



**Come,
Lord Jesus,
come!**

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Telephone: 0116 220 7880 or 07941352885

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EMAIL watermead-community@outlook.com

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BUSINESS ADDRESS

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



30th November 2025 : "1st Sunday of Advent"

Dear Friends,

A short letter this week, as I have just returned from taking a group to Rome (below are photos of some of our pilgrims). We were privileged this year to have our own pilgrim mass in the Vatican Crypt of St Peter's Basilica - the first one since Fr John last celebrated for us at the Altar of St Peter's Tomb in 2019. Following the pandemic we did start pilgrimages again, but Fr John had been unable to lead us owing to last minute health issues. This year Fr Michael was one of those who joined our group and he arranged mass for us through his friend, Cardinal Roche, who also led us in the celebration of mass.

During 2022 and 2023 I had continued to take the groups to Rome and Assisi without Fr John, and last November I took a small group to Rome in November, whilst waiting to move to a more permanent base for Watermead. This year I put the advert in our Community News and 27 formed our pilgrim group - hailing from Syston (Watermead's new home), Birmingham, Lincoln and Nottingham, along with CMS members from Scotland and Liverpool as well as people from parishes in and around Leicester and Leicestershire.

For me this was a trial run to assess the feasibility of our continuing to offer pilgrimages and, from the appreciative feedback received, I now know that this is a part of Watermead that must continue (see my suggestions for 2026).

So as we begin our new Church year I am looking hopefully to the future, replanning and shaping the outreach of our apostolate with the help and support of the many friendships that have grown over the past 33 years.



The Advent Wreath

The First Candle: **Hope** The Second Candle: **Peace**
The Third Candle: **Joy** The Fourth Candle: **Love**
The Fifth Candle: **Christ**

SUNDAY READINGS REFERENCE

30th November 2025

1st Sunday of Advent (Year A) (Prayer Week 1)

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: **Isaiah 2:1-5**

2nd reading: **Romans 13:11-14**

Gospel according to **Matthew 24:37-44**

WEEKDAY READINGS REFERENCE

(1st Week of Advent)

Mon: Isaiah 4:2-6 Matthew 8:5-11

Tue: Isaiah 11:1-10 Luke 10:21-24

Wed: Isaiah 25:6-10 Matthew 15:29-37

Thu: Isaiah 26:1-6 Matthew 7:21,24-27

Fri: Isaiah 29:17-24 Matthew 9:27-31

Sat: Isaiah 30:19-21,23-26 Matthew 9:35,10:1,6-8

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS REFERENCE

7th December 2025

2nd Sunday of Advent (Prayer Week 2)

The bible references are as follows:

1st reading: **Isaiah 11:1-10**

2nd reading: **Romans 15:4-9**

Gospel according to **Matthew 3:1-12**

WEEKDAY READINGS REFERENCE

(2nd Week of Advent)

Mon: Genesis 3:9-15,20 Ephesians 1:3-6,11-12 Luke 1:26-38

Tue: Isaiah 40:1-11 Matthew 18:12-14

Wed: Isaiah 40:25-31 Matthew 11:28-30

Thu: Isaiah 41:13-20 Matthew 11:11-15

Fri: Isaiah 48:17-19 Matthew 11:16-19

Sat: Ecclesiasticus 48:1-4,9-11 Matthew 17:10-13

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 (3rd December)

St Francis Xavier

Wednesday (4th December)

St John Damascene

Friday (6th December)

St Nicholas

Monday (8th December)

Immaculate Conception

Thursday (11th December)

St Damasus

Friday (12th December)

**St Jane Frances de Chantal,
Our Lady of Guadalupe**

Saturday (13th December)

St Lucy

Prayer Box

This week we especially remember in prayer

Philomena, Sister Lelia, Anna, Angie & Billy, Oisín, Mary, John, Angelin, Ava, Catherine, Don, John, Matthew, Paul, Pauline & Christine, Rosie, Sylvia, Susan, Sean, Sylvia, Sheila, Toni, Judy, Winefride

Kate and Gerry and all Madeleine McCann's family and for all families of missing children.

Those who have lost their lives, friends, relatives & homes in the 'Wang Fuk Court' Apartments, Hong Kong. Ukraine and all victims of conflict around our world.

Kate and Gerry and all Madeleine McCann's family and for all families of missing children.

Please email your reminders & additional names for prayers



Daily Prayers

Prayer is Love, I want to Love

watermead-community@outlook.com

The Feast of the Immaculate Conception 8th DECEMBER

Nine months before the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (8th September), the Church celebrates the Solemnity of her Immaculate Conception. The Feast was approved in 1476 by Pope Sixtus IV and was extended to the universal Church by Pope Clement XI in 1708.

Acknowledging the belief held for centuries by the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, of councils and his predecessors, Pope Pius IX solemnly proclaimed the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception in 1854: *"We declare, pronounce, and define that the doctrine which holds that the most Blessed Virgin Mary, in the first instance of her conception, by a singular grace and privilege granted by Almighty God, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the human race, was preserved free from all stain of original sin"*.

(Ineffabilis Deus, 1854).



On one of our Roman walks last week we passed by the 'Column of the Immaculate Conception', a nineteenth-century monument depicting the Blessed Virgin Mary. It is located in what is called Piazza Mignanelli, just past the Spanish Steps.

The column was erected by the city firemen and since December 1953 Popes have visited the monument annually placing a bouquet of flowers at the base of the column, praying to Mary for her intercession to help all people in their suffering and struggles.

DATES FOR DIARY



A Warm Welcome

EVERY FRIDAY 11.30 AM - 1.30 PM

at the Immaculate Conception Church Hall

54 New Street, Oadby LE2 4LJ

All are welcome regardless of age, background or interests, to come and share company, activities, guest speakers.

Root and Branch - dates

The next ZOOM evening we are invited to is

'Reworking the Tradition' with Diarmuid O'Murchu

Thursday 4th December, 8.00 pm (UK time)

For more details, world times and to book, visit their website <https://www.rootandbranchsynod.org/>

These evenings are always good and informative and are provided free of charge! Do consider joining the meetings.

CHURCH IN THE WORLD

Pope Leo's letter 'IN UNITATE FIDEI' marked the 1,700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea and its Creed by publishing his Apostolic Letter 'In Unitate Fidei' ("In the Unity of Faith") on 23rd November 2025. It was released in anticipation of his visit to Turkey to celebrate with Orthodox and Protestant leaders the anniversary of the Creed Christians share . . .

[Click to read 'In Unitate Fidei'](#)

The Pope's first visit to Turkey At the site of ancient Nicaea, Pope Leo XIV joined around 27 other leaders of Christian Churches to commemorate the 1,700th anniversary of the First Ecumenical Council in the Church's history. The ecumenical prayer service took place on the second day of the Pope's Apostolic Journey to Turkey and in his address, the Pope thanked Patriarch Bartholomew I, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, for his "great wisdom and foresight" in calling for Church leaders to celebrate this important anniversary together . . .

The Council of Nicaea was held in 325, and was held to respond to the Alexandrian priest Arius' claim that Jesus was only an intermediary between God and humanity, saying He was not fully divine and ignoring the reality of the Incarnation . . .

The *Nicene Creed* was the result of the Council and is professed by all Christian Churches and Communities.

[Read the Report on the Vatican website](#)

[Read the review on The Catholic Reporter website](#)

Former Anglican clergy make up a third of new Catholic priests in Britain New research from the Benedict XVI Centre for Religious, Ethics and Society at St Mary's University, London, has provided a comprehensive account of Anglican clergy who have entered into full communion with - or "converted" into - the Catholic Church in Britain. More than 700 former Anglican clergy and religious in Britain have become Catholics since 1992, including 16 former Anglican bishops.

[Read the Report in The Independent Catholic News . . .](#)

National Emergency Climate Briefing A report by Colette Joyce who joined more than a thousand other people in a packed Methodist Central Hall at the National Emergency Climate Briefing and to listen to experts present their assessments of the current risks to the UK, and rest of the world, from the climate and nature crisis . . .

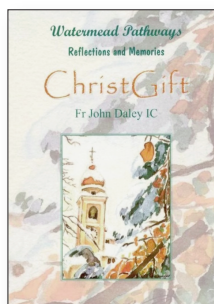
[Read Colette's report here . . .](#)

Dublin Catholics have a dedicated cathedral for the first time in 500 years, following Pope Leo XIV's decision on 14th November to designate St Mary's Pro Cathedral as the Irish capital's official Catholic cathedral. It was approved by papal decree following a request by Archbishop Farrell and consultation with the faithful in the archdiocese . . .

[Read a full report here . . .](#)

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

As we enter Advent we offer our 3rd book in the series 'Watermead Pathways' - a collection of reflections and memories by Father John - from childhood to priesthood



ChristGift

CHRISTMAS AND LIFE are the central themes of this third book and Fr John tells moments of life that he has shared within family and relationships, as well as the life of the Church. Shared also are his thoughts and insights surrounding Christmas stories & traditions.

See our Watermead publishing website for further details and a link to a Christmas discount on this book.

Offer £1.00 per copy - Click here for more info

An Advent Prayer

As we journey through this season of Advent, open our hearts to God's light and love.

Help us to prepare for the coming of Christ, not just in celebration, but in transformation.

May we bring hope to the hopeless, peace to the restless, joy to the sorrowful, and love to all we meet.

Guide us to walk in God's ways, and to shine as lights in the darkness, as we await the glorious gift of Jesus, the Son of God.

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.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS



Keeping Christ in Christmas

Envelope labels for your greeting cards and general seasonal post. These are 'free' and if you like some, phone or email - or see our shop website for how to obtain.

watermead shops

visit www.watermeadgifts.co.uk/

WE DO HAVE SOME CHRISTMAS CARDS

AND MANY CRIB SETS, FIGURINES & CHRISTMAS GIFTS plus the usual Rosaries, Crosses/Crucifixes, Jewellery, Resources, Greeting cards (all occasion & sacramental), Mass cards, Books, Music, Statues, Angels, gifts, etc. etc. Order from our online shops and please do share us with anyone you think may be interested in what we have to offer.

If you are looking for individual Christmas cards see Watermead's own range on our publishing website ([click here](#))



For all that Watermead

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www.watermeadshop.co.uk/

→ Pilgrimages for 2026 →

ROME IN NOVEMBER 2026

We shall be arranging at least one pilgrimage to Rome towards the end of November/beginning December.

ASSISI (and ROME) 2026

We shall be going to Assisi in 2026 and may include either a day trip to, or a couple of nights, in Rome.

Further information on both of the above pilgrimages

If you would like to put your name down for further details as they become available, then contact us via our website - or keep watching this newsheet.

UK PILGRIMAGES Many have told us they do not want to now travel abroad, so we are researching short break pilgrimages by coach - watch this space! (Liverpool, York, Iona, Glastonbury - amongst suggestions)

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

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

Last word from Fr John

SUBSCRIBE TO ALL RECORDINGS 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 visit: **The Lord's Day** page of our website.

