

## Urbi et Orbi: Pope urges world leaders to lay down weapons



**P**ope Leo XIV has called on world leaders to lay down their weapons

and choose “encounter” over domination.

“Let those who have weapons lay them down!”, the Pope urged on Easter Sunday in his traditional Urbi et Orbi (‘To the City and the World’) message.

Speaking to the tens of thousands of pilgrims gathered in St Peter’s Square, Pope Leo urged “those who have the power to unleash wars” to chose peace.

This should not be a peace “imposed by force”, he stressed, but one achieved through dialogue – “not with the desire to dominate others, but to encounter them”.

### The ‘globalisation of indifference’

Pope Leo warned that the world is “growing accustomed to violence”.

We are “becoming indifferent”, he said, not only to the deaths of thousands of people, but to the “hatred and division” war causes, as well as its “economic and social consequences”.

Borrowing a phrase from the late Pope Francis, Pope Leo warned of the “ever-increasing ‘globalisation of indifference’”.

“We cannot continue to be indifferent!”, he urged. “We cannot resign ourselves to evil!”.

For this reason, he said, he would be leading a prayer vigil for peace next Saturday, April 11th, in St Peter’s Basilica.

### Non-violence and ‘true strength’

At Easter, the Pope said, Jesus won victory over death, and thereby “defeated once and for all the ancient adversary, the prince of this world”.

However, Pope Leo stressed, the power with which Christ won this victory is “entirely non-violent”, based on a love which “creates and generates”, “forgives and redeems”.

This spirit of love and forgiveness, he said, is the “true strength” that establishes peace, and fosters relationships amongst individuals and societies.

### Inner peace

Bringing his Urbi et Orbi message to a close, the Pope stressed that Easter peace is not merely “the silence of weapons” but also an inner peace which “touches and transforms the heart of each one of us”.

“Let us allow ourselves to be transformed by the peace of Christ”, Pope Leo urged, entrusting to the Lord “all hearts that suffer and await the true peace that only he can give.”

Source: [Urbi et Orbi: Pope urges world leaders to lay down weapons - Vatican News](#)

## His Mercy Endures

**W**e are children of Jesus’ Resurrection from the dead. Through this wondrous sign of His great mercy, the Father of Je-

sus has given us new birth, as we hear in today’s Epistle.

Today’s First Reading sketches the “family life” of our first ancestors in the household of God (see 1 Peter 4:17). We see them doing what we still do—devoting themselves to the Apostles’ teaching, meeting daily to pray and celebrate “the breaking of the bread.”



The Apostles saw the Lord. He stood in their midst, He showed them His hands and sides. They heard His blessing and received His commission: to extend the Father’s mercy to all peoples through the power and Spirit He conferred upon them.

We must walk by faith and not by sight—we must believe and love what we have not seen (see 2 Corinthians 5:7). Yet, the invisible realities are made present for us through the devotions the Apostles handed on.

Notice the experience of the risen Lord in today’s Gospel is described in a way that evokes the Mass.

Both appearances take place on a Sunday. The Lord comes to be with His disciples. They rejoice, listen to His Word, and receive the gift of His forgiveness and peace. He offers His wounded body to them in remembrance of His Passion. And they know and worship Him as their Lord and their God.

Thomas’ confession is a vow of faith in the new covenant. As promised long before, in the blood of Jesus we can now know the Lord as our God and be known as His people (see Hosea 2:20–25).

This confession is sung in the heavenly liturgy (see Revelation 4:11). And in every Mass on earth we renew our covenant and receive the blessings Jesus promised for those who have not seen but have believed.

In the Mass, God’s mercy endures forever, as we sing in today’s Psalm. This is the day the Lord has made—when the victory of Easter is again made wonderful in our eyes.

Scott Hahn



English Martyrs  
Vale of White Horse  
Pastoral Area

PARISHES OF  
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## SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER OF DIVINE MERCY YEAR A

### Entrance Antiphon: 1 Pt 2:2

Like newborn infants, you must long for the pure, spiritual milk, that in him you may grow to salvation, alleluia.

### First Reading: Acts 2:42-47

**Responsorial Psalm: Ps 118**  
Give praise to the LORD, for he is good, his mercy endures for ever.

### Second Reading: Peter 1:3-9

### Gospel Acclamation:

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

You believed, Thomas, because you have seen me, says the Lord. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

**Alleluia.**

### Gospel: John 20:19-31

### Communion Antiphon: Jn 20:27

Bring your hand and feel the place of the nails, and do not be unbelieving but believing, alleluia.

### SATURDAY 11th April

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Madeleine Henry RIP (Catherine Sutton)  
4:30 pm Adoration and Vigil Mass St John Wallingford  
5:00 pm Vigil Mass St John Wallingford ... Catherine Kearney RIP  
5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot  
6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Vocations

### SUNDAY 12th April ... SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER of Divine Mercy

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Gibril Gomez & Asenita Hehea  
11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford ... Our Pastoral Area  
2:00 pm Divine Mercy Sunday Service

### MONDAY 13th April ... NO MASS ... St Martin I

### TUESDAY 14th April

12:00 noon Mass St John Wallingford ... Violet Hedges & Holy Souls RIP

### WEDNESDAY 15th April

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

### THURSDAY 16th April

9:30am Mass St John Wallingford ... Marie Clare Trevor RIP

### FRIDAY 17th April

9:30am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Ministers in Our Parish

### 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

### SUNDAY 19th April ... THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot  
11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford  
2:00 pm Baptism Zacharias Stainer-Rodrigues ... English Martyrs Didcot

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

**W**e 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 next Sunday. In your prayers, remember Zacharias Stainer-Rodrigues. We invoke God's blessings on him as he grows.



### 2026 Life in the Spirit Seminars

**T**he 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.



### Visit of St Edmund Campion Relic on Saturday 9th May

**A**s part of the St Edmund Campion Relic Pilgrimage journey, the pilgrimage follows as near as possible the route Campion took on his way from Lyford Grange to Tyburn with Campion's relic visiting churches on the route which include Masses at English Martyrs Didcot (6.30pm) and St John's Wallingford (5.00pm) on **Saturday 9th May**. This will be followed by the St Edmund Campion Pilgrimage Mass to be held at Lyford Grange, near Wantage on Sunday 10th May 2025 at 4.00pm. It was at the Grange that the Jesuit priest Edmund Campion was captured before being shackled to a cart and dragged through the Thames Valley to London and put on trial. (Photo source: Catholic News World)



### Formation for Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

**F**r Anthony Fyk is organising a formation morning for EMHC on Saturday 9th May 2026 at the Pastoral Centre in Winchester. There will be a welcome session from Fr Anthony, a talk by Fr Jeremy Corley, focussing on the Eucharist in the sacred scriptures as well as a session on Lectio Divina: "Living a Eucharistic life – what does it mean to live out the eucharist?". All Eucharistic Ministers, experienced and new, are very welcome to attend. Please could you advertise this in your newsletters and ask interested people to register via [liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:liturgy@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).

### Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes 2026

**A**ware of the sick within our Diocese and of the sickness that afflicts our world today, Bishop Philip invites you to join him on this year's pilgrimage to Lourdes from **Monday 6th July until Friday 10th July**. Our pilgrimage will take place from Monday 6th July when we gather at Heathrow airport for a morning flight to France and end when we return to Heathrow on Friday 10th July. Our pilgrimage will follow a full program of events led by Bishop and Canon Smith including visits to places of importance to St. Bernadette, the Torchlight and Blessed Sacrament Processions, International Mass and opportunities to receive the Sacraments of the Anointing of the Sick and Reconciliation, as well as take of the water as Mary instructed. To find out more and to book a place please email [lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:lourdes@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk), telephone 07780 221686 or write to Canon PJ Smith at St. Edmunds House, Bishop Crispian Way, Portsmouth PO1 3QA. [Click here](#) for a booking 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.

### A Big Thank-you!

**W**e would like to say a big thank you to all our ministers, musicians, florists, readers, helpers and supporters during the Easter Triduum services in our parish of Didcot and Wallingford. We are a blessed parish with all our devoted members to make our Easter Triduum warm and graceful. Thank you to all who had come to our services and supported our parish. Without any of you, our Easter Triduum this year would not be as memorable and well-attended. You can access photos and videos of our Easter Triduum from our [Facebook page](#). A heartfelt thanks to Fr Dominic, our parish priest, for your dedication and all the hard work you have put in our parish. Another great news to celebrate: **our Parishioner Registration number has hit 260!** We are grateful for the amazing responses from you after our appeal last month. This has helped us to maintain an updated parishioner record in our parish. If you have not yet registered with us, please access our online form by clicking [here](#) or go to our [parish website](#) to register. Thank you.



### Welcome to Gibril and Asenita!

**W**e welcome **Gibril Augustine Gomez** and **Asenita Hehea**, who have both worked so hard and have now been received by the holy Catholic Church during our Holy Saturday Vigil Mass. Thank you to their sponsors. We commend Gibril and Asenita to the Lord and pray with all their family and friends. Do you know anyone who is discerning and seeking to know and meet Jesus in the Sacraments? Talk to Fr Dominic or reach out to the [Parish Office](#) for support.



### Gift Aid Envelopes Now Available

**T**his 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, by emailing, [accounts.didwal@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk](mailto:accounts.didwal@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk).



### Seniors' Lunch — 23rd April

**S**eniors' 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.



### Sunday Children Liturgy

**O**ur Sunday Children Liturgy class will resume on Sunday 19th April. If your children are new to the Children Liturgy Class, please fill out a form from Jacqui or Gay to register. Thank you.



### St Amand's School Bus Service

**E**nglish 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.

### English Martyrs Gospel Reading Group April Meeting

**T**he 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.