

Pope Leo XIV to media: Thank you 'for your service to the truth'

In his first address to international media on Monday, Pope Leo XIV thanked journalists for their service to the truth and for communicating peace in difficult times.



"We are living in times that are both difficult to navigate and to recount. They present a challenge for all of us, but it is one that we should not run away from," Leo said in the Pope Paul VI Audience Hall on May 12. "On the contrary, they demand that each one of us, in our different roles and services, never give in to mediocrity."

"Thank you, dear friends, for your service to the truth," he said, also underlining the importance of preserving free speech and the free press.

In one of his first audiences, Pope Leo XIV met with several thousand members of the international press to thank them for their "long and tiring days" of work over the last few weeks as they reported on Pope Francis' death, funeral, and the conclave.

Before his prepared remarks in Italian, the new pope spoke in English, thanking everyone for the warm reception and the applause.

"They say when they clap at the beginning it doesn't matter much... If you are still awake at the end, and still want to applaud... Thank you very much!" Leo said.

Turning to the present moment, Leo said: "The Church must face the challenges posed by the times. In the same way, communication and journalism do not exist outside of time and history. St. Augustine reminds of this when he said, 'Let us live well, and the times will be good. We are the times' (Discourse 311)."

The pontiff, elected May 8, also emphasized the important role of communications for promoting peace.

"In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus proclaimed: 'Blessed are the peacemakers' (Mt 5:9). This is a beatitude that challenges all of us, but it is particularly relevant to you, calling each one of you to strive for a different kind of communication, one that does not seek consensus at all costs, does not use aggressive words, does not follow the culture of competition, and never separates the search for truth from the love with which we must humbly seek it," Leo said.

"Peace," he continued, "begins with each one of us: in the way we look at others, listen to others, and speak about others. In this sense, the way we communicate is of fundamental importance ... To read more, visit: <https://www.catholicnewsagency.com/news/264043/pope-leo-xiv-to-media-thank-you-for-your-service-to-the-truth>

New For All Ages



By God's goodness and compassion, the doors of His kingdom have been opened to all who have faith, Jew or Gentile.

That's the good news Paul and Barnabas proclaim in today's First Reading. With the coming of the Church—the new Jerusalem John sees in today's Second Reading—God is "making all things new."

In His Church, the "old order" of death is passing away and God for all time is making His dwelling with the human race, so that all peoples "will be His people and God Himself will always be with them." In this the promises made through His prophets are accomplished (see Ezekiel 37:27; Isaiah 25:8; 35:10).

The Church is "the kingdom for all ages" that we sing of in today's Psalm. That's why we see the Apostles, under the guidance of the Spirit, ordaining "presbyters" or priests (see 1 Timothy 4:14; Titus 1:5).

Anointed priests and bishops will be the Apostles' successors, ensuring that the Church's "dominion endures through all generations" (see Philippians 1:1, note that the New American Bible translates *episcopos*, the Greek word for bishops, as "overseers").

Until the end of time, the Church will declare to the world God's mighty deeds, blessing His holy name and giving Him thanks, singing of the glories of His kingdom.

In His Church, we know ourselves as His "faithful ones," as those Jesus calls "My little children" in today's Gospel. We live by the new law, the "new commandment" that He gave in His final hours.

The love He commands of us is no human love but a supernatural love. We love each other as Jesus loved us in suffering and dying for us. We love in imitation of His love.

This kind of love is only made possible by the Spirit poured into our hearts at Baptism (see Romans 5:5), renewed in the sacrifice His priests offer in every Mass.

By our love we glorify the Father. And by our love all peoples will know that we are His people, that He is our God.

Scott Hann



English Martyrs
Vale of White Horse
Pastoral Area

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR C

Entrance Antiphon: Ps 97:1-2

O Sing a new song to the Lord, for he has worked wonders; in the sight of the nations he has shown his deliverance, alleluia.

First Reading: Acts 14:21b-27

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 145

I will bless your name for ever, my God and king.

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-5a

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

A new commandment I give to you, says the Lord, that you love one another, just as I have loved you. Alleluia.

Gospel: John 13:31-33a, 34-35

Communion Antiphon Jn15:1, 5

I am the true vine and you are the branches, says the Lord. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, bears fruit in plenty, alleluia.

SATURDAY 17th May ... St Dunstan

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 ... Thanksgiving for Lawrence Chim

5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot

6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Ann Furlong ... Good Estate (J Wells & Murray)

SUNDAY 18th May

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Quiteria Cardozo's birthday

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

MONDAY 19th May ... NO MASS ... Dedication of the Cathedral of St John Portsmouth

TUESDAY 20th May ... St Bernardine of Siena

11:25am Rosary before mass ... St John Wallingford

12:00 noon Mass St John Wallingford ... The Sick

WEDNESDAY 21st May ... St Christopher Magallanes & Companions

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Mr & Mrs Elsley RIP

THURSDAY 22nd May ... St Rita of Cascia

9:30 am Mass St John Wallingford ... Young People

FRIDAY 23rd May

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Juliet's & Cherry's well-being (Camilla King)

SATURDAY 24th May

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Confessions after mass

12:00 noon Baptism of Thomas Fisher ... English Martyrs Didcot

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

5:00 pm Vigil Mass St John Wallingford ... Homeless

5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot

6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Keith Preston RIP (Ruth Parsons)

SUNDAY 25th May

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot

11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford

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



Baptism

We rejoice with the parents and godparents of Thomas Fisher who through the sacrament of Baptism, will be made a member of the body of Christ next weekend. In your prayers, remember Thomas Fisher. We invoke God's blessings on him as he grows.



A Call for Young People!

Are you about to finish your A-levels? Why not give something back ... Our Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes is taking place from 7th-11th July 2025. If you have a passport valid until at least January 2026, we need you to help us push some wheelchairs.

Due to the popularity of our pilgrimage, and the increased number of pilgrims that need assistance we have need of people to help us push wheelchairs, provide a supportive arm, and help carry a dinner plate for a pilgrim at mealtimes. Our Youth pilgrims are an essential part of our pilgrimage, and they tell us each year of the amazing time they have had, returning many times to serve our pilgrims. If you would like to know more about joining us, contact lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk without delay.



4 Didcot/Wallingford Youths to Do Rome Pilgrimage with Bishop

We are very pleased that 4 young people from our Church in Didcot and Wallingford are interested in joining Bishop Philip and many more young people from across the diocese for the Diocesan 2025 World Youth Day Pilgrimage to Rome. Places were limited but we are able to secure 4 slots for our candidates.

The Pilgrimage will begin on the morning of Monday 28th July 2025 with the pilgrims gather at London Gatwick for flight to Rome, Italy, and end with return to London Gatwick during the early afternoon of Monday 4th August. In Rome the pilgrims will follow a full programme of events led by Bishop Philip and the Director of the Pilgrimage, Canon PJ Smith including visits to the Vatican.

The cost of the pilgrimage is £1,350 per person for a shared room. All flights are included together with transport in Rome. A 20kg bag is included with the flights. Breakfast and an evening meal are included at our hotel. They will need financial support. Please can you help? Speak with Father Dominic or Ada in the Parish Office.



Called to Closeness – Mariapolis 24th to 27th 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. This year's Mariapolis will be on 24th to 27th July at Harper Adams University, Newport, Shropshire TF10 8NB. To make a booking, please scan the QR Code, contact Margaret Wilkerson at 07769 819565 or email to mariapolis@focolare.org.uk. Application deadline is 20th June. Mariapolis Limited is a registered charity in England and Wales (257912) and in Scotland (SC040066).



Pope Leo: 'Never again war!'

Pope Leo XIV appeared on the loggia of St Peter's Basilica for his first ever Regina Coeli address on Sunday 11th May. Addressing the faithful gathered in St Peter's Square and countless others following from around the world he echoed the cry for peace of his predecessor, Pope Francis. "In today's dramatic context of a third world war fought piecemeal ... I too appeal to the powerful of the world by repeating these ever-relevant words: never again war!" He recalled, first, "the immense tragedy of the Second World War", which came to an end 80 years ago, on 8th May, "after causing 60 million deaths." Pope Leo then turned to the modern wars plaguing the world today: "I carry in my heart the suffering of the beloved Ukrainian people," he said, urging that "every effort be made to reach a true, just, and lasting peace as soon as possible. May all prisoners be freed, and may the children be returned to their families", he said. He then turned to the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip. "I am deeply pained by what is happening," he said. "Let the fighting cease immediately, let humanitarian aid be provided to the exhausted civilian population, and may all hostages be released".

With a sense of hope, Pope Leo XIV then welcomed the recent announcement of a ceasefire between India and Pakistan. "I hope that, through the upcoming negotiations, a lasting agreement may soon be reached," he said. [Image / Article: Vatican News]



Seniors Lunch in May

The next Seniors Lunch will be on Thursday 29th May at 12.00 Noon. We will be serving Chicken Chasseur/Vegetarian option, Roast Potatoes and Vegetables. Dessert will be Apple Pie and Custard/Ice cream. If you would like to attend, please add your name to the list at the back of church. If you require a lift, please let Ada know. Bon appetite!



Email Consent for Receiving Newsletter By Email from 'Thames Isis'

I have started sending out weekly newsletters by email as a parish for the first time last week. However, due to a lack of maintenance of the online parishioners' portal – PAMIS over the years, all parishioners who are registered after 2012 have not been added to our newsletter email list in the system and hence had not received the email from us last week.

I have been working in the last few weeks to manually add our parishioners back onto the mail list one by one, which however, is difficult to achieve with limited manpower and time. Please can you help by letting me know if you have not received our newsletters in your mailbox, and would like to be added back into our mail list? If you know of anyone in the parish who wants to receive newsletters by email but have not received any email from us, please can you tell them to contact me in the Parish Office?

I will add you back to the mail list and you will be sent immediately an email from 'Thames Isis' to ask you to confirm your subscription to 'Newsletter by email'. Please click 'Subscribe' to confirm your subscription. You will then be added to the mail list. Please check the Spam or Junk folder of your mailbox if you cannot find this email in your Inbox after contacting the Parish Office. Newsletters by email is a wonderful way to keep in touch with parishioners including those who are housebound or unable to come to church for their own reasons. Thank you.

Ada — Parish Administrator



Are You Registered In The Parish?

When you register or fill out the parish membership form, you gain a sense of belonging and identity in the parish community. It is a commitment to practice your faith.

*Registration enables the parish priest and staff to get to know you better, to welcome you and to minister to you. This is especially important during a time of crisis so that the pastoral staff can attend to your spiritual needs and the needs of your family.

*Registration helps you stay connected with your parish and helps your parish stay connected with you. Providing your contact information is important so that parishes provide you timely updates via email, direct mail, phone, etc. Also, if you use offertory envelopes, online giving or the digital plate, the parish may be able to claim 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you give, if you are a registered tax payer. Once you are registered, please notify the parish office of any changes in address or phone number. Your data is SAFE.

*Registered active members are eligible for sponsor/godparent validation.

*Registered active members are sometimes eligible to rent parish facilities. Census numbers may determine how many priests are assigned to a parish and how many Masses and enrichment programs are planned and scheduled. These numbers help in how much levy we pay to the diocese.



The English Martyrs' Small Group Is Here

Do you want to deepen your faith? Do you want to share your faith with others? Here is a chance. As Bishop Philip recommended in his 6th Holy Habits: join a small group. Would you like to join us? The English Martyrs' Small Group will be meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month at 7:30pm at English Martyrs Tearoom. No commitments. Our first meeting will be on Tuesday 10th June 2025. Come and let us explore our faith (Catholic Classics, Lectio Divina or the coming Sunday Gospel).

Organised Pilgrimage to St James and St William of York Reading

Do you want to join an organised local pilgrimage to one of the shrine churches in our diocese in the Year of Jubilee? Here is a chance to join our parishioner, Simon Marshall, who is an experienced pilgrimage walk tour leader. The pilgrimage will take place on Saturday 24th May. It is an 8-mile walk tour from Stoke Row to St James and St William of York Reading. This is a leisurely linear walk that go through the lovely countryside from Maharajah's Well at Stoke Row through Reading and over the Thames. Participants will meet up at Stoke Row by the Maharajah's well at 10:30am and start the walk from there. You will have picnic lunch in the beautiful Forbury Gardens which is next to the church. This will be followed by quiet contemplation and prayers inside St James Church. Coach will be arranged to take you back to Stoke Row to pick up your cars at the end of the pilgrimage tour. Please contact Simon Marshall at 07469953201 or simonm36@hotmail.com to join the tour. Thank you.

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.