



# OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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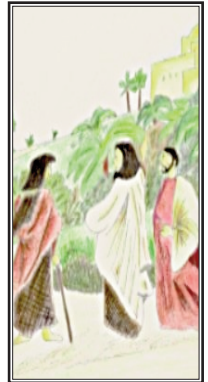
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## 12th April 2026 : "Divine Mercy Sunday"

Dear Friends,

I hope you have had a good Easter and opportunity to catch up with loved ones. A strange Easter for me not being involved in the music, other than over at Oadby on Good Friday, but also interesting to take part in liturgies for which I did not need to plan my week around, having no musical responsibilities - practices, preparations, etc. It was the first time in nearly 50 years and I must say, though more relaxed, I did miss the involvement.

Our family get-together was the usual driving with the needed extra fold-up chairs in the boot and a steaming ready-cooked dessert on the back seat, being my contributions to our Easter meal, cooked and provided by various of the family. Lovely to be with them, enjoy the grandchildren enjoying each other, catch up on news and return home yet again reconnected with this rewarding dimension of my life. In the evening I watched a documentary on the BBC iPlayer which I could fully recommend, 'Harry Clarke goes to Rome' - a refreshingly innocent portrayal of a young celebrity who wants to meet Pope Leo and does. I especially liked that when they sat down with Pope Leo in his office, the expected dress protocol for women (black, even mantilla) was not followed, his mum dressed smartly but ordinary - and their later reflection on the meeting full of awe at the event they will no doubt treasure for ever. I could not help but wish I still had the naivity in faith of that young man, and it caused me to reflect much over the coming days on my own faith and place in the Catholic church.

I always remember what my mum said was part of the appeal to joining the Catholic Church as a young adult. She had observed the equality in the pews, and said that, though as smart as could be afforded, there was no pomp and ceremony to the way people dressed to attend mass - she would never know from their attire, or the bench they sat in, as to her neighbouring worshippers' societal position. Of course, in her day, women were not expected to read or even tread on the sanctuary, other than to clean it - which has thankfully changed in most parishes, even if there is still a long way to go before female and male equality is fully achieved in the Catholic church.

Which brings me to a particular detail that I loved from reading up on the installation of the new Archbishop of Canterbury - the buckles on the cope she wore were from the belt she wore as a nurse - Sarah Mullally, a former midwife, is now mother to the Church of England, a wonderful witness even if there is still opposition to her position from the Anglican Communion in some parts of the world. The day chosen for the installation was also symbolic, being the feast of the Annunciation of Mary, 25th March - whilst here in the Catholic church our hierarchy still debate women's participation (role) in our church life and leadership (see over). Many hope that a conclusion is reached soon and definitely before yet another generation of young women is lost to the church here at home.

It was good to see a woman amongst the crew of Artemis II's flight around the moon. Christina Koch had been part of the first all-female spacewalk and also set the record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman, with a total of 328 days in space. I did watch the nail-biting landing in the early hours and have been following the mission reports in wonder, marvelling at the photographs being streamed back to earth. However, I find it very sad when looking at those spectacular images to think of the still primitive need (mainly by male leaders) to control and dominate through force, engaging in pollutive weaponry that must surely be putting in jeopardy the equilibrium of our planet. Pope Leo asked us to spend today, 11th April, praying for peace - but what peace? Although I have joined with his request I cannot help but recognise our world seems to go from one conflict to another. It seems to be a forever human problem - watch out moon!

## SUNDAY READINGS REFERENCE

12th APRIL 2026

### 2nd Sunday of Easter (A) (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: **Acts 2:42-47**

2nd reading: **1 Peter 1:3-9**

Gospel according to **John 20:19-31**

## WEEKDAY READINGS REFERENCE

2nd Week of Easter

**Mon:** Acts 4:23-31 John 3:1-8

**Tue:** Acts 4:32-37 John 3:7-15

**Wed:** Acts 5:17-26 John 3:16-21

**Thu:** Acts 5:27:33 John 3:31-36

**Fri:** Acts 5:34-42 John 6:1-15

**Sat:** Acts 6:1-7 John 6:16-21

## NEXT SUNDAY READINGS REFERENCE

19th APRIL 2026

### 3rd Sunday of Easter (A) (Prayer Week 3)

The bible references are as follows:

1st reading: **Acts 2:14**

2nd reading: **1 Peter 1:17-21**

Gospel according to **Luke 24:13-35**

## WEEKDAY READINGS REFERENCE

3rd Week of Easter

**Mon:** Acts 6:8-15 John 6:22-29

**Tue:** Acts 7:51-8:1 John 6:30-35

**Wed:** Acts 8:1-8 John 6:35-40

**Thu:** Acts 8:26-40 John 6:44-51

**Fri:** Acts 9:1-20 John 6:52-59

**Sat:** 1 Peter 5:5-14 Mark 16:15-20

**Universals** - free resource to obtain the daily readings at mass, Office of Readings and various other resources - click here for England & Wales.

## Focus on Saints & Feasts

Monday (13th April)

**St Martin I**



Thursday (16th April)

**St Bernadette**



Tuesday (20th April)

**St Anselm**



Thursday (23rd April)

**St George**



Friday (24th April)

**St Fidelis of Sigmaringen**



Saturday (25th April)

**St Mark**

**Anzac Day**

## THE SONG OF PEACE

A Blessing for Peace

*The Lord to his apostles gave his peace,  
and we, the Lord's disciples, we share that peace.*

*The Lord has blessed us, now I bless you:  
in the kingdom of the Lord I give you my peace.*

© Watermead Music

## CHURCH & WORLD NEWS

**Pope Leo Urbi et Orbi 2026** On Easter Sunday thousands in St Peter's Square and many more thousands across the world listened to or watched Pope Leo give his "Urbi et Orbi" - "to the city (of Rome) and to the World". Below are some of these words followed by links to the full speech and also to the Last 'Urbi et Orbi' from Pope Francis, which Pope Leo referred to in his message.

"Let those who have weapons lay them down! Let those who have the power to unleash wars choose peace! Not a peace imposed by force, but through dialogue! Not with the desire to dominate others, but to encounter them!

"We are growing accustomed to violence, resigning ourselves to it, and becoming indifferent. Indifferent to the deaths of thousands of people. Indifferent to the repercussions of hatred and division that conflicts sow. Indifferent to the economic and social consequences they produce, which we all feel. There is an ever-increasing "globalization of indifference," to borrow an expression dear to Pope Francis, who one year ago from this loggia addressed his final words to the world (link below), reminding us: "What a great thirst for death, for killing, we witness each day in the many conflicts raging in different parts of the world!" "

[Click here for the link to Pope Leo's 'Urbi et Orbi' . . .](#)

[Pope Leo leads prayer for Peace in St Peter's Square . . .](#)

[Click here for the link to Pope Francis 'Urbi et Orbi' . . .](#)

"Francis' Argentina," a documentary retracing Jorge Mario Bergoglio's footsteps. Memory and forward-looking vision come together in the documentary that will be officially presented and screened at the Vatican Film Library. Then, on 10th April, it will be shown on the southern Italian island of Lampedusa, a key landing point for migrants crossing the Mediterranean Sea. . .

[For more details click here . . .](#)

**Women in the Church** The General Secretariat of the Synod (remember the Synod on Synodality 2021-24!) has released the final report of Study Group 5 on *Women's participation in the life and leadership of the Church*. Documents have been being released over the past months this one affects half the population of the Catholic Church

[Read the full report on Women . . .](#)

[Click here for a link to all reports from the Synod . .](#)

**'Unusual' Pentagon-Vatican meeting** A peculiar meeting at the Pentagon between apostolic nuncio Cardinal Christophe Pierre, who serves as Pope Leo XIV's US representative, and a senior Department of Defense official has led to a flurry of speculation and concern about the relationship between the Pentagon and the Vatican . . .

[An interesting article in the Catholic Reporter. Click here . . .](#)

**Pope's visit to Africa - April 13-23** The Pope embarks on his 11-day visit to Africa this Monday and there is much expectation in the various articles regarding the visit. Below are two such articles. Note that in Algeria he will have opportunity to visit the birthplace of St Augustine founder of the Augustinians, the religious order he belongs to . . .

[Click here for the Pope's visit as reported on 'Crux' . . .](#)

[Click here for one of the Catholic Reporter's articles . . .](#)

## "Music as Prayer"

On the day Pope Leo has asked the world to pray for peace I share a reminder of our 'Song of Peace' - the very first hymn I composed with Fr John as lyricist.

Over the years it has become the anthem of our Watermead Apostolate, its wording summing up our mission statement. When Fr John went to preach a mission in Northern Ireland in 1992 the song became part of a union of prayer between our (birth) parish of St Theresa's, Birstall, and the parish in Andersonstown, Belfast ~ they sang our *Song of Peace* and we said their *Prayer for Peace*.

[For more details and to listen to our hymn, click here.](#)

## FROM SPLOTT TO ETERNITY

Fr John Daley IC



### From Splott to Eternity

*will be published on 19th May 2026*

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 the work on design, artwork, further edits and proof-reading is now completed.

**Save the Date** In our last Community News I suggested there would be a pre-launch get-together, but now it seems best to celebrate on the actual day of publication - especially as it would have been Fr John's 91st birthday. Details so far are below and will be updated in our next fortnight's newsletter.

Pre-orders of the book can be made for collection on the day (or can be posted) and this coming week links will be put up on our website as to how purchase, which will include a special publication day price.

### 'From Splott to Eternity' Launch Celebration Tuesday 19th May 2026

All are welcome to drop in and celebrate with us from **11.30 am - around 8.30 pm** (light refreshments) at the **Infant of Prague Catholic Church hall, 63 Broad Street, Syston LE7 1GH**

[Click here more details 'From Splott to Eternity'](#)

## DATES FOR DIARY

### Root and Branch Community

*Animals, Laudato Si' and the call of creation*

**Thursday 23rd April, 8.00 pm**

A talk by Fr Terry Martin, author of 'Animals in Heaven' which explores the place of animals in God's creation  
[For more details, world times and to book, visit the R&B website](#)

### Faith in Action:

**Justice, Peace & the Future of the Church**

**10-11 July 2026** at New Hall, Boreham House, Chelmsford  
Organised by The Tablet with many core members of R&B being speakers and workshop leaders - [more details on R&B website](#)

<https://www.rootandbranchsynod.org/>

The R&B ZOOM evenings are always good and informative and are provided **free of charge!** Do consider attending and supporting - and finding out more about Root and Branch.

### UK Coach Day Trips with Orbit

The company through which we book our pilgrimages coaches.  
[Click for Orbit's brochure with details](#) or ring Megan on **01445 823171**

### A Warm Welcome

**EVERY FRIDAY 11.30 AM - 1.30 PM**

at the Immaculate Conception Church Hall  
54 New Street, Oadby LE2 4LJ

**Coming up this Friday 17th April**

[They are hosting a special event to help understand how to save energy and money on household bills.](#)

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

## Prayer Box



*This week we especially remember in prayer*  
**Father Denis Geoghegan (RIP)**

Patricia, Janet, Jennifer, Ann, Angie, Philomena, Sister Lelia, Anna, Oisín, Orla, Kate, Mary, John, Catherine, Don, John, Matthew, Iain, Paul, Pauline & Christine, Peter, Rosie, Susan, Sylvia, Toni, Winefride, Joy

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

We pray peace for the people of Ambazonia, Ukraine, Nigeria, and all affected by the very many world conflicts. This coming week we pray especially that talks in Pakistan will bring some peace to wars in the Middle East.

Please email your reminders & additional names for prayers  
[watermead-community@outlook.com](mailto:watermead-community@outlook.com)

## 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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Mass cards, Books, Music, Statues, Angels, gifts, etc. etc.

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### → Pilgrimages for 2026 →

## ROME/ASSISI CONFIRMED

**21-28 NOVEMBER 2026**

**(4 nights in Rome and 3 nights in Assisi)**

**Approx. COST**

**£1,295 (shared room) : £1,645 (single room)**

**At present only 1 twin room still available**  
[Includes return flights \(plus coach transport from Syston\), along with airport transfer to and from hotels in Italy, Bed and Breakfast & evening meals in both Rome & Assisi.](#)

At the time of advertising, the Leicester group will be flying from Stansted and the Liverpool group from Manchester. Transport quotes for coaches in Italy are in and at present the price advertised should cover these, also allowing a possible hike in the air fares owing to war in Middle East

To secure a place a deposit of **£500 each** is required and those who have already expressed interest will be sent details and booking forms this week.

Booking forms will also be accessible via our website.  
**Please Note: All who have booked and paid deposits should have received their confirmation emails. Do check.**

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** The video recordings for 'Holy Week' will be taken down this weekend, as, sadly, the license under which they were originally recorded at St Joseph's has expired. Only our own music and non-copyrighted hymns can be used in presentations - and so all edited audio broadcasts will continue. See 'Updates' page or subscribe by emailing [watermead-community@outlook.co.uk](mailto:watermead-community@outlook.co.uk) with your email address for subscription.

For all information and the latest featured homily visit: 'Updates' page of our website.

