Pope Leo XIV's appointment as Papal Confrater of St George's Chapel, Windsor is "symbol of hope", says Archbishop of Westminster

Archbishop Richard Moth, Archbishop of Westminster and President of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales has welcomed the news that Pope Leo XIV has been named a Papal Confrater of St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle.

The appointment, which was made with the approval of King Charles III, was announced by the Dean and Canons of Windsor announced on Friday, 23 October, on the first anniversary of the historic State Visit to the Holy See, during which the King was welcomed as Royal Confrater of the Papal Basilica and Abbey of St. Paul's Outside the Walls, in Rome.



In the announcement, the Deans and Canons of Windsor said:

"This act of confraternity represents a visible sign of spiritual fellowship, ecumenical friendship and Christian fraternity. It recognises both the centuries-old relationship between the College and Chapel of St George, Windsor and the Holy See, and the progress in relations between the Roman Catholic Church, the Church of England and the Anglican Communion. It also reflects the deep mutual esteem between His Holiness and His Majesty and their shared desire for Christian unity."

Archbishop Richard Moth expressed his thanks to the King for this sign of closeness: "I welcome the announcement that his Holiness Pope Leo XIV has become Papal Confrater of the College of St George at St George's Chapel in Windsor Castle. This follows the conferring of the title of Royal Confrater on … To read more: Pope Leo XIV's appointment as Papal Confrater of St George's Chapel, Windsor is "symbol of hope", says Archbishop of Westminster - Catholic Bishops' Conference

Saints, Here and There

The first reading focuses us for today's solemnity. In the Book of Revelation, St. John reports "a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people, and tongue."



This is Good News. Salvation has come not only for Israel, but for the Gentiles as well. Here is the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham, that by his seed all the nations of the world would bless themselves (see Genesis 22:18).

The Church celebrates many famous Christians on their individual memorials, but today she praises God for all His "holy ones," His saints. That is the title St. Paul preferred when he addressed his congregations.

Divinized by Baptism, they were already "saints" by the grace of God (see Colossians 1:2). They awaited, however, the day when they could "share in the inheritance of the saints in light" (Colossians 1:12).

And so do we, as the Scriptures give us reasons for both celebration and hope. In our second reading, St. John tells us that to be "saints" means to be "children of God"—and then he adds: "so we are"! Note that he speaks in the present tense.

Yet John also says that we have unfinished business to tend. We are already God's children, but "what we shall be has not yet been revealed." Thus we work out our salvation: "Everyone who has this hope based on him makes himself pure, as he is pure" (1 John 3:3).

We do this as we share the life of Christ, who defined earthly beatitude for us. We are "blessed," He says, when we are poor, when we mourn, when we are persecuted for His sake. It is then we should "Rejoice and be glad, for [our] reward will be great in heaven" (Matthew 5:12).

Until then, we pray with the Psalmist: "Lord, this is the people that longs to see your face." Salvation has come through Abraham's seed, but it belongs to all nations. For "the Lord's are the earth and its fullness; the world and those who dwell in it" (Psalm 24:1).

Scott Hahn

English Martyrs
Vale of White Horse
Pastoral Area

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ALL SAINTS

Entrance Antiphon:
Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honour of all the Saints, at whose festival the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.

First Reading: Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 24
Such are the people who seek your face, O Lord.

Second Reading: 1 St John 3:1-3

Gospel Acclamation:
Alleluia, alleluia.
Come to me, all who labour and are heavy laden, says the Lord, and I will give you rest.
Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 5:1-12a

Communion Antiphon: Mt 5:8-10
Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God. Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

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 … Chris Stemp's Intention (A Furlong); June Well's Intention

SUNDAY 1st November … ALL SAINTS
9.00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot … John Hui's Birthday Thanksgiving (Ada & Jordan Hui)
11.00 am Mass St John Wallingford … Canon David Mahy RIP

MONDAY 2nd November … Commemoration of ALL SOULS
12.00 noon Mass St John Wallingford … Souls of Families & Friends
6.00 pm Mass English Martyrs Didcot … Souls of Families & Friends

TUESDAY 3rd November … NO MASS … St Martin de Porres

WEDNESDAY 4th November … St Charles Borromeo
9.30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot … Noel Clifford's Intention

THURSDAY 5th November
9.30 am Mass St John Wallingford … Margaret Chancy's Intention (Helen Fletcher)

FRIDAY 6th November
9.30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot … Mary Guinan RIP (Annie Furlong) & Mrs Freeman RIP

SATURDAY 7th November … St Willibrord
9.30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot … Confession after Mass … Deceased Members of Lazarus Family
4.30 pm Adoration and Confession before Vigil Mass St John Wallingford
5.00 pm Vigil Mass St John Wallingford … Those on our Sick List
5.50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot
6.30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot … Anniversary of Red Wednesdays (Aid to Church in Need)

SUNDAY 8th November … Remembrance Sunday
9.00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot … Peggy Fullagar's Intention; Roberto & Elenita Sagum's Intention
11.00 am Mass St John Wallingford

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



DEATH NOTICE



Mary Guinan RIP … Funeral at 12pm, Thursday 12th November, South Oxfordshire Crematorium.

Bamenda Sunday

This weekend 1st November 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, or simply use our parish donation page to pay.



Lay Leaders Conference - Saturday 21 November



Inspired by our ten-year Mission Plan, You Will Be My Witnesses, the Lay Leaders Conference will take place on Saturday 21 November the Solent Hotel Whiteley near Southampton and run from 9.00am to 3.30pm. It will offer an opportunity to share experiences, explore fresh ideas and consider how clergy and laity can work together to strengthen our parishes and bring more people to know Jesus Christ. As we look to the future of our Diocese, we want as many people as possible to be part of this important conversation. Whether you are involved with liturgy, catechesis, pastoral councils, outreach or any other aspect of parish life, this conference is for you. There is no charge for attending though you will need to register in advance. Click here to apply.

New Initiative for young people – Pizza, Pray, Play

Children and young people aged 8 to 16 of Oxfordshire Pastoral Area are invited to the *Pizza, Pray, Play* at **St John Vianney Wantage Parish Hall, Charlton Rd, OX12 8ER** on **Friday 13th November at 6.30pm**. This is a new initiative and part of the formation and evangelisation cooperation across our pastoral area. Please come and join the first meeting if your children have received their First Holy Communion and you are looking for a continuation of faith formation activities for them. Email the Parish Office of Wantage at wantage@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk or scan the QR code to register your interest and book your free pizza.



Churches Against Labour Exploitation



Take action against modern slavery and for dignified work with Churches Against Labour Exploitation Training, online over four evenings, beginning **Wednesday 18th November.** Caritas Social Action Network is delighted to be launching a brand new training with FLEX (Focus on Labour Exploitation) for those passionate about taking action on extreme labour exploitation and modern slavery, and organising for dignified work.

Sessions will be interactive, and there will be an opportunity to develop and get input on plans for action in your church or diocese. All are welcome to join us on this journey, whether you're completely new to the topic or are a long-standing volunteer or organiser but places are limited. If you have any questions don't hesitate to reach out to Fiona. Find out more information and book here.

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

Drone Video Recording in Didcot and Wallingford masses



This weekend we have visitors. They are going around our churches to make a video to be hosted on our websites. The purpose is to give people an idea about our location, physical size and shape of the churches (e.g. for disability access) as well as a flavour of our liturgy, our worship, our formation programs, our social activities, access and our diversity. The feel is different between St Johns Wallingford and the English Martyrs Didcot. The video will tell a story about the churches, the community spirit, the diverse nature of our congregation and what happens on a weekly basis. Please come to masses and participate in our parish life as we normally do. If you have any concerns, please speak to the Parish Office.

Online Donation With DONA

You can now access our parish online donation page with DONA at home or anywhere you are. If you want to make a payment to our parish account, send in money to a second collection and contribute to different parish funds such as St Amand's Transport Fund, Didcot Parish Centre Fund, Wallingford Refurb Fund or SVP Fund, you can simply use your computer or mobile device to access this page: https://donate.mydona.com/english-martyrs-didcot or scan the QR code as provided. This provides you a lot of convenience and peace of mind if you are not able to physically come into our churches to access the payment device but still want to make a payment or general offering. However, please DO NOT pay your Mass Intention stipend through DONA. Mass Intention stipend should be paid in cash with the Mass Intention Envelope in our parish churches. Thank you.

Parish First Holy Communion Preparation Programme 2026-27

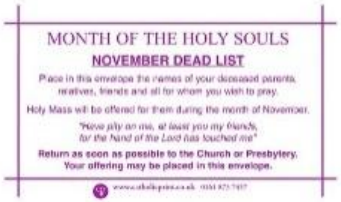


Our parish First Holy Communion preparation programme of 2026-27 is now open. Parents with children in primary school Year 3 to 6 can now apply to join our First Holy Communion programme here. Completed application forms should be submitted with a **photocopy** of your child's Baptism Certificate to 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 this Sunday 1ST NOVEMBER.**



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. 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.



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 **10th and 24th November. See you at 7.30pm** in the Tearoom. Contact Nick Spencer at 07870505520 if you have any questions.

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.