



1945
What price
world peace

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

Website: <https://www.watermead-apostolate.co.uk/>

Telephone: 0116 220 7880 or 07941352885

Use the "Contact us" form on our apostolate website for general enquiries or

EMAIL watermead-community@outlook.com

SOCIAL MEDIA Join us on 'X' @watermead FACEBOOK www.facebook.com/groups/watermeadapostolate/

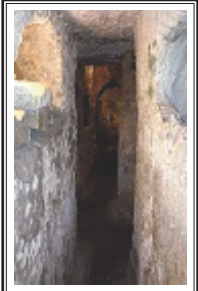
SHOP WEBSITES :

Publishing Resources: <https://www.watermeadshop.co.uk/>

Religious Gifts: <https://www.watermeadgifts.co.uk/>

BUSINESS ADDRESS

Watermead Publishing Ltd, Registered Office, 64 Gwendolin Avenue, Birstall, Leicester LE4 4HD



Enter
through the
narrow door

17th August 2025 : "Prophet, Christian, Family - all suffer"

Dear Friends,

On Friday, 15th August, Catholics around the world celebrated the feast of the Assumption of Our Lady into heaven, whilst the world remembered the 80th anniversary of 'Victory in the Pacific (VP-day)' and people gathered to honour those who served and those who died in the Far East during World War II, many of them suffering the horrors of Japanese prisoner-of-war camps.

In 1978 when moving back to my home village and buying my first house, I discovered my new neighbour was a survivor of those camps. He never talked about it, his wife had said when she was explaining why he always stood so straight and tall. Apparently, when he returned to England following his release in 1945 he could not stand upright, mainly because of scars on his back from the numerous beatings he along with fellow detainees had received whilst working on the railway. She told me it took him years to correct his posture and this accounted for his slightly awkward physical uprightness. Though he never discussed his experiences with her she said recurrent nightmares never left him, they had just had become less frequent over the years. Those neighbours were my first personal insight into the cost of peace that my generation took for granted and, whenever there is reference to the war in the Pacific, I remember him knowing that I can never comprehend the atrocities and pain that he and so many would have been subjected to.

I do find it quite symbolic that peace was announced on the feast of the Assumption of Our lady (of peace), but then intriguing that the conflict in the Pacific actually began on another Marian feast day. On 7th December, 1941 the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour brought America into the war with the United States officially declaring war on Japan the following day, which happened to be the 8th December and feast of the Immaculate Conception of Our Lady. For those who want to follow through on this, there is an interesting article referring to the Marian connection in the archives of America's *The Catholic Standard and Times* (Volume 50, Number 46, 24th August 1945).

Sadly, eighty years on as we look around our world, peace between nations still does not seem achievable. As Trump and Putin meet to discuss Ukraine, coincidentally on 15th August, I have great difficulty understanding why it seems to be considered acceptable for one nation to take by force the land of another nation. My naive reasoning can only equate the situation to someone forcing entry into my house and then telling me that certain rooms of my house now belong to them and there is nothing I can do about it - but not to worry as my peers will let me know which rooms I can still keep. As a young art student I remember painting a picture, illustrating the quote "The tears of the world drown the men who kill for war" (although cannot remember who said it) and wonder that it does seem to be 'men' of power that set the agendas in order to retain and obtain more power and domination and, as witnessed in Gaza and other places of conflict, it is the women, the children and the vulnerable who suffer the consequences.

However, despite this, I am grateful to David Attenborough and those others in the media who work to promote and educate us to the beauty and possibilities for our planet, should all eventually learn to appreciate, nurture and not destroy. Whenever the news gets too much it is good to be distracted by the wonders they share that do surround us. Last week I did not produce the Community News because I was on holiday with my family, where I was privileged to witness some of the best that creation offers - the spectacular scenery of the Norwegian Fjords and Glaciers. A very welcome distraction.

SUNDAY READINGS REFERENCE

17th August 2025

20th SUNDAY OF YEAR C (Prayer Week 4)

For a background to all the readings each Sunday see Watermead's *The Lord's Day* newsletter from <https://www.watermead-apostolate.co.uk/the-lords-day>

The bible references for this week are as follows:

1st reading: **Jeremiah 38:4-6,8-10**

2nd reading: **Hebrews 12:1-4**

Gospel according to **Luke 12:49-53**

WEEKDAY READINGS REFERENCE

(20th Week of Year 1)

Mon: Judges 2:11-19 Matthew 19:16-22

Tue: Judges 6:11-24 Matthew 19:23-30

Wed: Judges 9:6-15 Matthew 20:1-16

Thu: Judges 11:29-39 Matthew 22:1-14

Fri: Isaiah 9:1-6 Luke 1:39-47

Sat: Ruth 2:1-3,8-11,4:13-17 Matthew 23:1-12

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS REFERENCE

24th August 2025

21st SUNDAY OF YEAR C (Prayer Week 1)

The bible references are as follows:

1st reading: **Isaiah 66:18-21**

2nd reading: **Hebrews 12:5-7,11-13**

Gospel according to **Luke 13:22-30**

WEEKDAY READINGS REFERENCE

(21st Week of Year 1)

Mon: 1Thessalonians 1:2-5,8-10 Matthew 23:13-22

Tue: 1Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 23:23-26

Wed: 1Thessalonians 2:9-13 Matthew 23:27-32

Thu: 1Thessalonians 3:7-13 Matthew 24:42-51

Fri: Jeremiah 1:17-19 Mark 6:17-29

Sat: 1Thessalonians 4:9-12 Matthew 25:14-30

Universalis is a free online resource that you may find useful to obtain the daily readings at mass, along with the Office of Readings and various other resources - click here to see the version for England.

Focus on Saints & Feasts

Tuesday (19th August)
St John Eudes



Wednesday (20th August)
St Bernard



Thursday (21st August)
St Pius X



Friday (22nd August)
The Queenship of Mary



Saturday (23rd August)
St Rose of Lima



Monday (25th August)
**St Joseph Calasanz
St Louis**

Tuesday (26th August)
**Blessed Dominic
St David Lewis, St Ninian**



Wednesday (27th August)
St Monica



Thursday (28th August)
St Augustine



Friday (29th August)
**Beheading of John
the Baptist**



Saturday (30th August)
**Ss Margaret Clitherow,
Anne Line &
Margaret Ward**

FR JOHN'S CHARITIES

In our last Community News edition I gave details of the distribution of monies collected in memory of Fr John - being **£1,988.24** and I have since received some appreciative letters thanking us for the donations received. The charities chosen were based on Fr John's personal support to them over the years.

Full details of the work of the various charities are in the last edition but, in case you missed that edition, the distribution is as follows:

£250 to PRACTICAL ACTION

Reg Charity No. 247257 [Read more . . .](#)

£250 to MARY'S MEALS

Charity No. SC022140 [Read more . . .](#)

£500 to LET THE CHILDREN LIVE

Charity No 1159113 [Read more . . .](#)

£593.24 to SPANNED

For more information from hinckleypriory@gmail.com

£395 to SPICMA

Charity No 270794 [Read more . . .](#)

ETHNIC CLEANSING

If ethnic cleansing were to begin where you live, how long before you and I would be asked to move out? Would your name give you away as a stranger or foreigner? or your looks? or your faith?

People would gain from your being moved out. They might be able to take control of your house, perhaps use it for their own family or friends who have been moved out of their homes because of ethnic cleansing elsewhere.

When you were moved on, where would you go? Is there any area where you would be made welcome? Who would recognise you as their own? Another part of the country, another country? What would you bring to give weight to your right to settle there, or would you just be a refugee, possessing only what you could carry, and thus be a beggar on the charity of the local people where you plead for a place and a chance to live?

Not even being born locally would save you from being moved on, would it? People's appearance can cause them to be taunted with racist insults about going back to where they came from. "We were born here," they answer - but prejudice still despises them. And if some of the local people wanted you out, not even being born here might save you.

How long do you have to live in a place before you are accepted as belonging? It ought to be a day, and then you are at home. But is it? How long are you "those people" before you become "neighbours"? How long before you think of new people as neighbours?

All of us could be victims of ethnic cleansing. It just needs racial or religious or colour or social prejudice, and we can be told to go because we are English, or Catholic, or of a different skin colour, or poor and deprived.

Would you frighten people out of their homes? It did happen in my country of Wales. Would you taunt people about their faith or colour or poverty? Would you join a local action-group to keep up the price of your property by keeping out certain people from the neighbourhood? It does happen in England and other parts of the United Kingdom.

If we would do it, we can't complain if other people would be willing to do it to us. Imagine our world if ethnic cleansing became normal.

(from an article Fr John wrote in 1995 for a local churches magazine)

From Splot to Eternity is title of Fr John's autobiography and several people have contacted to ask when it will be available. In mid November of 2023, just before his final admission into hospital, Fr John edited the typed pages of the finished layout ready for publishing. This file (and several backups) has travelled safely with Watermead through its various moves to our re-location and now work on completing can commence. You'll be kept informed of progress through this newsletter of when the book is to be available and when pre-orders can be arranged.

Prayer Box

This week we especially remember in prayer

Pauline, Angelin, Ava, Don, Susan, Sheila, Toni, Katherine, Pauline & Christine, Rosie, Theresa, Judy, Winefride, Pope Leo XIV, Fr Peter Walters

Kate and Gerry and all Madeleine McCann's family.

We pray also for all families of missing children.

Those affected by -

the floods in Pakistan and the weather in other parts of our world, including the wild fires in Europe; the people of Haiti and other conflicts around the world including, especially, Gaza and Ukraine

Please email reminders & additional names to

watermead-community@outlook.com

All prayer petitions welcomed - and do remind us if they do not appear

Watermead

Contact us on 0116 2207880 or 07941352885

(if you don't get an answer, please do leave a message)

or use the 'Contact Us' on the apostolate website

www.watermead-apostolate.co.uk/

which also shares our free download resources.

watermead shops

visit www.watermeadgifts.co.uk/

Rosaries, Crosses/Crucifixes, Jewellery, Resources, Greeting cards (all occasion, seasonal & sacramental), Mass cards, Books, Music, Statues, Angels, gifts, etc. etc. Orders from our online shops are beginning to grow and please do share us with anyone you think may be interested.

For all that Watermead Publishing Apostolate produces see -

www.watermeadshop.co.uk/

→ Pilgrimages →

EASTER IN MALTA 2026

To allow us to obtain the discounts for group rates we would need a group of around 30 persons. For more details see our Easter Community News or the [Malta page](#) on our website. Please do confirm interest so we can decide whether to continue

For more information please do visit our pilgrimage page and read the conditions of travelling with us.

<https://www.watermeadapostolate.co.uk/pilgrimages>

Complicity

When the Nazis came for the communists,
I kept quiet; I wasn't a communist.

When they came for the trade unionists,
I kept quiet; I wasn't a trade unionist.

When they locked up the social democrats,
I kept quiet; I wasn't a social democrat.

When they locked up the Jews,
I kept quiet; I wasn't a Jew.

When they came for me,
there was no one left to protest.

The above is a translation from the confession in German by Martin Niemöller a Lutheran pastor and theologian, and anti-Communist, who first supported Adolf Hitler's rise to power but then became disillusioned when this power insisted on the supremacy of the state over religion. Martin then became, instead, the leader of a group of German clergymen opposed to Hitler.

In 1937 he was arrested and eventually confined in Sachsenhausen and Dachau until released by the Allies in 1945. He continued his career in Germany as a cleric and as a leading voice of penance and reconciliation for the German people after World War II.

CHURCH IN THE WORLD

English Cardinal set to become Doctor of the Church On 31st July, in a statement from the Holy See Press Office, Pope Leo paved the way for the English Cardinal, St John Henry Newman, to be formally declared a "Doctor of the Church". He was one of the great modern thinkers of Christianity, a key figure in a spiritual and human journey that left a profound mark on the Church and 19th-century ecumenism, and the author of writings that show how living the faith is a daily "heart-to-heart" dialogue with Christ. He was canonised in 2019. [Read More . . .](#)

Wales Anglicans appoint first female archbishop The Bishop of Monmouth, Cherry Vann, has been elected as the new Archbishop of Wales, making her the UK's first female archbishop. Originally from Leicestershire, Archbishop Cherry Vann was consecrated as Bishop of Monmouth in 2020. She was ordained as a deacon in 1989 and went on to be among the first women to be ordained as a priest in the Church of England in 1994. She then served as Archdeacon of Rochdale, in the Diocese of Manchester, for 11 years. [Read more . . .](#)

German Bishops and division over same-sex blessings A spokesman for the German bishops' conference and Central Committee of German Catholic have adopted a guide for pastoral workers on blessing couples not married in church. "This document states that the church recognizes and offers support to couples united in love. The practice should therefore be strengthened of accompanying divorced and remarried couples with a blessing, together with couples of all gender identities and sexual orientations, and couples unwilling or unable to receive the marriage sacrament." [Read more . . .](#)

Arrests in defence of Palestine Action

In recent weeks, hundreds of people have been arrested for taking part in demonstrations, their alleged crime being expressing support for Palestine Action, which has been proscribed as a terrorist organisation by Yvette Cooper, the home secretary.

One of those arrested is Carmelite priest Fr John McGowan from St Joseph's Parish, Chalfont St Peter, Gerrards Cross. [Click to read his report . . .](#)

Another of those arrested is Deborah Hinton, a former magistrate, who was arrested at a 19 July demonstration in Cornwall arranged by Defend Our Juries (DOJ). A former member of the Parole Board, she was awarded an OBE in 1994 for services to the community. [Click to read her story . . .](#)

Vatican pediatric hospital welcomes more patients from Gaza On 13th August three more children arrived in Italy on a military transport for treatment at the Vatican-owned Bambino Gesù pediatric hospital. The new arrivals bring to 20 the number of children from Gaza who have been treated at the pediatric hospital since the conflict began in October 2023. [Read more . . .](#)

The Feast of the Assumption Would you be able to give a sensible answer to anyone who sincerely asked you to explain Mary's Assumption? If not, why not? It's worth answering that question to know what you believe. [Click to read Fr John's article . . .](#)

Last word from Fr John

SUBSCRIBE TO ALL RECORDINGS It has taken a while to set up a page for Fr John's recordings, but now a dedicated page is on our apostolate's website. Each time a new recording has been edited it is uploaded onto our update page and the previous recording moved to an archive page, which has all recordings so far shared.

If you would like to join this page then contact watermead-community@outlook.co.uk giving the email address with which you would like to subscribe.

You can then listen back to all recordings.

For all information and the latest featured homily

