

Christ on the streets of London - Adoremus National Eucharistic Congress 2026

On Saturday, 10 October, thousands of pilgrims will gather in London to celebrate, worship, and bear witness to the real presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.



Adoremus, the name given to the National Eucharistic Congresses that periodically take place in England and Wales, is an invitation to Catholics, from the Bishops, to come together to renew their devotion to the Eucharistic Lord.

There are two main strands. In London, there will be a representative gathering of the Church with bishops, priests, and people. No less important is how Adoremus is marked in Catholic parishes across England and Wales. Local Masses, processions of the Blessed Sacrament and Holy Hours will unite these local events with the national gathering.

Live streaming from the London event will be made available to encourage remote participation.

One of the highlights is sure to be the procession of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament from Southwark's St George's Cathedral to Westminster Cathedral – two of London's iconic Catholic churches. The procession will cross the River Thames from south to north and follow a 3.3-mile route that will take around 90 minutes to complete.

Timeline for the day

The Congress will officially open with the 'Adoration Mass' in St George's Cathedral at 12pm noon celebrated by Archbishop John Wilson, the Archbishop of Southwark.

After Mass, Cardinal Timothy Radcliffe OP will give a keynote address on 'The Eucharist: Our sacrament of hope in dark times'.

The Eucharistic Procession to Westminster Cathedral will follow lunch at 3pm.

At 5pm, Bishop James Curry, Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster, will preside over Solemn Benediction prior to the 6pm Mass. For more information: [Christ on the streets of London - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

The Humble Path

Echoing

the complaint heard in last week's readings, today's First Reading



again presents protests that God isn't fair. Why does He punish with death one who begins in virtue but falls into iniquity, while granting life to the wicked one who turns from sin?

This is the question that Jesus takes up in the parable in today's Gospel.

The first son represents the most heinous sinners of Jesus' day—tax collectors and prostitutes—who by their sin at first refused to serve in the Lord's vineyard, the kingdom. At the preaching of John the Baptist, they repented and did what was right and just. The second son represents Israel's leaders—who said they would serve God in the vineyard but refused to believe John when he told them they must produce good fruits as evidence of their repentance (see Matthew 3:8).

Once again, this week's readings invite us to ponder the unfathomable ways of God's justice and mercy. He teaches His ways only to the humble, as we sing in today's Psalm. And in the Epistle today, Paul presents Jesus as the model of that humility by which we come to know life's true path.

Paul sings a beautiful hymn to the Incarnation. Unlike Adam, the first man, who in his pride grasped at being God, the New Adam, Jesus, Humbled himself to become a slave, obedient even unto death on the Cross (see Romans 5:12–17). In this He has shown sinners—each one of us—the way back to the Father. We can only come to God to serve in His vineyard, the Church, by having that same attitude as Christ.

This is what Israel's leaders lacked. In their vainglory, they presumed their superiority—that they had no further need to hear God's Word or listen to God's servants. But this is the way to death, as God tells Ezekiel today. We are always to be emptying ourselves, seeking forgiveness for our sins and frailties, confessing on bended knee that He is Lord, to the glory of the Father.

Scott Hahn



English Martyrs
Vale of White Horse
Pastoral Area

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26TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR A

Entrance Antiphon:

All that you have done to us, O Lord, you have done with true judgement, for we have sinned against you and not obeyed your commandments. But give glory to your name and deal with us according to the bounty of your mercy.

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:25-28

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 25

Remember your compassion, O LORD.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-11

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord, and I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 21:28-32

Communion Antiphon: Ps 118:49-50

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

SATURDAY 26th September ... Ss Cosmas & Damian

9.30 am Mass English Martyrs ... **Confession after Mass** ... Andrew, Wilf and Elsie McElroy's health
4.30 pm Adoration and Confession before Vigil Mass St John Wallingford
5.00 pm Vigil Mass St John Wallingford ... Jerry Kelly RIP (Bridie Quinn)
5.50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot
6.30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Kathleen Murray RIP (June Wells)

SUNDAY 27th September

9.00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot
11.00 am Mass St John Wallingford

MONDAY 28th September ... NO MASS ... St Wenceslaus

TUESDAY 29th September ... THE HOLY ARCHANGELS MICHAEL, GABRIEL & RAPHAEL

12.00 noon Mass St John Wallingford

WEDNESDAY 30th September ... St Jerome

9.30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot

THURSDAY 1st October ... St Teresa of the Child Jesus

9.30 am Mass St John Wallingford

FRIDAY 2nd October ... The Holy Guardian Angels

9.30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Mary Angela Evans RIP (June Wells)

SATURDAY 3rd October ... Our Lady on Saturday

9.30 am Mass English Martyrs ... **Confession after Mass**
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 ... Eleanor M Wells RIP (June Wells)

SUNDAY 4th October

9.00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot
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 and all the sick and housebound.



Harvest Family Fast Day: Faith in Action

Harvest Family Fast Day is approaching a week on **Friday, 2nd October**. CAFOD Portsmouth's Andrea Hoyland shares news of how to put our Faith in Action.

This Harvest, through CAFOD's Family Fast Day Appeal, your support can help provide safe water, school meals and lasting solutions that keep children healthy, in school and hopeful for the future. Please donate today at cafod.org.uk/envelope or call 0303 303 3030. Thank you for your generosity, your prayers and your support. Use the CAFOD envelope in church, [donate online](#) or scan the QR code provided.



World Mission Sunday – 18th October

The theme for this year's World Mission Sunday is 'One in Christ, united in mission.' It marks the 100th anniversary of this global celebration. In his message for this day, Pope Leo says: 'Your prayers and practical support, on World Mission Sunday, will be a great help in bringing the Gospel of God's love to everyone, especially the poorest and those most in need. Every gift, no matter how small, becomes a meaningful act of missionary communion. I renew my heartfelt gratitude for everything you will do to help me help missionaries throughout the world.' More information will be coming soon. To find out more about World Mission Sunday, click [here](#).



Diocesan Day for Catechists

Whether you are a parish catechist, sacramental preparation leader, RCIA team member, children's liturgy volunteer, youth catechist, or involved in any ministry of faith formation, you are warmly invited to the Portsmouth Diocese Catechists' Formation Day on **Saturday 10th October, 9:30am–1:30pm at St Bede's, Basingstoke**. We will be joined by Fr Emmanuel Mansford of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal and Dr Káren North from St Mary's University Twickenham as we come together from across the Diocese for a morning of prayer, inspiration, and practical formation as we reflect on our shared mission to form missionary disciples. The day will start with Mass before we move into our sessions, there will also be a time for prayer and reflection as well as hearing from each other before we finish the day with a shared lunch (provided as part of the day). Whether you are new to catechesis or have served for many years, this formation day offers encouragement, practical tools, and spiritual renewal to support your ministry. Come and be refreshed, inspired, and equipped to form disciples who make disciples. To register your interest please [click here](#), or email ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk



Parish Evangelisation Cell Formation Day

Are you passionate about sharing your faith? Would you like to see your parish become a place where people encounter Christ, grow in discipleship, and reach out to others?

Join us for the Portsmouth Diocese Parish Evangelisation Cell Formation Day, on **Saturday 31st October, 9:30am – 1:30pm at Christ the King, Reading**. An inspiring day of teaching, prayer, practical formation, and fellowship, designed to equip clergy and laity to build vibrant parish evangelisation cells. 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](#). [Click here](#) to register or email ffm@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk.

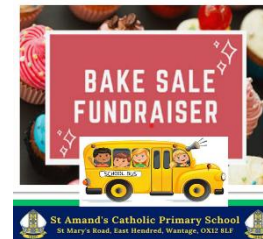
Parish Safeguarding

Our Safeguarding 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.

St Amand's Bakery Sales Fundraiser

A group of St Amand's parents are warmly inviting all our parishioners to join them in a Bake Sale Fundraiser **this Sunday 27th September after masses** in both English Martyrs Didcot and St John Wallingford. Please prepare cash, come along to enjoy some delicious homemade cakes and treats, and support our fundraising efforts for St Amand's Transport Scheme. Every purchase and donation will help us reach our goal.

Your support is much needed for us to continue running St Amand's Transport Scheme. We need to keep this scheme running so that parishioners in Didcot can continue to send our children to St Amand's, the only Catholic primary school in our pastoral area that really needs your support. Please kindly continue to support the scheme after the Sunday's bakery sales by making use of our **payment devices** in both churches to pay your contribution. Please choose 'St Amand's Transport Fund' on the payment devices to pay in any time you want. Thank you.



Parish First Holy Communion Preparation Course 2026-27

We are now preparing for our parish First Holy Communion preparation course of the year 2026-27. Parents with children in primary school Year 3 to 6 can now apply to join our First Holy Communion programme [here](#). Please download the application form with the link provided or access it through our parish website. Completed application forms should be submitted with a photocopy of your child's Baptism Certificate to the designated space (in the plastic box attached to the wall next to the Holy Water) at English Martyrs Church Didcot as shown in the picture provided. Applications are now open until further notice.



As parents and guardians you should be prepared to support your child by ensuring they attend every session and be regularly attending Mass with them. Classes are tentatively held on Saturday afternoon from 2.30pm to 4pm. Start dates and more details to follow soon. Contact the Parish Office if you have questions.

Young Vincentians Youth Group

Sunday 27th, after the 9:00am Mass, English Martyrs Church – Church Foyer. Are you aged 13–18? Come along and be part of our Young Vincentians Youth Group! Whether you already know about the group or you're simply curious and want to find out more, you are very welcome. Come along, bring a mate, and see what we're all about! Together, we will use the "See, Think, Do" approach to put our faith into action and find practical ways to support people in our local community. We'd love to see you there! Find out more about Young Vincentians: [SVP Youth – About Us](#)



English Martyrs Gospel Reading Group Meetings

The English Martyrs Gospel Reading Group meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. Our next meeting will be on **13th and 27th October. See you at 7.30pm** in the Tearoom. Contact Nick Spencer at 07870505520 if you have any questions.

Evangelium Talks at Didcot

Curious about life? Confused about faith? Explore the Catholic faith with us through art, philosophy and scripture. A new series of talks for all our parishioners. **Date and time: Fridays 7pm to 9pm at English Martyrs Didcot**. Each talk in the series explores a special topic of faith, sacraments, scripture, Christian practice, traditions and the Holy Church. For more information, contact [Judith Montford](#) or [click here](#) for more details. East Hendred is running a parallel programme in their parish at the same time on Fridays. Feel free to join either programme. A course book can be purchased.



[Careers - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth](#): Current job openings across the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth.