speak the truth, to be close to the people so that they would not be discouraged.”

“This is not easy,” the Pope said. However, he continued, “This is holiness, and the people want us to be saints and teachers of this way that Jesus taught us.”

At the conclusion of the meeting, Pope Francis confided to the Bishops “that he remembers the Ukrainians every day in his prayer before the icon of the Virgin,” which the Major Archbishop had given the Pope before he left Buenos Aires. Source: vaticannews.va

## To Win Them Back

As Ezekiel is appointed watchman over the house of Israel in today’s first Reading, so Jesus in the Gospel today establishes His disciples as guardians of the new Israel of God, the Church (see Galatians 6:16).

He also puts in place procedures for dealing with sin and breaches of the faith, building on rules of discipline prescribed by Moses for Israel (see Leviticus 19:17–20; Deuteronomy 19:13). The heads of the new Israel, however, receive extraordinary powers—similar to those given to Peter (see Matthew 16:19). They have the power to bind and loose, to forgive sins and to reconcile sinners in His name (see John 20:21–23).

But the powers He gives the Apostles and their successors depend on their communion with Him. As Ezekiel is only to teach what he hears God saying, so the disciples are to gather in His name and to pray and seek the will of our heavenly Father.

But today’s readings are more than a lesson in



Church order. They also suggest how we’re to deal with those who trespass against us, a theme that we’ll hear in next week’s readings as well.

Notice that both the Gospel and the First Reading presume that believers have a duty to correct sinners in our midst. Ezekiel is even told that he will be held accountable for their souls if he fails to speak out and try to correct them.

This is the love that Paul in today’s Epistle says we owe to our neighbors. To love our neighbors as ourselves is to be vitally concerned for their salvation. We must make every effort, as Jesus says, to win our brothers and sisters back, to turn them from the false paths.

We should never correct out of anger or a desire to punish. Instead, our message must be that of today’s Psalm—urging the sinner to hear God’s voice, not to harden their hearts, and to remember that He is the one who made us, the rock of our salvation.

Scott Hahn



English Martyrs  
Vale of The White  
Horse Pastoral Area

## PARISHES OF THE ENGLISH MARTYRS, Didcot and ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, Wallingford

Office Email: [office@didcotandwallingfordcatholicchurches.org.uk](mailto:office@didcotandwallingfordcatholicchurches.org.uk)  
(Parish Office Hours Tuesday—Friday 9am to 1pm approximately)

Facebook ...[shorturl.at/amzT4](https://www.facebook.com/shorturl.at/amzT4)

Website: [www.didcotandwallingfordcatholicchurches.org](http://www.didcotandwallingfordcatholicchurches.org)  
15 Manor Crescent, Didcot OX11 7AJ Telephone: 01235 812338

## 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, YEAR A (WK III)

**Entrance Antiphon:** Ps 118:137, 124

You are just, O Lord, and your judgement is right; treat your servant in accord with your merciful love.

**First Reading: Prophet Ezekiel 33:7-9**

**Responsorial Psalm:** Ps 94

O that today you would listen to his voice! “Harden not your hearts.

**Second Reading:** Rom 13:8-10

**Gospel Acclamation:** Cf. Mt 4:23

**Alleluia, alleluia!!**

God in Christ was reconciling the world to himself, and he has entrusted to us the news that they are reconciled. **Alleluia, alleluia!!**

**Gospel: Matt. 18:15-20**

**Communion Antiphon:** Cf. Ps 41:1- 2

Like the deer that yearns for running streams, so my soul is yearning for you, my God; my soul is thirsting for God, the living God.

### SATURDAY 9th September - Our Lady

9:30 Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot.....NO MASS

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....Lek Wiczorek (RIP) Julie Lazarus

### SUNDAY... 10th September....23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time.

9:00am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot- Marie Traynor RIP (Kershaw Family)

11:00noon Mass St John’s Wallingford - Chris John-Baptiste RIP (Jan Baptiste Grant)

### MONDAY 11th September - ..... NO MASS

### TUESDAY 12th September .....The Most Holy Name of Mary

12noon Mass at St John’s Wallingford.... Evangeline Moore.. Birthday....Rosary for Peace

### WEDNESDAY 13th September - St John Chrysostom

9:30am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot.. Noel Clifford 50th anniversary as altar server

### THURSDAY 14th September .....THE EXALTATION OF THE CROSS

9:30am —Mass St John’s Wallingford...Noel Clifford 50th Anniversary as Altar Server

### FRIDAY 15th September ...Our Lady of Sorrows

9.30.a.m Mass at the English Martyrs, Didcot...

### SATURDAY 16th September - Ss Cornelius & Cyprian

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...Private Intention

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

6.30pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs, Didcot....

### SUNDAY... 17th September....24th Sunday in Ordinary Time.

One Mass Sunday 11:00am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot....People of the Parish

**Our Parish Celebration Day!!**



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 Ejiofor, Pat McLoughlin, Margaret Healy, Barry Molloy, David Woodley, Annie Furlong, Fr Philip Harris, all the sick and housebound.



### DEATH/FUNERAL NOTICE

**Maureen Logan (96)**...Funeral in Abingdon, October 4th



### Parish Day Music

If you enjoy singing or play a musical instrument the parish music groups would love you to join them for an informal session or "jam" in the church during the Parish Day picnic. We will be playing some of our favourite hymns – why not shake the dust off your violin or bongos and come and join us for some fun making music together? Many thanks. Carolyn.



### SVP Annual Report

The St Vincent de Paul Society (SVP) will be giving its annual report on its activities at the Sunday and vigil masses on the 9th and 10th of September. Dominic Knight will also announce (spoiler alert!) that the SVP will be holding another Quiz Night on Friday 13 October. The SVP number remains 07516 701917, for those who need it.



### It is Senior's Lunch Again

This is to thank Jacquie, David, Kim and Douglas for the excellent lunch they have prepared and provided for free to our parish seniors. The Seniors' Lunch at English Martyrs Didcot takes place one in a month on **Thursdays** in the Tea Room at 12:00 noon. This attracts parishioners from Didcot and Wallingford. The menu and sign-up sheet are always on the board outside the tearoom. To sustain this wonderful initiative, consider bringing in someone who is on his or her own. A shared meal, laughter and space is a communion with Christ and His Church. Please book **September 21st, 2023** as the next lunch day.

### Thank You For The Ride & Stride Support

This is to express our profound thanks to Raymond, Lilandia Eaton of St John the Evangelist, and Douglas Henderson of the English Martyrs for organizing the fundraiser event for Historic Churches Trust this year observed across the country. St John the Evangelist and English Martyrs parishes are taking part. Another thanks go out to all the volunteers and those who sponsored the events. This will make a huge difference. Thank You.

### World Reading and meditation with Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face (Saint Thérèse of Lisieux)

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 27 September, 9:30 to 10:30 am, in the hall at St John's (access from the back of the Church in Wood Street). Everyone is welcome. If you are unable to join us but would like to take a look, the readings can be found here: Study guide 6 – Reading of the writings of Therese of the Child Jesus - CARMELITANI SCALZI

### Facebook QR Code

Have you noticed our parish presence in the social media? Facebook is one our parish desires to use as a medium to reach out to as many as possible. Since Vince revamped the present one, not much activity from us. Kindly use this QR code to subscribe, share and help spread the spirit of the parish.



### Used Laptops and Tablets

Do you have a used laptop or tablet you no longer need or use? I, Father Dominic Adeiza, collect such and send to schools I have been supporting as a personal charity. Children in these schools use them to learn basic computing and socialize. Now and again, I download academic tutorials from Khan Academy to enable children engage in the use of e-learning as the future is looking more and more as e-commerce and e-economy. Some other times, I download apps for games and entertainment. This has proved popular and helpful. If you have any unwanted laptop or tablet taking up space you wish to find a home for, kindly WIPE clean or do a Factory Reset to clean out your data before passing it on. If you wish to support me, do me an email or speak to me after any of the masses.

## Background to the Season of Creation

During this season we are encouraged to pray and engage in community events in order to deepen our relationship with our God, our neighbour and the earth we share.

The Season of Creation is an annual celebration uniting Christians in prayer and action for the protection of our common home. The idea of celebrating 1 September as a day of prayer for creation began at the wish of the Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios in 1989, and was endorsed by Pope Francis in 2015. The season runs from September 1 to October 4, the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

During this season we are encouraged to pray and engage in community events in order to deepen our relationship with our God, our neighbour and the earth we share, being ever more attentive to the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.

Writing about the season in 2019 Pope Francis said, "this is the season for letting our prayer be inspired anew," a season "to reflect on our lifestyles," and a season "for undertaking prophetic actions ... calling for courageous decisions ... directing the planet towards life, not death."

The theme for 2023 is "Let Justice and Peace Flow" and the symbol is "A Mighty River". This year we are called to "join the river of justice and peace, to take up climate and ecological justice, and to speak out with and for communities most impacted by climate injustice and the loss of biodiversity".

#### Resources

During the Season of Creation, please consider using the following:

#### Global Healing and Global Caring

Global Healing and Global Caring are free film-based resources to help us to respond to the damage being done to our planet – our common home. It is for parishes, groups and individuals and aims to engage you with Pope Francis' vital call to care for our common home.

#### Season of Creation 2023 Celebration Guide

A guide from the organisers of Season of Creation to teach you about the season and help you plan for and celebrate it. You can visit [seasonofcreation.org](http://seasonofcreation.org) for more materials.

#### Novena To St Francis

CAFOD produced a series of nine brief reflections asking for St Francis of Assisi to pray for us and our world, based on his Canticle of the Sun.

#### Individuals

During Lent in 2018, Bishop John Arnold used his pastoral letter to challenge all parishes and schools in the Diocese of Salford to make practical responses dealing with climate change. A handout with practical suggestions was also made available at the back of all churches.

#### Prayers and Liturgy

#### A Catholic Season of Creation – Sundays of September (Year A, 2023)

"A Catholic Season of Creation" resource explores the Sunday scripture readings to help us find the voice of the earth as the voice of the Holy Spirit. Our common Sunday worship is an easy place to start seeing the natural world in God's plan of Salvation in Jesus Christ by linking the insights of ecology with Scripture. (Produced by: St Columbans Mission Society).



## Education Sunday Collection

The Second Collection on Sunday 10th September is for Education Sunday and is for the Catholic Education Service. Catholic schools make up 10% of the national total of maintained schools in England and Wales, educating over 850,000 pupils. Our Second Collection on Sunday 17th September 2023 is for Home Mission. The Home Mission Office helps the local Church to share the joy of the Gospel.

If you would like to give online, please donate online at: <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/catholic-education-service-second-collection-2023>. This collection will close on 19th September 2023.

## Our Parish Celebration Day

Our fun-filled celebrations are planned for:

11am, September 17th at the English Martyrs.

**The occasion:** A shared Mass, followed by a communal picnic uniting both Parishes

**Time and venue:** 11am, September 17th at the English Martyrs

**The aim:** To wish our young people heading off to University/College (Some for the first time), or starting new schools, all the very best, and to let them know they are in our prayers.

**Activities:** There will be games for the children, and a raffle, and a chance to reconnect with parishioners you may not have seen for quite some time.

**Please bring:** Food to share (if you can), cutlery, seats, drinks. (If what you are bringing contains allergens like peanuts, wheat etc, please mark as such)