

# OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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

Telephone: 0116 220 7880 or 07941352885

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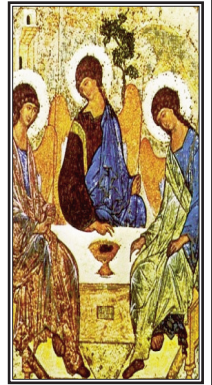
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## BUSINESS ADDRESS

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## 24th May 2026 : "Happy Birthday to Christ's Church"

Dear Friends,

We had a lovely day on Tuesday last, celebrating the launch of Fr John's autobiographical book, 'From Splott to Eternity'. Initially I was not sure where to hold the book launch, as I do now travel between several parishes - Birstall, Oadby, Rothley, Syston, being the most regular - and then Helga had seen the planned date and offered the hall at Divine Infant of Prague, Syston. It couldn't have been a better choice as the hall was large enough to accommodate all who came and the parish facilities and hospitality very welcoming.

We began with mass in the church celebrated by Fr Anthony Pateman and Mons John Lally, both good friends of Fr John over the years when he was in Leicestershire. During his homily Fr Anthony commented on how appropriate the readings at mass were: the first reading (*Acts 20:17-27*) recording St Paul's heartfelt farewell to the elders of the church in Ephesus, emphasizing his faithful ministry, humility, and commitment to God's message; followed by the Gospel (*John 17:1-11*) which shared Jesus' prayer to his Father, asking eternal life for his followers, saying that he had completed the work given him and acknowledging that, as he departed from the world his followers remained and would need God's guidance and protection to keep them united, as he and the Father are united. During Communion I played an instrumental version of one of our Watermead hymns and in thanksgiving Matthew sang unaccompanied our musical setting of the 'Hail Mary'. At the end of mass the recessional hymn was the 'Song of Peace' which has become an anthem for Watermead, in its being the first hymn we composed and recorded. I was asked by several about the instrumental music during Holy Communion, so I have printed the words over the page - its title is 'The Spirit of the Lord' (and I actually have a letter from Pope Francis thanking me for this hymn, as it was dedicated and given to him in 2013).

After such a prayerful start how could the day then not go well. We moved into the hall and Don Maclean officially launched 'From Splott to Eternity', after a few words explaining his friendship with Fr John and myself over the years. He invited everyone to sing Happy Birthday to Fr John (it would have been his 91st), have some birthday cake and raise a toast. Christine had been joined by some of her now retired St Joseph's Table team and, along with other willing helpers, ensured there was a constant flow of refreshments through into the evening when (other) Christine and Keith closed the till and boxes were packed away. So many helped during the day that it is impossible to name them all but thanks especially to the above, plus Anne, Angie (x2), Helen, Helga, Kate, Maureen, Mark, Sue, along with David and my family who helped clean-up at the end of the day.

Unfortunately, we did not count the numbers who attended, but the day saw a constant flow of visitors, reuniting friends from around Leicestershire and much further afield, with around 300 books sold - and I have since been getting messages of appreciation as those books are now being read.

On the 'From Splott to Eternity' page of our apostolate website ([click here](#)) there will be a few photographs from the day, along with a link to the video of Don's launch speech and details of how to obtain further copies of the book.

This Sunday celebrates Pentecost and the birthday of the Christian Church, and I do wonder at the future of our Watermead Community. We began all those years ago (1992) because of one special priest who invited the people he served to share their understanding of faith and God's love through their gifts, talents and time, allowing Watermead to publish and record what they had to offer and share with all through our apostolate. Tuesday's launch brought together just some of the Watermead family able to come, and it is good to reflect that over the years there have been hundreds involved - thanks to Fr John. Watch this space!

## SUNDAY READINGS REFERENCE

24th MAY 2026

### PENTECOST SUNDAY (*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: **Acts 2:1-11**

2nd reading: **1 Corinthians 12:3-7,12-13**

Gospel according to **John 20:19-23**

## WEEKDAY READINGS REFERENCE

8th Week of Year

**Mon:** 1 Peter 1:3-9 Mark 10:17-27

**Tue:** 1 Peter 1:10-16 Mark 10:28-31

**Wed:** 1 Peter 1:18-25 Mark 10:32-45

**Thu:** 1 Peter 2:2-5,9-12 Mark 10:46-52

**Fri:** 1 Peter 4:7-13 Mark 11:11-26

**Sat:** Jude 1:17,20-25 Mark 11:27-33

## NEXT SUNDAY READINGS REFERENCE

31st MAY 2026

### HOLY TRINITY (*Prayer Week 1*)

The bible references are as follows:

1st reading: **Exodus 34:4-6,8-9**

2nd reading: **2 Corinthians 13:11-13**

Gospel according to **John 3:16-18**

## WEEKDAY READINGS REFERENCE

9th Week of Year

**Mon:** 2 Peter 1:2-7 Mark 12:1-12

**Tue:** 2 Peter 3:11-15,17-18 Mark 12:13-17

**Wed:** 2 Timothy 1:1-3,6-12 Mark 12:18-27

**Thu:** 2 Timothy 2:8-15 Mark 12:28-34

**Fri:** 2 Timothy 3:10-17 Mark 12:35-37

**Sat:** 2 Timothy 4:1-8 Mark 12:38-44

**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 (25th May)

**Mary, Mother of the Church,  
St Bede the Venerable**

Tuesday (26th May)

**St Philip Neri**

Wednesday (27th May)

**St Augustine of Canterbury**

Thursday (28th May)

**Our Lord Jesus Christ the Eternal High Priest**

Saturday (30th May)

**St Joan of Arc**



Monday (1st June)

**St Justin**



Tuesday (2nd June)

**St Marcellinus,  
St Peter**



Wednesday (3rd June)

**St Charles Lwanga  
& Companions**



Friday (4th June)

**St Boniface**



Saturday (5th June)

**St Norbert**



## WATERMEAD'S INSPIRATION

*"There are different gifts  
but the same Spirit;  
there are different ministries  
but the same Lord;  
there are different works  
but the same God  
who accomplishes all of them  
in everyone."*

1 Corinthians 12.4-6

## CHURCH & WORLD NEWS

**Love conquers hate in London** A quarter of a million people marched in London on Saturday in solidarity with the Palestinian people on Nakba day and to counter the racist and Islamophobic 'Unite the Kingdom' march which took place on the same day. Addressing the crowds gathered in Pall Mall at the end of the first march, Jeremy Corbyn MP and leader of Your Party, said: *"This is a march of unity, a march of love, a march of all faiths, a march of all religions, a march of people from all over the country [and indeed from all over the world]."* . . . (from the report on the Independent Catholic News website by Dr Philip Crispin)

Read Philip's full report on the ICN website . . .

**Pope Leo's visit to Acerra** On this Saturday the Pope visited Acerra, in the Italian Campania region's territory known as "The Land of Fires". In the Cathedral of Acerra, the Pope met with clergy and families of victims of environmental pollution. Following that meeting, the Pope travelled through the streets of Acerra in the popemobile, reaching out to greet local residents who thronged the itinerary and showered him with gifts and gratitude . . .

See the video of visit on Vatican News website . . .

Read more about "The Land of Fires" . . .

**Synod - latest document** On 20th May 2026 the General Secretariat of the Synod published a document outlining stages, criteria, and tools to guide local Churches towards the Assemblies 2027-2028: stages, criteria, and tools for preparation. The text specifies the calendar, methodology, and criteria through which local Churches throughout the world, together with their national and continental groupings, are invited to share the fruits of the journey undertaken following the Final Document of the 2021-2024 Synod, culminating in the Ecclesial Assembly of October 2028.

Visit the Synod website for further information . . .

Click here to download the full document in English . . .

**Everyone Needs Art** The Catholic Reporter has an interesting article by Brother Mickey McGrath about music and the arts. He writes *"Art, music, poetry and literature are expressions of God's presence in every moment. They don't help us escape from reality, they help us dive into reality. . ."* On Pentecost Sunday it makes interesting reading about humanity's creative gifts

Read Br Mickey's full article on the NCR website . . .

**Pope Leo's first Encyclical** titled *Magnifica Humanitas*, on safeguarding the human person in the time of artificial intelligence, will be released on 25th May 2026. A presentation event with the Pope and various speakers is scheduled for the same day at the Vatican . . .

For more information see the Vatican website . . .

**Freed after eight months in Israeli prison** Layan Nasser, a 25-year-old Palestinian Christian woman has recently returned home to the occupied West Bank after her third spell in an Israeli prison. Layan, a member of St Peter's Anglican Church in Birzeit, in the West Bank was released from Damon Prison at Daliyat al-Karmel, on May 16, 2026, after being detained for eight months without charge . . .

Read the report on ICN website . . .

## Prayer Box



This week we especially remember in prayer

Claire, Patricia, Janet, Jennifer, Ann, Angie, Philomena, Sister Lelia, Anna, Oisín, Orla, Kate, Mary, John, Patrick, 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.

Those affected by the Ebola outbreak in DR of the Congo, The war in Sudan, Somalia, Ukraine,

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

## The Spirit of the Lord

A hymn for Pentecost



Lord, my God, your love fills the earth.

The Spirit of the Lord God has been given to me – to give sight to the blind and to set all captives free; to proclaim the Good News and bring the world to a new birth and invite to God's kingdom, making heaven on the earth.

Lord, my God, your love fills the earth.

Thus God spoke through Isaiah and revealed through the Word, inspiring the disciples walk the way of the Lord. May we heal all hearts broken, serve the poor and sick and lame, true disciples of Jesus, called to serve God in his name.

Lord, my God, your love fills the earth.

Like Jesus may we show love to the needy and poor in lives that become Christ-like – ever open our door to the lonely and sad who, finding us as caring friends, may find God in their lives, blessed by a love that never ends.

Lord, my God, your love fills the earth.

The Spirit of the Lord God has been given to me: a good life may I live and see the world as God sees, bringing justice and love, as Jesus did, in every day. Loving Lord, may your blessing come upon us now, we pray,

Lord, my God, your love fills the earth.

(dedicated and given to Pope Francis : June 2013)  
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Lyrics: John Daley IC, Music: Alison Kennedy

## DATES FOR DIARY

### Root and Branch Community

**CATCH-UP Becoming Human** (After the Seminary)  
As with all R&B presentations - this very interesting talk from 16th May was recorded and can be watched on YouTube by [clicking here](#)

**Where is our Church Going 19th June 2026**  
An evening with Derek Reeve - oldest priest in Portsmouth diocese - reflecting on his life and experience, sharing his views and concerns (for more details and to book visit the R&B website below)

**The Tablet New Hall Festival : 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 also 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  
All are welcome regardless of age, background or interests, to come and share warmth, company, activities, guest speakers.

**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/](http://www.watermead-apostolate.co.uk/) which also shares our free download resources.

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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/](http://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.  
Contact Alison for details on 0116 2207880  
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 g [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.

