



**"HOPE"  
for  
CREATION**

Isaiah 32:14-18

# OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
MARY**

8th September

## 31st August 2025 : "Walk humbly with God . . ."

Dear Friends,

I love history, a passion I know that I inherited from my father. So, when I saw the adverts for the BBC series "King and Conqueror", I knew I would have to make time to watch - in fact I binge-watched! The story of the 1066 battle of Hastings and King Harold's tragic death (the famous arrow in the eye) is one I'm sure many will remember from childhood, although the details are possibly lost in a haze of schoolday memories. I have been lucky to visit Bayeux twice, to walk the length of the famous tapestry, protected as it is in darkened room, and marvel at the two-dimensional artistic recreation of the battle of Hastings. To now see a dramatisation acting out this period in history was a draw I could not resist - even if there was bound to be much artistic license in the depiction of characters and events. This fictional aspect didn't bother me, as who would be able to correctly portray the personalities, relationships and dialogue involved from 11th century history? The tapestry and writings of the time could not reveal those details. I was resigned to enjoy the interpretation and dismiss the obvious discrepancies that would no doubt bring criticism from more fact-centred historians.

However, what I was unprepared for was the graphic violence and bloody ends that some of the characters met, especially during the various battle scenes. I am squeamish and do not usually watch films and dramas if I suspect there will be much blood and gore, and, I suppose, I would not be alone in shying away from reality of violence during that period in our history. When we see in museums the historic weapons and armoury used it can be easy to detach ourselves from how many limbs these objects have severed, bodies they have disfigured. The cleanliness of the Hollywood films I'd watched growing up very rarely showed blood on the sword or spear, but "King and Conqueror" certainly portrayed the primitive messiness of war and was stark reminder that in some parts of our world that level of violence is still a reality.

Our days out to Bayeux were included as part of our pilgrimage to Lisieux, birth place of St Therese of Lisieux. On route to Bayeux we had visited the Mémorial de Caen, the war memorial in Normandy that had been opened in 1988 to commemorate the causes and consequences of World War II, with its aim to educate visitors about the fragility of peace. Following our watching of their double screen film of both the German and British footage preparing for battle, we went on to the Bayeux War cemeteries and from there to Bayeux Cathedral and the Tapestries. We had ended our visit to the area with the bloody beaches of the Normandy landings and on both occasions I had found the experience overwhelming. I remember one year we met a group of sixth formers from England who were similarly affected, many to the point of tears, and I wished that there could be opportunity for similar visits to be part of all history lessons for our young people.

But what other lessons did "King and Conqueror" share? As I watched the diplomatic rangling, the betrayals, the references to "knowing" God's will, I thought humanity hasn't really changed much. The weapons may now be more sophisticated but their objective is the same, they are designed to threaten and kill. There are still peoples fighting over land and over control - this is "our" territory, "our" land, "our" country, "our" city, which is sadly a familiar claim outside the hotels housing Asylum seekers. This island of ours has been conquered many times during its history and for any of us to claim English purity in our genealogy would seem impossible. I know from checking my DNA that my own heritage is quite a mixture - Irish, Norwegian, French ....

## SUNDAY READINGS REFERENCE

31st August 2025

### 22nd SUNDAY OF YEAR C (Prayer Week 2)

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: **Ecclesiasticus 3:19-21,30-31**

2nd reading: **Hebrews 12:18-19,22-24**

Gospel according to **Luke 14:1,7-14**

## WEEKDAY READINGS REFERENCE

(22nd Week of Year 1)

**Mon:** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Luke 4:16-30

**Tue:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6,9-11 Luke 4:31-37

**Wed:** Colossians 1:1-8 Luke 4:38-44

**Thu:** Colossians 1:9-14 Luke 5:1-11

**Fri:** Colossians 1:15-20 Luke 5:33-39

**Sat:** Colossians 1:21-23 Luke 6:1-5

## NEXT SUNDAY READINGS REFERENCE

7th September 2025

### 23rd SUNDAY OF YEAR C (Prayer Week 3)

The bible references are as follows:

1st reading: **Wisdom 9:13-18**

2nd reading: **Philemon 1:9-10,12-17**

Gospel according to **Luke 14:25-33**

## WEEKDAY READINGS REFERENCE

23rd Week of Year 1

**Mon:** Micah 5:1-4 Matthew 1:1-16,18-23

**Tue:** Colossians 2:6-15 Luke 6:12-19

**Wed:** Colossians 3:1-11 Luke 6:20-26

**Thu:** Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 6:27-38

**Fri:** 1 Timothy 1:1-2,12-14 Luke 6:39-42

**Sat:** 1 Timothy 1:15-17 Luke 6:43-49

**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

Monday (1st September)

**World Day of Prayer  
for Creation**

Friday (5th September)  
**St Mother Teresa**

Wednesday (3rd September)

**St Gregory the Great**

Monday (8th September)

**Birthday of Our Lady**

Thursday (4th September)

**St Cuthbert**

Friday (12th September)

**The Holy Name of Mary**

Saturday (13th September)

**St John Chrysostom**

# Prayer Box

This week we especially remember in prayer

Oisin, Mary, John, 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.

Victims of the shooting at a Catholic church in Minneapolis,

Those affected by the effects of climate change through extreme weather conditions (heat, floods, etc.)

Peoples suffering through conflict and war - especially Ukraine, Gaza, Haiti, Myanmar, Somalia

Please email reminders & additional names to

[watermead-community@outlook.com](mailto:watermead-community@outlook.com)

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

## Season of Creation

1st September - 4th October 2025

The Season of Creation is the annual Christian celebration to pray and respond together to the cry of Creation: the ecumenical family around the world unites to contemplate and care for our common home, the *Oikos of God* (*Okios* is a Greek word for family/household).

The biblical text for this year is Isaiah 32:14-18. The prophet Isaiah pictured the desolated Creation without peace because of the lack of justice and the broken relationship between God and humankind. This description of devastated cities and wastelands eloquently stresses the fact that human destructive behaviours have a negative impact on the Earth . . .

Join the opening service online - tomorrow 1st September.

More info and resources on the Season of Creation website...

See the 'Warm Space' advert below and if you know of anyone who may be interested in coming and taking part I've been told all are welcome. I've also been told by the organisers that help would also be appreciated - just turn up and offer.

### Immaculate Conception CHURCH

54 New Street, OADBY LE2 4LJ

Every Friday 11.30am-1.30pm

starting on Friday 5th September 2025

A warm welcome. Coffee, cake, chat & a safe space for everyone



Get involved with activities Guest speakers and more

You are welcome regardless of age, background or interests



God has only one answer - the Word!

## DATES FOR DIARY ROOT & BRANCH COMMUNITY HOPE FOR LIFE

on Thursday 11th September 2025, 8.00 pm

Marking 10 years of Laudato Si, Root & Branch welcome

Barbara Wilson and Melanie Nazareth

of Christian Climate Action.- a community of Christians supporting each other to take meaningful action in the face of imminent & catastrophic, anthropogenic climate breakdown.

There is no charge for this ZOOM evening. To book click here.

(There are more details on the Root & Branch Website)

## CHURCH IN THE WORLD

**2026 World Day of Peace** The Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development released a statement on Tuesday 26th August, giving details about the Holy Father's chosen theme for the 2026 World Day of Peace. "Peace be with you all: Towards an 'unarmed and disarming' peace" is the theme for the annual celebration dedicated to universal peace, held on January 1st, the liturgical Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God. The theme, "invites humanity to reject the logic of violence and war, and to embrace an authentic peace based on love and justice."

Read More . . .

**Priests and Nuns will stay in Gaza** The Greek Orthodox and Latin patriarchs of Jerusalem said in a joint statement issued on Tuesday 26th August that the priests and nuns who are caring for those living in the Orthodox and Catholic compounds in Gaza City will remain despite Israel's orders to evacuate. "It is time to end this spiral of violence, to put an end to war and to prioritize the common good of the people," Cardinal Pierbattista Pizzaballa and Patriarch Theophilos III, respectively the Latin and Greek Orthodox patriarchs of Jerusalem, said . . . "We do not know exactly what will happen on the ground, not only for our community, but for the entire population. We can only repeat what we have already said: There can be no future based on captivity, displacement of Palestinians or revenge," they said.

(Read the full statement)

Read the Report . . .

**Pope Leo to move into Papal Palace** The Pope is expected to bring Augustinian friars with him when he moves into the papal apartment of the Apostolic Palace in the autumn, the Italian daily La Repubblica reported. The decision reflects his determination to preserve the communal life of his religious order even after his election to the papacy. "The idea is not yet official but should become a reality in the fall," La Repubblica said on 19th August. Pope Leo had been expected to move into the papal apartment, a tradition that had been broken by Pope Francis, but word of friars joining him had not previously been reported.

The Italian daily said that workers are renovating the third floor of the Apostolic Palace to accommodate the housemates. The work has delayed the pope taking up residence, the newspaper said. Ten rooms have so far been refurbished, including the study used for the Sunday Angelus, the Pope's bedroom, a reception room and a chapel.

Read the full report . . .

**Saintly Role Models for Youth** One month after a crowd of more than one million young people filled Rome for the 2025 Jubilee of Youth, the church's mission to inspire the next generation is set to gain new momentum on 7th September with the canonization of **Carlo Acutis** and **Pier Giorgio Frassati**. There has been much publicity about Carlo but not so much about Pier. Who was he?

**Pier Giorgio Frassati**, was born on 6th April 1901, to a prominent and wealthy Italian family and soon after he died on 4th July at the age of 24 became a popular role model for young people. St John Paul II declared him a patron for World Youth Days and deemed him 'the man of the beatitudes'. Despite being raised by agnostic parents, he wanted to help others and as a young child once answered the door to find a mother begging with her son who was shoeless. He took off his own shoes and gave them to the child. At 17 he joined the St Vincent de Paul Society and became known for giving everything he had to the poor. In 1919 he joined the Catholic Student Foundation and the Popular Party, strongly opposed to the rise of Mussolini. He entered the Third Dominican Order in 1922 with the name of "fra Girolamo". He died of Polio in 1925.

For more information follow the link . . .

## Watermead

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[www.watermead-apostolate.co.uk/](http://www.watermead-apostolate.co.uk/)

which also shares our free download resources.

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For all that Watermead Publishing Apostolate produces see -

[www.watermeadshop.co.uk/](http://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>

## POSTBAG

As I have mentioned previously, our Community News travels to various parts of the world and this past week I received an email from Don. He told me he was from America and had followed Fr John since about a year before he died, having had been interested in his writings. Don had felt at home with us when we were at St Joseph's and has continued downloading our Community News each week.

After my follow-up email explaining we had been told to vacate our Watermead Centre, he sent me his favourite poem by Robert Frost. It is very appropriate to Watermead's current position and so I thought this week I would share it with you.

### THE ROAD NOT TAKEN

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,  
And sorry I could not travel both  
And be one traveler, long I stood  
And looked down one as far as I could  
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,  
And having perhaps the better claim,  
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;  
Though as for that the passing there  
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay  
In leaves no step had trodden black.  
Oh, I kept the first for another day!  
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,  
I doubted if I should ever come back

I shall be telling this with a sigh  
Somewhere ages and ages hence:  
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I —  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

Click here for more information on Robert Frost's poem . . .

### 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](mailto: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 visit: [The Lord's Day page of our website](http://The Lord's Day page of our website).

