

Leo XIV: True power comes from virtue, not strength



The pontiff discussed the legitimate exercise of authority in a message to the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences.

Pope Leo XIV emphasized that technological, economic, and military power must be directed toward the common good.

In an address to the plenary assembly of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, the pontiff discussed authority in the context of Catholic social teaching and described it as grounded not in strength but in moral virtue.

“Catholic social teaching regards power not as an end in itself but as a means ordered toward the common good,” the pope wrote in his message. “This implies that the legitimacy of authority depends not on the accumulation of economic or technological strength but on the wisdom and virtue with which it is exercised.”

Leo’s message follows his remarks at a Vatican prayer vigil for peace on April 11, where he denounced the “delusion of omnipotence” among global leaders amid ongoing conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine. In his letter, he criticized the imbalance of economic and military power among nations, calling it a threat to democracy.

“The concentration of technological, economic, and military power in a few hands threatens both democratic participation among peoples and international concord. Divine power does not dominate but rather heals and restores. It is precisely this logic of charity that must animate history, for human activity inspired by charity helps to shape the ‘earthly city’ in unity and peace,” Leo wrote.

Referring to Centesimus Annus, St. John Paul II’s encyclical on Catholic social teaching, Leo stated that legitimate power “finds one of its highest expressions in authentic democracy,” a democracy that recognizes human dignity and is not dominated by “economic and technological elites.”

“Far from being a mere procedure, democracy recognizes the dignity of every person and calls each citizen to participate responsibly in the pursuit of the common good,” Leo wrote. “Reflecting this conviction, St. John Paul II affirmed that the Church values democracy because it ensures participation in political choices and ‘the possibility both of electing and holding accountable those who govern them, and of replacing them through peaceful means when appropriate.’”

Source: [Pope Leo XIV: True power comes from virtue, not strength](#)

Emmaus and Us

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e should put ourselves in the shoes of the disciples in today’s Gospel. Downcast and confused, they’re making their way down the road, unable to understand all the things that have occurred.



They know what they’ve seen—a prophet mighty in word and deed. They know what they were hoping for—that He would be the redeemer of Israel. But they don’t know what to make of His violent death at the hands of their rulers.

They can’t even recognize Jesus as He draws near to walk with them. He seems like just another foreigner visiting Jerusalem for the Passover.

Note that Jesus doesn’t disclose His identity until they describe how they found His tomb empty but “Him they did not see.” That’s how it is with us, too. Unless He revealed Himself, we would see only an empty tomb and a meaningless death.

How does Jesus make Himself known at Emmaus? First, He interprets “all the Scriptures” as referring to Him. In today’s First Reading and Epistle, Peter also opens the Scriptures to proclaim the meaning of Christ’s death according to the Father’s “set plan”—foreknown before the foundation of the world.

Jesus is described as a new Moses and a new Passover lamb. He is the one of whom David sang in today’s Psalm, whose soul was not abandoned to corruption but was shown the path of life.

After opening the Scriptures, Jesus at table took bread, blessed it, broke it, and gave it to the disciples—exactly what He did at the Last Supper (see Luke 22:14–20).

In every Eucharist, we reenact that Easter Sunday at Emmaus. Jesus reveals Himself to us in our journey. He speaks to our hearts in the Scriptures. Then at the table of the altar, in the person of the priest, He breaks the bread.

The disciples begged Him, “Stay with us.” So He does. Though He has vanished from our sight, in the Eucharist—as at Emmaus—we know Him in the breaking of the bread.

Scott Hahn



English Martyrs
Vale of White Horse
Pastoral Area

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THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

Entrance Antiphon: Ps 65:1-2

Cry out with joy to God, all the earth;
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 2:14, 22-23

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 16

O Lord, you will show me the path of life.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 1:17-21

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

Lord Jesus, open the Scriptures to us; make our hearts burn within us when you speak to us.

Alleluia.

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Communion Antiphon: Lk 24:35

The disciples recognized the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread, alleluia.

SATURDAY 18th April

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 ... Canon Peter (Noel Clifford)

5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot

6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... The Parsons Family (Ruth Parsons)

SUNDAY 19th April ... THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Canon Peter (June Wells)

11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford ... Senior Parishioners

2:00 pm Baptism Zacharias Stainer-Rodrigues ... English Martyrs Didcot

MONDAY 20th April ... NO MASS

TUESDAY 21st April ... St Anselm

12:00 noon Mass St John Wallingford ... Our Confirmation Class

WEDNESDAY 22nd April

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Terry O’Brien’s Family Intention (Brian McNamee)

THURSDAY 23rd April ... ST GEORGE

9:30am Mass St John Wallingford ... Canon Peter (Barratt & Riley Family)

FRIDAY 24th April ... St Fidelis of Sigmaringen

9:30am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Noel & Maureen (Noel Clifford)

SATURDAY 25th April ... ST MARK

9:30 am **NO MASS**

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

SUNDAY 26th April ... FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Seniors’ Lunch Team (Annie Furlong)

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, Pat McLoughlin, Barry Molloy, Annie Furlong, Canon Peter Turbitt, Charles Hunt and all the sick and housebound.



Baptism

We rejoice with the parents and godparents of Zacharias Stainer-Rodrigues, who through the sacrament of Baptism, will become a member of the body of Christ this Sunday. In your prayers, remember Zacharias Stainer-Rodrigues. We invoke God's blessings on him as he grows.



The Tyburn Martyrs Walk

The Tyburn Martyrs Walk will take place on Sunday May 17th. We will meet at 1.30pm in the churchyard of St Giles-in-the-Fields (nearest tube: Tottenham Court Road) and will walk to the site of Tyburn gallows, honouring the courageous Catholic martyrs who met their deaths there in the 16th and 17th centuries. We will finish with Benediction and Tea at Tyburn Convent. To help with arrangements, please let the organisers know that you are coming: info@tyburnmartyrswalk.co.uk. For more information: www.catholichistorywalks.com

Local Area Coordinator for Didcot Central

Hi, I'm Kelly, your local area coordinator for Didcot Central, Didcot Health, Education and Social Care. With a new, community-based approach in Didcot Central, my work will connect people, groups and organisations across our local area and the wider county. You don't need an official referral – just get in touch and I'll see how I can help. I am based locally so can meet wherever is best for you. I can help you build connections in your community, helping you plan for a happier future. You'll be in control – we'll move forward at a pace that suits you. Stay strong and connected in your community – get in touch. Email: kelly.flaherty@oxfordshire.gov.uk. Phone: 07710244539



Pathways to Closeness – Mariapolis 23rd to 26th July

Whatever your background, nationality or belief, the Mariapolis provides an opportunity to build a small, temporary society based on mutual respect and to experience how love creates connections. The programme will include moments of reflection, workshops, outings and inspiration for all ages. The Mariapolis is organised by Focolare – an international movement, inspired by the Gospel, working for unity across all spheres of life. Come and share the adventure of the Mariapolis! Explore how we can put the dream of a united world into action in our everyday lives. This year's Mariapolis will be on 23rd to 26th July at Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB. To make a booking, please scan the QR Code provided to access the online form and information about fees. For enquiry, email to mariapolis@focolare.org.uk. Application deadline is 20th June.



2026 Life in the Spirit Seminars

The Diocesan Life in the Spirit course is a series of seven **online sessions on Thursday evenings**. Please join us at 7.15pm for Praise & Worship music, which will be followed by a talk and breakout discussion session, finishing at approximately 9pm. We have some excellent speakers, but don't come for those! We will have glorious Praise and Worship music, but don't come for that either. We will have interesting discussions in the breakout rooms, but talking is not necessarily all that it is cracked up to be. Come to articulate your faith so you can put what you know you believe into words for others. Come to receive prayer to get closer to the Lord and deepen your faith. Come to be the more intentional disciple that the Lord wants you to be. **This year, the sessions start on Thursday 23rd April, and continue most Thursdays until 18th June, from 7.15pm to 9pm.** To register your interest, click [here](#), scan the QR code provided or refer to the promotional poster on our church notice board to register on Zoom.



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.

Gift Aid Envelopes Now Available

This is to renew our appreciation to all who have been supporting the Church via Gift Aid. This has enabled us to claim 25p for every £1 given. The new Gift Aid boxes for the coming tax year are now available and ready for collection at the entrance of the Churches. If you know a parishioner and wish to collect theirs and pass on, thank you.

Please consider becoming a gift aider if you are a UK taxpayer, you have nothing to lose. Register with us by scanning the QR code provided to access the new online Gift Aid declaration form. You can reach the parish finance administrator, [Helen Cooper](#), if you need clarification.

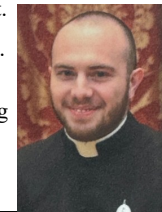


Seminarian Owen Dugan in Didcot & Wallingford

During the **weekend of April 25th**, our Parish of the English Martyrs, Didcot and St. John the Evangelist, Wallingford, is delighted to welcome one of our final year seminarians, Owen Dugan. Owen is completing his formation at St. Mary's Oscott.

During his visit, he will share the joy of preparing to be ordained a Catholic priest for the diocese of Portsmouth. Let us all make him welcome.

The mission of a priest is to stand in the local community as the "Icon of Christ", serving their particular needs and proclaiming the Gospel. Those called to the diocesan priesthood are usually attracted to the vocation through a desire to serve the People of God in the local parish. The Priest makes Christ present to them in the Sacraments of the Church. Please remember to pray for him, all our seminarians, for vocations to the service of the altar.



Seniors' Lunch — 23rd April

Seniors' Lunch this month will be on Thursday 23rd April at 12noon in English Martyrs Tearoom. Our menu will be: cod and chips, peas or salad and trifle for dessert. Please sign up to RSVP. If you have transport request and special diet requirement, please let [Jacqui](#) or the [Parish Office](#) know in advance. See you on 23rd April.



CAFOD: Stand with Sudan — Give monthly

On the third anniversary of the war in Sudan, Kayode Akintola, CAFOD's Head of Region for Africa, asks for your help: "So many of our sisters and brothers in Sudan are facing increasing violence, hunger, and disease. That is why today, I'm asking you to consider setting up a monthly gift to support families who are fleeing the violence – with food, safe water and other vital support. Monthly gifts are an act of steady love for our neighbours, a way of saying: we will not abandon you, we will stand with you until peace is restored." Scan the QR code provided or click [Sudan Crisis Appeal](#) to donate.



ECHO Youth Event – Sunday 26 April

There is an upcoming event for young Christians run by ECHO – the Greater Didcot Christian Children and Youthwork Trust. If you have children of school years 6 to 13, you are welcomed to join this event with them on **Sunday 26 April at Didcot Baptist Church from 3pm to 5pm**. It will be an afternoon with food, games and worship. Please register your interest with the [Parish Office](#) on or before Friday 24 April.

English Martyrs Gospel Reading Group April Meeting

The English Martyrs Gospel Reading Group is going to meet on **Tuesday 14th April and 28th April**. See you on at 7pm in the Tearoom. Contact Nick Spencer at 07870505520 if you have any questions.

St Amand's School Bus Service

English Martyrs Didcot is going to start a school bus service for families in our parish with children attending St Amand's Catholic Primary School. Drop-off and Pick-up point will be at English Martyrs Church Didcot. The bus service will be running for free during its trial period tentatively to start after the Easter Term Break. Please contact the [Parish Office](#) to register your interest.

Careers – Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth: Click this link for current job openings across the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth.