

Bishop Nicholas Hudson installed as the new Bishop of Plymouth

The Right Reverend

Nicholas Hudson was installed as the Bishop of Plymouth at the Cathedral Church of St Mary and St Boniface, Plymouth, on the Patronal Feast Day of St Cuthbert Mayne, Saturday 29 November 2025.

Senior Catholic clergy, including His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendía, Apostolic Nuncio to Great Britain, Cardinal Vincent Nichols, the Most Reverend John Wilson, Metropolitan Archbishop of Southwark and archbishops and bishops from England and Wales attended the Installation Mass.

The Bull of Appointment from Pope Leo XIV highlighted the Church's confidence in the appointment of Bishop Hudson:

"We thought of you, having carefully considered your pastoral achievements in the duties you have undertaken in the Archdiocese of Westminster, together with your spiritual and human gifts and your expertise in administration, which make you suitable for advancement to this greater office."

Parishioners from across Cornwall, Devon and Dorset, priests and deacons of the Diocese of Plymouth, priests from other dioceses and religious orders, Abbots, Bishops of England and Wales, the Anglican Bishop of Exeter and the Anglican Bishop of Plymouth, ecumenical representatives from other Christian denominations, interfaith leaders, civic dignitaries including the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Devon, and the Vice Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, the Chief Superintendent of Devon and Cornwall Police, the Group Commander of Devon and Somerset Fire and Rescue, the Lord Mayor of Plymouth and the Lord Mayor of Exeter, diocesan trustees, school leaders from Catholic education institutions and charity representatives all attended the Mass of Installation.

In his Installation homily, Bishop Hudson reflected on the martyrdom of St Cuthbert Mayne, who ascended the scaffold in Launceston 448 years ago (or, according to some sources, the following day). He described how St Cuthbert Mayne had been found in possession of two forbidden objects: a papal bull like the one brought to us this day by the Apostolic Nuncio; the other, an Agnus Dei – the Agnus Dei being a wax image of the Lamb of God which Fr Cuthbert bore around his neck. Bishop Hudson said that St Cuthbert Mayne was the first martyr to have been trained in Douai, across the water in France, and that he had chosen to return from Douai to keep alive the faith of Catholics in Cornwall.

The bishop spoke of how St Cuthbert Mayne had heard the Lord's call to feed the lambs, to feed the sheep, to look after the sheep; and come. Passing, by day, as a steward ... To read more: [Bishop Nicholas Hudson installed as the new Bishop of Plymouth - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)



Kingdom Come

"The kingdom of heaven is at hand," John proclaims. And the Liturgy today paints us a vivid portrait of

our new king and the shape of the kingdom. He has come to bring.

The Lord whom John prepares the way for in today's Gospel is the righteous king prophesied in today's First Reading and Psalm. He

is the king's son, the son of David—a shoot from the root of Jesse, David's father (see Ruth 4:17).

He will be the Messiah, anointed with the Holy Spirit (see 2 Samuel 23:1; 1 Kings 1:39; Psalm 2:2), endowed with the seven gifts of the Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.

He will rule with justice, saving the poor from the ruthless and wicked. His rule will be not only over Israel—but will extend from sea to sea, to the ends of the earth. He will be a light, a signal to all nations. And they will seek Him and pay Him homage.

In Him, all the tribes of the earth will find blessing. The covenant promise to Abraham (see Genesis 12:3), renewed in God's oath to David (see Psalm 89:4,28), will be fulfilled in His dynasty. And His name will be blessed forever.

In Christ, God confirms His oath to Israel's patriarchs, Paul tells us in today's Epistle. But no longer are God's promises reserved solely for the children of Abraham. The Gentiles, too, will glorify God for His mercy. Once strangers, in Christ they will be included in "the covenants of promise" (see Ephesians 2:12).

John delivers this same message in the Gospel. Once God's chosen people were hewn from the rock of Abraham (see Isaiah 51:1–2). Now, God will raise up living stones (see 1 Peter 2:5)—children of Abraham born not of flesh and blood but of the Spirit.

This is the meaning of the fiery baptism He brings—making us royal heirs of the kingdom of heaven, the Church.

Scott Hahn



English Martyrs
Vale of White Horse
Pastoral Area

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

www.didcotandwallingfordcatholicchurches.org
Office email: didcot@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk

(Office Hours Tuesday–Friday 9am to 2pm) Telephone: 01235812338
15 Manor Crescent, Didcot OX11 7AJ

Fr Dominic Adeiza's email: dadeiza@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
Safeguarding email: safeguarding.didwal@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk
SVP contact: 07516 701917



SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT YEAR A (WK II)

Entrance Antiphon:

O PEOPLE of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.

First Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 72

In his days shall justice flourish, and great peace for ever.

Second Reading: Romans 15:4-9

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight;
all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

Communion Antiphon: Ba 5:5; 4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights,
And behold the joy which comes to you from God.

SATURDAY 6th December ... St Nicolas

9:30 am NO MASS

4:30 pm Adoration and confession before Vigil Mass St John Wallingford

5:00 pm Vigil Mass St John Wallingford ... St John's Cathedral Portsmouth

5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot

6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Kathleen McCartney RIP (Phil & Gerry McGettigan)

SUNDAY 7th December ... Second Sunday of Advent

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Barbara Wilson RIP (B Torres)

11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford ... Bishop Hudson & Diocese of Plymouth

MONDAY 8th December ... NO MASS ... The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

TUESDAY 9th December ... St John Diego Cuahtlatotzin

12:00 noon Mass St John Wallingford ... Youths in Our Diocese

WEDNESDAY 10th December ... Our Lady of Loreto

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Ron Almeida RIP (Mary Almeida)

THURSDAY 11th December ... St Damasus I

9:30 am Mass St John Wallingford ... Migrants

FRIDAY 12th December ... Our Lady of Guadalupe

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Margaret Ewen RIP (Phil & Gerry McGettigan)

SATURDAY 13th December ... St Lucy

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

5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot

6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Catherine Olley's Family intentions

SUNDAY 14th December ... Third Sunday of Advent

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Antonia & John Beard RIP

11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford

In your prayers, please remember: Margaret O'Conner, Jenny Evans, Mary Guinan, Ann Tomline, Joan Walker, Joan Russell, Joan Turner, Nina Oakes, Jacob Oakes, Pat McLoughlin, Barry Molloy, Annie Furlong, Laura Falavina, and all the sick and housebound.



DEATH/FUNERAL NOTICE

Patrick Molloy RIP ... Requiem Mass at 12pm, Wednesday 17th December, Didcot.



Confirmation Preparation Class 2025-26

Our Confirmation Preparation Class is now closed for application. We have 14 young people in our Confirmation Class from our Didcot parish. The **1st Session** of the Confirmation Preparation Class is going to be on **Sunday 7th December from 4pm to 5pm at English Martyrs Church Didcot**. They will be joined by other young people from our sister parish in Wantage to prepare for their Confirmation. *Bishop Philip Egan* will confer the sacrament for all 11 Churches in our Pastoral Area here in our parish of the English Martyrs Didcot on *Friday 5th June 2026*.



Didcot Gospel Choir Christmas Concert at English Martyrs

Didcot Gospel Choir are coming back to English Martyrs Church Didcot for their Christmas Concert again this year! The Christmas Concert will be on **Sunday 14th December at 5:30pm**. For tickets, please email to didcotgospel@gmail.com. Ticket prices are **£10** including refreshments.

Didcot Gospel Choir will donate all their income to Clear Sky Children's Charity and Didcot Food Bank. [Clear Sky Children's Charity](https://clear-sky.org.uk/) <https://clear-sky.org.uk/>, is a charity that supports Play & Creative Arts Therapy services for schools, professionals and families in Oxfordshire. [Didcot Food Bank](https://www.didcotbaptist.org.uk/mission/local-activities/didcot-foodbank/) <https://www.didcotbaptist.org.uk/mission/local-activities/didcot-foodbank/> is our local food bank in Didcot operated under Didcot Baptist Church. Come and enjoy a lovely evening of Christmas music by Didcot Gospel Choir while donating to support our local charities on Sunday 14th.



New Parking Spaces for Sunday Mass at Didcot Girls' School

We are glad to announce that our parishioners who attend 9am mass on Sunday at English Martyrs Didcot can now choose to park your cars at the car park of our neighbour – Didcot Girls' School. The School has agreed to open **up to 30 parking spaces** for our parishioners to use on **Sunday morning between 8:30am to 11:00am**.

This helps us cope with the wet weather during autumn and winter months when the ground becomes wet and muddy in our church car park. Please continue to use our church car park as your top priority for parking when attending Sunday mass and consider the Girls' School car park as an alternative for traffic overflow and when the ground is too muddy for safe parking. YOU are responsible for your own belongings and safety at all times no matter where you choose to park. Thank you.

Thursday 18th December is Pastoral Area Confession Day

English Martyrs Church Didcot will once again be the host parish to the Oxfordshire Pastoral Area End-of-Year Advent Confession on **Thursday 18th December at 7pm**. We will welcome all the priests and parishioners from all the eleven parishes of our pastoral area this evening. This will be the last Confession Day for our parishioners. Saturday confessions sessions in Didcot and Wallingford will not be opened until February 2026.

Volunteering: Aspire's Gift Wrapping Booth

From the 8th -14th December, we'll be running a gift-wrapping booth in the Westgate! We'll spread Christmas cheer by helping shoppers wrap their gifts, in exchange for donations to Aspire. This is a great chance to give back, have some fun, and help Aspire raise vital funds. We're looking for some volunteers to help run the stall. It will run from 12noon to 5pm each day, but volunteers can do a full-day, half-shift, or even a few hours. No experience is needed – just enthusiasm, Christmas spirit, and festive wear!

We particularly need people for the 12th, 13th, and 14th. Those interested can contact Chris Poole at chris.poole@aspireoxford.co.uk. Thank you, in advance, for your help. Together, we can give the gift of hope to those who need it most.



Advent Events in Our Parish

We had started Advent with the 'Journey of Joseph & Mary'. If you still wish to play host to Joseph and Mary figures on their journey, please contact Anne-Marie Kershaw or the Parish Office. Spaces are filling out quick. In the Second Week of Advent, Sister Helen Hakim is hosting a talk about Advent in the Orthodox Church in Didcot on **Saturday 6th December**.



For the **3rd Sunday in Advent, 14th December**, please bring an item of food to donate to our Food Bank in both English Martyrs and St John's to help those less fortunate than ourselves.

For the **4th Sunday in Advent, 21st December**, please bring to Church your family crib or Nativity scene to be blessed. Place them under the altar before Mass so Fr Dominic can bless them for you.

Christmas Offerings to Our Parish

The 'Give As You Live' online donation platform for collecting Christmas offerings to our parish is now open. You can scan the QR code provided or access the webpage at <https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/fundraising/didcot-and-wallingford-english-martyrs-and-st-john-the-evangelist-catholic-parish-christmas-collection-2025>.



Food Donation Needed!

Please bring food items for donation to Wallingford and Didcot Food Banks over the next few weeks. The items need to have 3 months best before dates. An exception of shelves life for the following items: Christmas mince pies, Christmas pudding, long-life custard, cakes, chocolate or children's goodies. Your generosity will help bring warmth and happiness to the vulnerable families who are struggling at this time of the year.



English Martyrs Gospel Reading Group December Meeting

The Small Group is meeting on **Tuesday 9th and 23rd December at 7:30pm in the Tearoom** to read and reflect on the coming Sunday's Gospel. Please come and join us. Contact Nick Spencer at 07870 505520.

Seniors Christmas Luncheon

The Parish Seniors Christmas Lunch will take place **this Thursday 11th December at Noon**. Festive Fayre will consist of Turkey, all the trimmings, Christmas Pudding and Mince Pies. As usual, all dietary requirements will be catered for and lifts can be arranged. See you on Thursday!



Hearing Aids Needed

Do you have any hearing aids in good conditions that you no longer need? Someone with hearing problems may not be able to afford the price could have the use of your outgoing hearing aids. Please if you have one you wish to give away, kindly leave it in the basket marked "Hearing Aid" at the Church entrance. Thank you.

Survey on Bus Service between Didcot & St Amand's Primary

The governors at St. Amand's Catholic Primary School are keen to see if there is demand for a new bus service between Didcot and St. Amand's. This would need to be a privately run bus, secured by the school, to replace the service which the council used to run in the past.

They are keen for families in and around Didcot (especially OX11 post codes) to complete their short survey to explore demand and practical arrangements, such as fares and the preferred route. Even if you aren't interested in a bus service, if you live in OX11 and have (or will have) primary aged children they really need your input! Here is the link to complete the survey: [Didcot Bus Survey – Fill in form](#)



Parish Safeguarding

Our Safety 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.