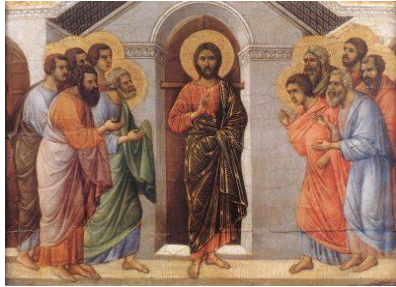


Building His House

By His death, Resurrection, and Ascension, Jesus has gone ahead to prepare a place for us in His Father's house.

His Father's house is no longer a temple made by human hands. It is the spiritual house of the Church, built on the living stone of Christ's body.



As Peter interprets the Scriptures in today's Epistle, Jesus is the "stone" destined to be rejected by men but made the precious cornerstone of God's dwelling on earth (see Psalm 118:22; Isaiah 8:14; 28:16).

Each of us is called to be a living stone in God's building (see 1 Corinthians 3:9, 16). In this edifice of the Spirit, we are to be "holy priests" offering up "spiritual sacrifices"—all our prayer, work and intentions—to God.

This is our lofty calling as Christians. This is why Christ led us out of the darkness of sin and death as Moses led the Israelites from bondage in Egypt.

God's covenant with Israel made them a royal and priestly people who were to announce His praises (see Exodus 19:6). By our faith in Christ's new covenant, we have been made heirs of this chosen race, called to glorify the Father in the temple of our bodies (see 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 12:1).

In today's First Reading, we see the spiritual house of the Church being built up as the Apostles consecrate seven deacons so they can devote themselves more fully to the "ministry of the Word."

The Lord's Word is upright and all His works trustworthy, we sing in today's Psalm. So we can trust Jesus when He tells us never to be troubled but to believe that His Word and works come from the Father.

His Word continues its work in the world through the Church. We see its beginnings today in Jerusalem. It is destined to spread with influence and power (see Acts 19:20) and to become the imperishable seed by which every heart is born anew (see 1 Peter 1:23).

Scott Hahn

Pope Leo XIV holds audience with Archbishop of Canterbury

(Image Credit: Vatican Media)



Pope Leo XIV

held an audience on Monday, 27 April, with the Archbishop of

Canterbury, the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally, and prayed with her in the Urban VIII Chapel in the Apostolic Palace.

In his greetings, the Pope shared his joy to receive the Archbishop during the Easter season, recalling the historic encounter between Pope St. Paul VI and Archbishop Michael Ramsey, which took place 60 years ago.

He also expressed appreciation for the ministry of the Anglican Centre in Rome, greeting its Director, Bishop Anthony Ball, who represents the Archbishop of Canterbury at the Holy See.

Pope Leo then shared his Eastertide greeting of Christ's peace, which he said offers an invitation to all Christians.

"I have often mentioned that the peace of the risen Lord is 'unarmed'," he said. "This is because He always responded to violence and aggression in an unarmed way, inviting us to do likewise."

Among Christians, he added, divisions weaken our ability to effectively bear Christ's peace to the world ... To read more: [Pope Leo XIV holds audience with Archbishop of Canterbury - Catholic Bishops' Conference](#)

The Memorare

(Image Credit: The Catholic National Shrine And Basilica of Our Lady)

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence



I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.



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



FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR A

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 6:1-7

Responsorial Psalm: Ps 33

May your merciful love be upon us, as we hope in you, O LORD.

Second Reading: 1 Peter 2:4-9

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia, alleluia.

I am the way, and the truth, and the life, says the Lord. No one comes to the Father except through me.

Alleluia.

Gospel: John 10:1-10

Communion Antiphon: Jn 15:1,5

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 2nd May ... St Athanasius

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... **Confession after Mass** ... Ann O'Connor (Margaret O'Connor)

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

5:00 pm Vigil Mass St John Wallingford ... Lizete de Sousa, Jesuino de Ponte, Joaõ Ribeiro RIP (Ribeiro Family)

5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot

6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Mary Guinan's Welfare (Annie Furlong)

SUNDAY 3rd May ... FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Sayce's Family Intention (Annie Furlong)

11:00 am Mass St John Wallingford ... Christopher Godwin Ijomah RIP

MONDAY 4th May ... NO MASS ... THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

TUESDAY 5th May

12:00 noon Mass St John Wallingford ... Christiana Oby Nnadi RIP

WEDNESDAY 6th April

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Linda & John Lyons RIP

THURSDAY 7th May

9:30am Mass St John Wallingford ... Christopher Godwin Ijomah RIP

FRIDAY 8th May

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

SATURDAY 9th May

9:30 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... **Confession after Mass** ... Christiana Oby Nnadi RIP

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

5:00 pm Vigil Mass St John Wallingford ... Deceased Members of Knights of St Columba (Didcot Branch) RIP

5:50 pm Adoration before Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot

6:30 pm Vigil Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Deceased Members of Knights of St Columba (Didcot Branch) RIP

SUNDAY 10th May ... SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

9:00 am Mass English Martyrs Didcot ... Keira & Izabela Birthday Thanksgiving (Logan)

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.



St Edmund Campion Relic Pilgrimage in Didcot & Wallingford

As 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 Campions 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.



Significant Wedding Anniversaries Mass

Are you celebrating a 25th, 30th, 40th, 50th, 60th or anniversary over 60 years? If so, Bishop Philip would like to invite you to a Mass of celebration. This will take place at St Bede's church in Basingstoke on Saturday 20th June at 11am. This will be followed by a buffet lunch. It is a wonderful occasion to celebrate and witness to Marriage. Please contact your parish secretary if you would like to attend and they will send you a form for you to complete and return to the Bishop's Office. Thank you.



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Turin and Assisi

Join us on a pilgrimage to Turin in northern Italy and Assisi in central Italy to learn about and experience the lives of our two newest saints - St Carlo Acutis and St Pier Giorgio Frassati - Monday 20th July - Sunday 26th July. Beginning in Turin where St Pier Giorgio Frassati was born, lived and died at the age of just 24 in 1925. We will visit his parish church and the family summer house in the foothills of the alps very close to the Marian shrine at Opora. Then to Assisi to visit the tomb of St Carlo Acutis, the modern day saint using the internet to spread the Good News of the Gospels before his death in 2006 aged 15. Click [here](#) for more details and a booking form or contact [Canon PJ Smith](#).



Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes

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. In Lourdes we will reside (full board) at the 4 star Hotel La Solitude where all rooms are ensuite, and fitted with tea/coffee making facilities. Our pilgrimage will follow a full program of events led by myself and Canon PJ 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](#), 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.

Seeker Saturdays

Seeker Saturdays take place from 11am-3pm, at Sacred Heart Church, Fareham, PO16 ONQ. Why not sign up for the next Seeker Saturday? If you are discerning if the Lord is calling you to the priesthood, diaconate or religious life, then spending time with like-minded people can be really beneficial to any vocational journey. Our time together includes prayer, discussion, Mass, Adoration and lunch too.

Pope Francis once reflected on the significance of discernment, "Discernment is demanding and requires listening to the Lord, to oneself, and to others. It is a process that calls for 'prayer, reflection, patient expectation, and, ultimately, courage and sacrifice.'" The Pope also highlighted the joy that comes from making good decisions, stressing that "making a good decision, a right decision, brings us much joy." He urged that we especially help young people understand that "being free means risking to embark on a particular path, with wisdom and prudence of course, but also with boldness and a spirit of renunciation, in order to grow and advance in self-giving, and thus to find happiness in loving others in accordance with God's plan."

If you cannot make this Saturday, the next two Seeker Saturday dates are: **Saturday 16th May** and **Saturday 13th June**.



[Careers - Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth](#): Current job openings across the Catholic Diocese of Portsmouth.

Second Collection for EM Parish Centre and SJ Refurbishment

This weekend, we are asking you to consider giving, as in the past, in support of the building of our **Parish Centre in Didcot** and the **Refurbishment of St John's Wallingford**. You can pay by cash at the end of the mass or use the payment devices in both churches to pay your offering. If you have the designated envelopes, kindly indicate or tick the little box to indicate where you want the gift aid applied. We are deeply grateful to you all for your financial commitments to the parish.



THANK YOU for Supporting Fr Dominic in Getting a Car

THANK YOU to all the parishioners and friends who have made private donations to him and to Father Dominic through the parish office for the purchase of a car. With the Christmas and Easter gifts, he was able to get himself a decent one. We owe all of you a huge vote of thanks.

Please would those donors who gave cash or used the website Give as You Live, and did not want to be contacted, call the Finance Officer on 07888700697 or email accounts.didwal@portsmouthdiocese.org.uk. We thank you ALL for all your financial support to the parish.

Where Do You Want Your Gift Aid Applied?

Do you know that every £1 donated by a UK taxpayer increases the value of donations by 25% at no extra cost to the donor if you give as Gift Aid? Our Parish would reclaim 25p in tax for every £1 you give. PLEASE register as a gift-aider to support the parish. We will give you a pack of envelopes to ease payment or online.

'Driving Miss Daisy' St Amand's Parents Meeting

Are you a parent interested in participating in the pilot scheme proposed by the Parish of transporting your child/children to St Amand's in East Hendred? Please join the meeting to discuss the plan. Make your voice heard: 7th May at 7pm in the Tea Room, Didcot.

Joint Mass for Pentecost Sunday in Didcot

Pentecost Sunday is one of our major feasts. This year, it will be, celebrated on **24th May, 2026**. We plan to have **just ONE mass on Sunday at 10am in Didcot**. This plan is to bring us, the two churches, together to celebrate our love, giftedness and diversity. This way, we shall be commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and followers of Jesus in Jerusalem, occurring 50 days after Easter.

Please kindly consider parking at the Didcot Girls' School Car Park as your priority on this particular day because half of the space in our Church Car Park will be used for the setting up of the activities.

If you normally attend our Saturday masses, please consider to join us in the Pentecost Celebration part after the Sunday mass, so we can truly bring all our parishioners together in this ONE BIG Celebration!

Kindly consider dressing up in your national colours or dress. Come dressed to celebrate your favourite sports team. Father Dominic supports Merseyside, Liverpool. The vestment for the Holy Mass is RED. Please bring homemade food and drinks for everyone to share. We shall play games and entertain ourselves in celebration of the day. If you can help in any part of the celebration, please let the Parish Office know.



Bishop Philip to Confer Confirmation at the English Martyrs

The Oxfordshire Pastoral Area Confirmation Day is fast approaching. Bishop Philip Egan will be conferring this sacrament on all the candidates in our Pastoral Area, here in **English Martyrs Didcot, on 5th June, at 7pm**. Please hold these candidates in your prayers and support them on the day.

Catholic Young Artist Award 2026

During Lent, the Liturgy Children spent time reflecting on the theme of forgiveness. They explored what it means to forgive others and to ask for forgiveness. As part of this work, the children created some beautiful and thoughtful pieces of artwork, which will be entered into this year's Catholic Young Artist Competition. We are very proud of the children for the creativity and understanding they have shown and would like to share their entries with you before they are sent off. Please take some time to look at the children's artwork, displayed at the front of the church by the Baptismal Font.



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.