

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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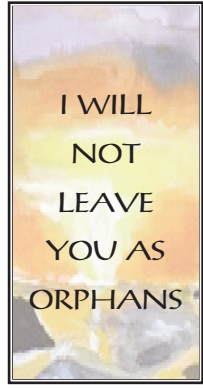
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BUSINESS ADDRESS

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10th May 2026 : "We are commissioned to take the Good News"

Dear Friends,

David's Attenborough's 100th birthday has been a welcome distraction from the various criticisms and media speculation about Keir Starmer's premiership and perceived Labour failings. I note sadly that the political climate has become increasingly unpleasant over the past years, with so many critics having a view to share and so many mediums on which to vent disapproval and give advice for solutions. I for one would not want to criticise anyone who takes on such a difficult task, as I couldn't possibly know the challenges or difficulties the role demands or what the position inherited. I am grateful though that under Keir Starmer we did not join with America's war with Iran and partake actively in the bombing and destruction, which I have no doubt threatens the ecosystems so enthusiastically introduced to us over the decades by David Attenborough.

As witnessed in some posts and hateful rhetoric currently circulating social media, not just about Keir Starmer but many in the public domain, humanity now has access to a weapon just as powerful and dangerous to world order as the bombs and guns chosen by previous generations, as well as today's war mongers.

In his message for next week's 60th World Communications Day, Pope Leo warns about losing our individuality, our personage as created by God, to the technological advances now available - "The task laid before us is not to stop digital innovation, but rather to guide it and to be aware of its ambivalent nature. It is up to each of us to raise our voice in defense of human persons, so that we can truly assimilate these tools as allies . . . This alliance is possible, but needs to be based on three pillars: responsibility, cooperation and education" writes Pope Leo. Do see the link over the page to his full message and read in context his appreciation of the 'digital innovations' but apprehensiveness of its potential to change the way we communicate detrimentally, especially in its ability to affect the way we interact with each other and our humanity.

However, I am grateful for being able to contact our Watermead followers through social media to inform you of the publication of Fr John's book, 'From Splott to Eternity' along with our launch celebration next Tuesday, 19th May (see over). I collected 14 boxes of the books from the printers last week ready for our launch and am looking forward, if a little apprehensive, to people's reaction to the book. Whenever Watermead publishes a book, before and after design/layout is completed, it is proof-read by trusted members of our community and I always go over (and over) myself looking for anything that I can improve on in the presentation. Despite the care and time given to this, there is always one mistake that gets missed - we wait for it to jump out at us after publication - and then laugh, surprised that all managed to miss it. So, this time, with Fr John's book I thought I would use technology to also check through the presentation and loaded the completed book into an AI (Artificial Intelligence) programme to check through. "The document is too long," said AI, "shall I summarise it for you?" Interesting, I thought, let's see what AI makes of 'From Splott to Eternity.' Amusingly it told me - Fr John was born in Wales (yes).... a Catholic priest (yes).... travelled the world (yes).... with his wife (who?) and his children (!!!). Hmmm, I think AI does still have a lot to learn! I do hope people enjoy the book. As Fr John says in his introduction, it is not his complete life story but snapshots of his life, the lessons learnt and his wanting to share from experience his view of the church to which he dedicated his life - a life that had an impact on so many.

My Dad, if still alive, would also have been 100 years of age in 2026, and at his funeral (1993) we had the reading which begins "The life and death of each of us has its influence on others..." (Romans 14:7-12). 1926 was a good year for 'influencers' - David, my Dad, Queen Elizabeth II. We thank them - and Fr John, of course.

SUNDAY READINGS REFERENCE

10th MAY 2026

6th 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 8:5-8**

2nd reading: **1 Peter 3:15-18**

Gospel according to **John 14:15-21**

WEEKDAY READINGS REFERENCE

6th Week of Easter

Mon: Acts 16:11-15 John 15:26-16:4

Tue: Acts 16:22-34 John 16:5-11

Wed: Acts 17:15,22-18:1 John 16:12-15

Thu: Acts 1:1-11, Ephesians 1:17-23, Matthew 28:16-20

Fri: Acts 18:9-18 John 16:20-23

Sat: Acts 18:23-28 John 16:23-28

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS REFERENCE

17th MAY 2026

7th Sunday of Easter (A) (Prayer Week 3)

The bible references are as follows:

1st reading: **Acts 1:12-14**

2nd reading: **1 Peter 4:13-16**

Gospel according to **John 17:1-11**

WEEKDAY READINGS REFERENCE

7th Week of Easter

Mon: Acts 19:1-8 John 16:29-33

Tue: Acts 20:17-27 John 17:1-11

Wed: Acts 20:28-38 John 17:11-19

Thu: Acts 20:30,23:6-11 John 17:20-26

Fri: Acts 25:13-21 John 21:15-19

Sat: Acts 28:16-20,30-31 John 21:20-25

Universalis - 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

Tuesday (12th May)
St Achilleus, St Nereus,
St Pancras

Wednesday (13th May)
Our Lady of Fatima

Thursday (14th May)
**THE ASCENSION
OF THE LORD**

Monday (18th May)
St John I

Tuesday (19th May)
St Dunstan

Wednesday (20th May)
St Bernadine of Siena

Thursday (21st May)
Ss Christopher Magallanes
& Companions

Friday (22nd May)
St Rita

Today well lived,
makes every yesterday a dream of happiness
and tomorrow a vision of hope.

CHURCH & WORLD NEWS

Asteroid named after Pope Leo XIII In a press release published on Wednesday 29th April, the Vatican Observatory announced that four asteroids have been named after important figures in its history - including Pope Leo XIII, who re-founded the organization in 1891.

All four asteroids were discovered by Lithuanian astronomer Kazimieras Černis and Vatican Observatory astronomer Father Richard Boyle, using the Observatory's Vatican Advanced Technology Telescope (VATT), located on Mount Graham in Arizona, in the US.

[Click to read the full article . . .](#)

Attacks on Palestinian Christians In Taybeh, the West Bank's last entirely Palestinian Christian town, residents say Israeli settlers are tightening efforts to push them off their land in what locals describe as a broader campaign of intimidation and ethnic cleansing...

[Read the report on Independent Catholic News . . .](#)

People deny faith they were brought up in Nearly a third of people brought up as Christians in the UK no longer identify with the religion in adulthood, according to a survey. Pew Research said that while 51 per cent of British citizens were raised as Protestant, 31 per cent now identify as such. It found 16 per cent of adults said they were brought up as Catholic and 11 per cent continue to identify as Catholic. Around seven per cent left the faith while approximately one per cent have joined the Catholic Church.

[Read the full report in The Tablet journal . . .](#)

Pope Leo - a voice for peace King Charles III and Archbishop of Westminster Richard Doak are among world and religious leaders who paid tribute to Pope Leo XIV, marking a year since the start of his pontificate.

[Tributes to the pope on the anniversary of his election . . .](#)

Pope Leo Praying with Mary in Pompeii On the one-year anniversary of his election (8th May, Pope Leo will not be in Rome. Instead, he will travel to Pompeii to visit the Pontifical Shrine of the Blessed Virgin of the Holy Rosary. Our Lady of the Rosary in Pompeii is less well-known than many other shrines in Rome but is a thoughtful choice for a pope who has expressed his devotion to Mary throughout his papacy.

[Read more about the church in Pompeii . . .](#)

DATES FOR DIARY Root and Branch Community

Becoming Human

Saturday 16th May, 1.00 pm

A talk by Fr Augustine Vattoly from the Syro Malabar Church
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.



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 warmth, company, activities, guest speakers.

Prayer Box



This week we especially remember in prayer

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

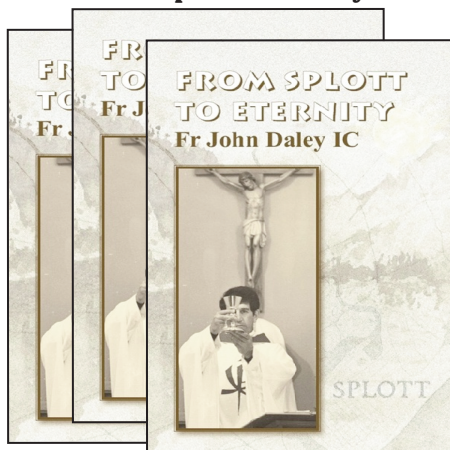
Kate and Gerry and all Madeleine McCann's family
and for all families of missing children.

We pray for peace in our world's many conflicts, and
especially for all peoples as they suffer and try to manage
the consequences of those intent of war mongering

Please email your reminders & additional names for prayers
watermead-community@outlook.com

Thank you for continued prayers from all in our prayer box.
In particular Rosie. Her father contacted this week and said
her prayers were answered and the situation she was in is
now resolved and to thank everyone who has been praying.

From Splott to Eternity



will be published on 19th May 2026

We look forward to celebrating the day of publication, which would also have been Fr John's 91st birthday.

It has now been confirmed that we can begin the day with a **mass at 10.00 am**, celebrated by Fr John's friends. The timing is at the usual mass time for the Syston parish and those who come to the mass will be welcomed to come into the hall when the mass is over.

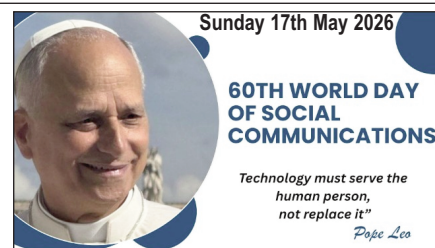
Pre-orders of the book can be made for collection on the day by emailing orders@watermead-shop.uk or can ordered for posting to you via both of our shop websites at the publication day price of **£9.99** (+p&p). The retail price is **£14.99**, but Watermead hope to offer a discounted price of **£12.99** through their internet shops, following the publication day launch 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
(Mass at 10.00 am in the church)

[Click on link below for directions to the Syston church,](#)
[along with links to our website shops](#)

'From Splott to Eternity'



*Technology must serve the
human person,
not replace it"*
Pope Leo

The theme for this year chosen by Pope Leo **'Preserving Human Voices and Faces'**

In his message for the 60th World Day of Social Communications, Pope Leo XIV highlights the importance of ensuring that technological innovation, particularly artificial intelligence, serves the human person rather than replacing or diminishing human dignity.

"We need faces and voices to speak for people again.

*We need to cherish the gift of communication
as the deepest truth of humanity, to which
all technological innovation should also be oriented."*

[Click here to read Pope Leo's full message](#)

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 & 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.

Please do share our shop links with your friends
Fr John's book can be purchased through either of our internet shops

For all that Watermead Publishing Apostolate produces see -
www.watermeadshop.co.uk/

→ Pilgrimages for 2026 →

ROME/ASSISI

21-28 NOVEMBER 2026

(4 nights in Rome and 3 nights in Assisi)

Approx. COST £1,295 (in a shared 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.

Ryanair have changed the times of some of our flights
which has affected the group travelling from Liverpool.

The now **morning only** return flight from Manchester means
that the Liverpool group will unfortunately only be able to stay
2 nights in Assisi, to allow that they are back in Rome for the
rescheduled flight to Manchester. An airport hotel
is being arranged to cover this additional Rome night's stay.
(The flight time changes for the Leicester/Nottingham pilgrims
flying from Stansted **do not** impact on their Assisi booking)

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 Only our own
music and non-copyrighted hymns can be used in
presentations so all audio broadcasts have to first be edited.
See 'Updates' page for the latest recording "The Ascension" or
subscribe to for all recordings by emailing
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.

