

## Edith Stein – a modern saint who teaches us to value every person and raise up people with disabilities

This summer, a Catholic organisation that helps and celebrates those who experience disability, is hosting a series of events to introduce people to Edith Stein, the great Judeo-Catholic saint whose life and teachings offer the perfect example of how to value everyone – particularly those with disabilities. Cristina Gangemi, a highly experienced disability adviser who is Director of the Kairos Forum, explained to the Bishops' Conference why Edith Stein, also known as St Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, provides such a good model for people working in ministry with those with disabilities.

She said: "I started to read about Stein, and I found that she, in her early years, experienced what we would now call being a 'gifted child' in school. She had various experiences of being hypercognitive and metacognitive." She had a niece with an intellectual disability, who she loved and who she understood needed to be taught as a creative learner." She added: "Her anthropology is all about value. She says, 'I see another person, they gaze at me, and I know that I gaze back at another human being whom we have to respect.'" Gangemi relayed a story about a young girl, Julia who lived with Down's syndrome and could struggle to vocalise thoughts. She shared how Julia, when asked what the word 'holy' meant to her, answered that it was "as if people are beautiful" – which echoes the thinking of Edith Stein. She said: "Years later, I was reading a book, Stein's thinking on the 'Way to Know God', and she says that we have to translate this down. God is beauty. That beauty is God. That's it. "When we fill ourselves with God in the Eucharist, in love, in acceptance, in evangelising, in celebrating being people of faith that have so much to give the world, when we fill ourselves with that experience of God, we become beautiful. People are beautiful." Events The Kairos Forum is hosting three unique events in July to bring people closer to this inspirational Catholic saint. The first, on Sunday 2 July, is a day of celebration at Aylesford Priory in Kent. It's free of charge, open to all, and is a day of shared pilgrimage – a celebration of creative people who experience disability who will tell Edith Stein's story. There is also a groundbreaking three-day conference, also at Aylesford Priory, from 4 – 6 July, that celebrates the wisdom of Edith Stein. Titled Dignitas Personae et Amor Dei: The Value of the Human Person and Divine Love; Meeting Edith Stein, the event promises to be one of the first international events of its kind introducing new areas of study and stories, including issues surrounding disability. Edith Stein in Parliament Following St John Henry Newman into Parliament (who can forget Pope Benedict XVI's historic address in Westminster Hall?), Edith Stein will be the focal point of an invitation-only gathering in the House of Lords on 3 July. At the invitation of Baroness Sheila Hollins and facilitated by the Kairos Forum, Steinian scholars Professor Angela Ales Bello and Professor Shahid Mobeen will give reflections to those assembled. Cristina Gangemi wants as many people as possible to encounter Edith Stein this summer: "Everything she found out when she moved from Judaism to atheism to Christianity – it's a unique perspective. We hope to be able to get people to just meet Edith Stein and love her as much as we all do." She finished by saying: "Edith Stein was a human being who experienced living in the world, and she understood what valuing the other meant." For more information please contact Cristina Gangemi.cgangemi.kairos@gmail.com

## How God Loves

We often begin Mass with the prayer from today's Epistle: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you." We praise the God who has revealed Himself as a Trinity,



a communion of persons.

Communion with the Trinity is the goal of our worship—and the purpose of the salvation history that begins in the Bible and continues in the Eucharist and sacraments of the Church.

We see the beginnings of God's self-revelation in today's First Reading, as He passes before Moses and cries out His holy name. Israel had sinned in worshipping the golden calf (see Exodus 32). But God does not condemn them to perish. Instead He proclaims His mercy and faithfulness to His covenant.

God loved Israel as His firstborn son among the nations (see Exodus 4:22). Through Israel— heirs of His covenant with Abraham—God planned to reveal Himself as the Father of all nations (see Genesis 22:18).

The memory of God's covenant testing of Abraham—and Abraham's faithful obedience—lies behind today's Gospel. In commanding Abraham to offer his only beloved son (see Genesis 22:2, 12, 16), God was preparing us for the fullest possible revelation of His love for the world.

As Abraham was willing to offer Isaac, God did not spare His own Son but handed Him over for us all (see Romans 8:32). In this, He revealed what was only disclosed partially to Moses—that His kindness continues for a thousand generations, that He forgives our sin and takes us back as His very own people (see Deuteronomy 4:20; 9:29).

Jesus humbled Himself to die in obedience to God's will. And for this, the Spirit of God raised Him from the dead (see Romans 8:11), and gave Him a name above every name (see Philippians 2:8–10).

This is the name we glorify in today's Responsorial: the name of our Lord, the God who is Love (see 1 John 4, 8, 16).

By Scott Hahn



English Martyrs  
Vale of The White  
Horse Pastoral Area

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

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## THE MOST HOLY TRINITY SUNDAY

### Entrance Antiphon

Blest be God the Father, and the Only Begotten Son of God, and also the Holy Spirit, for he has shown us his merciful love.

**First Reading: Exodus 34:4–6, 8–9**

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 52b**

To you glory and praise for evermore.

**Second Reading: Cor 13:1-13**

**Gospel Acclamation: Cf. Jn 14:15–21**

### Alleluia, alleluia!!

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, the God who is, who was, and who is to come.

**Alleluia, alleluia!!**

**Gospel: John 3:16-18**

**Communion Antiphon: Cf. Ga 4:6**  
Since you are children of God, God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son, the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.

### SATURDAY 3rd June St Charles Lwanga & Companions

9:30 Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot.....Nora Byrne RIP (N. Beard)  
4:30pm Adoration & Confessions will take place prior to the Vigil Mass at St John's Wallingford  
5.00pm Vigil Mass St John's ...Noel Clifford and The sick on our newsletter  
5.50pm Adoration before Vigil Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot...  
6.30pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs, Didcot...Berth Williams Johns RIP (Anne Johns)

### SUNDAY... 4th June.. THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

9:00am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot - Bill and Camilla 50th Wedding Anniversary  
11:00 Mass St John's Wallingford - Bill and Camilla 50th Wedding Anniversary

### MONDAY 5th June - St Boniface - NO MASS

### TUESDAY 6th June.- St Norbert

12:00noon Mass St John's Wallingford.....Rosary for Peace

### WEDNESDAY 7th June -

9:30am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot. The Sick on our newsletter

### THURSDAY 8th June

9:30am —Mass St John's Wallingford...Lesley Walker RIP (Cecilia Wheeler (Ces)

### FRIDAY 9th June ...St Ephrem

9.30.a.m Mass at the English Martyrs, Didcot... Anne Elizabeth Johns RIP (Anne Johns)

### SATURDAY 10th June Our Lady

9:30 Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot.....Nora Byrne RIP (N. Beard)  
4:30pm Adoration & Confessions will take place prior to the Vigil Mass at St John's Wallingford  
5.00pm Vigil Mass St John's ...Olivia Richmond  
5.50pm Adoration before Vigil Mass at English Martyrs, Didcot...  
6.30pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs, Didcot...Berth Williams Johns RIP (Anne Johns)

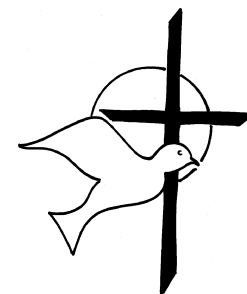
### SUNDAY... 11th June....CORPUS CHRISTI (The Body and Blood of Christ)

9:00am Mass English Martyrs, Didcot -  
11:00noon Mass St John's Wallingford

### Parish Safeguarding Rep

Our Safety Officer for all adult and child safeguarding issues is Stefania Harford, please contact Stefania via the parish office on 01235 812338, if there is no response and in an emergency then dial 999.

**Our Church, the English Martyrs Didcot will be open daily for private prayers between 8am and 5pm.**



In your prayers, please remember: Jenny Evans, Mary Guinan, Maureen & John Logan Ann Tomline, Joan Walker, Terry Appleyard, Joan Russell, Joan Turner, Nina Oakes, Jacob Oakes, Jidechi Ejiofor, Pat McLoughlin, Margaret Healy, Barry Molloy, David Woodley, Annie Furlong, Fr Philip Harris, all the sick and housebound.



Going into the second year of the war in Ukraine, the number of people fleeing the war and in need of shelter remains high amidst continued attacks on objects of civilian infrastructure, leaving millions living in fear of shelling and destruction. SJOG Homes for Ukraine. Saint John of God Hospitaller Services (SJOG), in partnership with Caritas Social Action Network (CSAN), are running a matching, training and support programme for UK-based sponsors and Ukrainian guests under the Homes for Ukraine Scheme. SJOG Homes for Ukraine is an official provider of this government scheme, operating in the whole of the UK.

About SJOG and CSAN

SJOG is a national charity helping people to lead fulfilling lives. We believe that every person has the right to be supported in a way that does not degrade their dignity. We are part of an international family of 500,000 co-workers, working in 500 centres of care in 50 countries. Inspired by the life and example of Jesus Christ, CSAN was established by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales to develop the Church's social action in these parts of the United Kingdom. CSAN share in the mission of the Catholic Church. Purpose of SJOG Homes for Ukraine programme The purpose of our programme is twofold: to evacuate people from the warzone and prevent homelessness amongst those Ukrainians already in the UK. The programme has received funding from The Albert Gubay Foundation and the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities.

As an official provider of the Government programme, SJOG Homes for Ukraine provides:

1. Expertise, knowledge, and experience: we have the expertise, knowledge, and experience to help you navigate the process, support you at every stage, and answer any questions you might have.
2. Informational resources: we provide you and your guests with informational resources, such as a Welcome Books that contain detailed instructions and useful relevant information. We provide your guests with instructions on life in the UK and give tips on paperwork, making it less work for you.
3. Training: We provide training and cultural orientation webinars for hosts, which will help you understand the process of hosting, the steps your guests will need to undertake before and after their arrival in the UK, the checks by the local authorities you will need to undergo, as well as understand the cultural differences that will help you manage your expectations as you prepare for hosting.
4. Mediation and risk management: We help mediate meetings and navigate potential risks for you and your guests, ensuring that your personal data is safe when sharing personal details.
5. Flights: We will pay for your guests' flights from the Ukrainian border to the airport nearest to your home to help your guests save on expenses and reduce the administrative burden on you and your guests.
6. Belonging boxes: Upon arrival, your guests will receive a Welcome Box from us that contains some essentials and useful sundries to make them feel welcome in the UK and help save on initial expenses.
7. Support during placement: We provide intensive support during the first month of placement and further support if needed throughout the placement. We can also help mediate conflict or direct you or your guests to the relevant services if needed.

More information on the project can be found at the following links

- Website: <https://sjog-homesforukraine.uk/>
- E-mail: [homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk](mailto:homesforukraine@sjog.org.uk)
- Facebook: [facebook.com/sjoghomesforukraine](https://www.facebook.com/sjoghomesforukraine)
- YouTube: [youtube.com/@sjoghomesforukraine](https://www.youtube.com/@sjoghomesforukraine)

### Pentecost Blessing

We can not thank you enough for the wonderful show of a powerful sense of community during the Pentecost mass and social celebrations in the garden. A special thanks to members of the Liturgy Community, the Social Committee, those who prayed the bidding prayers in foreign languages. This is most appreciated. The food, the national colors, scarfs and the chit-chat in the garden show indeed our collective yearning for the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit. A big thank you to all who brought in cakes and food.

*Thank You!*

### June Actions for Peace

Support 'Refugee Week' on 22nd June 2023. 'Love the Stranger' places the human being at the heart of our pastoral outreach, looking beyond statistics and policies to the person – each with a name, a face and a story. Download 'Love the Stranger' at [www.cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger/](http://www.cbcew.org.uk/love-the-stranger/)

Remember in your prayers all those who suffer in prison for their beliefs and support what your local Amnesty International group is doing for such prisoners of conscience. (22 June is the feast of St Thomas More) Pray for the Pope and all those who work in the Vatican. (29 June, feast of Saints Peter and Paul).



### Confirmation Program Second Session, June 8th

Our Second Confirmation program session comes up, June 8th, 2023. This session runs from 6.30p. To 8p.m. We shall be meeting in the gallery. Mind the steps up the gallery. Please hold the candidates, their parents, sponsors and facilitators in your prayers.



### Heidi Crowter to take case against UK Govt over discriminatory abortion law to European Court of Human Rights

Heidi Crowter, who has Down's syndrome, has announced she will be taking her case against the UK Government over our current discriminatory abortion law, which allows abortion up to birth for Down's syndrome, to the European Court of Human Rights.

To find out more about Heidi's case and the discrimination babies with Down's syndrome face in the womb, visit: <https://righttolife.org.uk/HeidiCase>

### St Amand's School RE Inspection

We congratulate Mrs Ellery, the head teacher, the staff, the governors, the parents, and not least the children on the result of the recent Inspection. The school was rated 'Outstanding' for Religious Education in a process closely modelled on OFSTED Inspections. A crucial element of Catholic Life and Witness was the school's worship and its role in catechesis and evangelization. Two children were baptized on Ascension Day in the School Mass, witnessed by the Inspectors, and a member of staff and a parent will receive Christian Initiation at Pentecost. RE Inspections in Catholic Schools are regulated nationally by the Catholic Bishops. The report is available on <https://www.stamands.oxon.sch.uk/downloadfile/19596349?open=true>

### Reading and meditation with Saint Thérèse of the Child Jesus and the Holy Face (Saint Thérèse of Lisieux)

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 21 June at 9:30 am in the hall (access from the back of the Church in Wood Street). If you would like to join our little group on this journey, please speak to Armelle after Mass or email her [c.armelle@btinternet.com](mailto:c.armelle@btinternet.com). Everyone is welcome.



### Carmelite Pilgrimage to the Catholic National Shrine of Our Lady, Walsingham, on 24 June 2023

A minibus has been booked and will depart from the market place in Wallingford at 7am. It will leave Walsingham at 5pm, returning to Wallingford at around 8pm. The cost is £55. Anyone interested, please email Armelle: [c.armelle@btinternet.com](mailto:c.armelle@btinternet.com)

### £80 Made from the Plants/Veg Sale

A huge thanks to John Elsley who potted home-grown vegs, plants and flowers for sale after masses last few weekends at the English Martyr Church porch. The sales brought in £80. This is well appreciated. Special thanks to all who bought and made donations in support of the parish. Thank you!

*thank you*

### Come Join Us, It is Senior's Lunch

We invite and welcome you to the next Seniors' Lunch at English Martyrs Didcot which will be on Thursday 8th June in the Tea Room at 12:00 noon. The menu and sign-up sheet are on the board outside the tearoom. Consider bringing in someone who is on his or her own. A shared meal, laughter and space is a communion with Christ and his Church.