



THIS IS
MY SON,
WHOM I LOVE

OUR COMMUNITY NEWS

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GOD TOOK
HER,
BODY & SOUL

2nd and 9th August 2026 : "We belong to God and each other"

Dear Friends,

The details for last Sunday's readings in this fortnight's newsletter are now really too late but, as most of what I had prepared will still be relevant, I decided to send out with my apologies for the delay.

I have been away for a long weekend with my family, celebrating a milestone birthday. Each year when asked what I would like for my birthday my preference has always been time together as a family. This year I had booked a large farmhouse and invited my brother and sister, my children and their families to join me. It was too far for my youngest sister's family to join us from America, but there were still twelve of us who spent a weekend together sharing memories and meals around the large dinning room table, playing familiar competitive team games (indoor and outdoors) and, of course, there was lots of music with quizzes and (karaoke-style) singing. The 48 hours of our being together seemed a time out of time and, although it went quickly, we all felt that the weekend of giving and reconnecting was a precious memory for all of us to treasure - especially for the younger members of the family.

As I reflect on the events of the weekend and the many conversations we shared, I remember a quotation I had heard a while ago and its truth suddenly stood out for me in an even more meaningful way - *"Our families are the compass that guides us; our inspiration to reach great heights; our help when trouble comes; our comfort when in need and, when we look back at our lives, we will come to realise that our families are our greatest gift."* I do know that not everyone's experience of family is the same and, sadly, I know for some no part of that ideal would be recognised. I also would have to admit that some of the challenges my family has shared over the years could have been detrimental to our family dynamics had our heritage not had those strong foundations. When challenges did come we have been blessed to have a family that held and carried the one who was in trouble, with much love, practical assistance and, sometimes, the apology and forgiveness needed to move forward. I pray everyone could know that same security, although I do understand that this is not the reality for many - through no fault of their own.

On Thursday the church celebrates the feast of *The Transfiguration of the Lord* and I remember so well the references Fr John would make in his homily on that day. He would explain how his scriptural research had brought him to an understanding that Jesus would have gone to his own family first for support when beginning his mission - cousins and their friends. As his homily developed he would use examples of us suddenly "seeing" the people we knew as they really were, "seeing them truly." I supposed it would be like looking at a black and white two-dimensional photograph and watching it suddenly come to life - revealing a moving three-dimensional image with glorious shades of colour. I cannot help but wonder at the shock for Peter, James and John, being allowed to see Jesus for who he was, not simply Mary's son or their relative but God's son.

There is so much we can all take for granted about the people closest to us that we sometimes do need to be reminded to look again at those we love, to give and spend time to listening and being with each other. I hope I shall never take for granted all the family and friends I am blessed with, including our Watermead community - the extended family that I treasure with gratitude.

Over the page I've included a short reflection on 'Transfiguration' written by Fr John a few years ago for a local magazine and I'm sure many will remember hearing the description in a homily - which, if I locate, I shall add to the website.

SUNDAY READINGS REFERENCE

2nd August 2026

18th Sunday of Year 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: **Isaiah 55:1-3**

2nd reading: **Romans 8:35,37-39**

Gospel according to **Matthew 14:13-21**

WEEKDAY READINGS REFERENCE

18th Week of Year

Mon: Jeremiah 28:1-17 Matthew 14:13-21

Tue: Jeremiah 30:1-2,12-15,18-22 Matthew 14:22-36

Wed: Jeremiah 31:1-7 Matthew 15:21-28

Thu: (Feast of Transfiguration) Daniel 7:9-10,13-14
2 Peter 1:16-19 Matthew 17:1-9

Fri: Nahum 2:1,3, 3:1-3,6-7 Matthew 16:24-28

Sat: Habakkuk 1:12-2:4 Matthew 17:14-20

NEXT SUNDAY READINGS REFERENCE

9th August 2026

19th Sunday of Year A (Prayer Week 3)

The bible references are as follows:

1st reading: **1 Kings 19:9,11-13**

2nd reading: **Romans 9:1-5**

Gospel according to **Matthew 14:22-33**

WEEKDAY READINGS REFERENCE

19th Week of Year

Mon: 2 Corinthians 9:6-10 John 12:24-26

Tue: Ezekiel 2:8-3:4 Matthew 18:1-5,10,12-14

Wed: Ezekiel 9:1-7, 10:18-22 Matthew 18:15-20

Thu: Ezekiel 12:1-12 Matthew 18:21-19:1

Fri: Ezekiel 16:1-15,60,63 Matthew 19:3-12

Sat: (The Assumption) Revelation 11:19, 12:1-6,10
1 Corinthians 15:20-26 Luke 1:39-56

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 (4th August)

St John Vianney

Wednesday (5th August)
**Dedication of the Basilica
of St Mary Major, Rome**

Thursday (6th August)

**The Transfiguration
of the Lord**

Friday (7th August)
St Sixtus II: St Catejan

Saturday (8th August)

**St Dominic
St Mary MacKillop**

Monday (10th August)
St Lawrence

Tuesday (11th August)
St Clare of Assisi

Thursday (13th August)
St Pontian, St Hippolytus

Friday (14th August)
St Maximilian Kolbe

Saturday (15th August)
**Feast of the Assumption
of Our Lady**

CHURCH & WORLD NEWS

Pope: Like a stream leading to its source, music leads us to God Pope Leo joins the prayer gathering 'Canticle of Peace' at Borgo Laudato si', in the Pontifical Gardens of Castel Gandolfo, together with Andrea Bocelli and the ABF Voices choir, made up of children's voices from Uganda, the Holy Land and Italy . . .

Visit the Vatican news website for full article . . .

Human Trafficking in modern-day Talitha Kum International releases their 2025 Annual Report, revealing how human trafficking is growing hand-in-hand with the rise of technology: online exploitation and scams have become a 21st century means of entrapping people . . .

Visit the Vatican News website for article and links . . .

Ukraine's people inspire hope amid suffering At the end of his six-day mission to Ukraine, Archbishop Paul Richard Gallagher reflects on the resilience of a people "willing to suffer for freedom and peace." Speaking to Vatican Media, the Holy See's Secretary for Relations with States recalls those who have "lost everything," reiterates the Holy See's commitment to humanitarian efforts and peace, and says Pope Leo XIV takes seriously the invitation to visit Ukraine when the time and circumstances can be "as fruitful as possible . . ."

Read the details of the visit on Vatican News website . . .

'Care Not Killing' welcomes comments from new PM Andy Burnham that we should fix palliative care before considering assisted dying. Speaking at a London care home earlier today, he was asked about the assisted dying debate and commented, "personally I think there is something that needs to happen first and that's the fixing of the funding for palliative care and social care". . . .

For more information see the ICN website . . .

Wildfires in Spain force Augustinian nuns to evacuate monastery In a statement published on 27th July, the sisters of the Monastery of the Conversion in Sotillo de la Adrada said they were evacuated on July 25th and "had no choice but to leave the monastery." Wildfires across Spain and France have forced hundreds of thousands of people to evacuate. Firefighters face an uphill battle in combatting the flames as extreme heatwaves in both countries have made it difficult to extinguish the fires.

Read the report on NCR website . . .

5 ways to take care of your elders, according to Pope Leo Last Sunday the church celebrated World Day for Grandparents and the 'Elderly' draws on a powerful promise from Scripture: "I will never forget you" (Isaiah 49:15). In his message for the sixth celebration of the day, Pope Leo XIV reminded Catholics that this promise should shape how all treat the older adults in their lives. . . .

Read the report on NCR website . . .

Madagascar bishops challenge military government to end child kidnappings Bishops in Madagascar voiced alarm over the rising numbers of killings and kidnappings of children since the beginning of the year. According to the police, 172 people have been unaccounted for between January and June, prompting Church leaders to raise concerns about the deteriorating security situation since last year's military coup. . . .

Read more about the children of Madagascar . . .



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.

Feast of the Assumption

Would you be able to give a sensible answer to anyone who sincerely asked you to explain Mary's Assumption? If not, why not? It's worth answering that question to know what you believe . . . Click here to read an article by Fr John . . .

Fr John's Archive Letters

Francis (of Daily Prayers) has an archive of Fr John's letters to the parish, dating back to 2016. If you would like to read them they are free to view - Click here for a direct link



Prayer Box



This week we especially remember in prayer

Helen, Pat, Anna, Claire, Patricia, Janet, Jennifer, Ann, Philomena, Sister Lelia, Anna, Oisin, 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.

All peoples affected by the earthquake in Japan; Victims of attack at Germany's Christopher Street Parade; The fires in the UK, Spain, Italy, Portugal, Greece, Grete, etc

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

Transfiguration

A Reflection from Fr John's archive writings

Mum and Dad

If you were to see my parents you would see an elderly couple ("We're not elderly, we are old! Just say 'old'") walking with difficulty. She is bent over, can walk only with the aid of a stick, and is crippled with arthritis. He is more upright, but frail, and you would judge that he needs his stick to be able to walk with any confidence.



They are my father and mother. You see them as an old couple, and I see them as my parents. You see them from the outside, and I see them from within. You see them in a glance, an instant; but I see them in a life-time. Every time I see them I see them as they are and always have been; but you can only see them for a moment - and in a moment. I see them more truly than you do, don't I. We are looking at the same people but how differently we understand what we see. A mugger would see two easy targets, someone in a hurry would see them as a nuisance (old people blocking the pavement) - and I would see a whole life of love and home and friendships and faith.

I would see them in transfiguration. I think of them when I read in the Gospel of the transfiguration of Jesus. He took Peter, James and John with him to pray and, as he prayed, they saw a tremendous change in him and were overcome with the power of his presence. The Jesus they knew as their cousin and friend, whom they had known for so many years, was someone wonderfully so much more than they had ever understood.

And they heard the voice of God telling them that Jesus was his beloved son. He was transfigured before them, and they saw who he truly was.

So with my parents. As the years went by I saw more wonderfully who they truly were, and I saw them as you could not hope to see them. They were transfigured in my sight and I saw them truly.

And you have the same gift of vision that I have. You see those you love and know in ways that I never could. Who are they? Who have so blessed you that you see them not in an instant - but in a life-time, and even with a glimpse of eternity.

ADVICE FOR OUR PRIME MINISTER

"The moral test of a government

is how that government treats

those who are in the dawn of life, the children;

those who are in the twilight of life, the elderly;

and those who are in the shadows of life,

the sick, the needy and people with disabilities."

DATES FOR DIARY

Root and Branch Events

Two Linked Events with Ariane

founder of 'Pax Veritas'

17th September 2026 and 8th October 2026

Both ZOOM sessions are at 8.00 pm. More details later from

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

The Jesuits are offering a week of guided prayer

18th-23rd October 2026 More details from

www.jesuitinstitute.org/events

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

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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)

We have had a couple cancellations (health)

Information will be sent out to those who have booked to travel with us next week and include details of the remaining balance of the pilgrimage to be paid.

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>

Watermead CD's to Give Away

THE PARABLES OF JESUS Fr John wrote a guide to their meanings to accompany his lyrical presentation that was set to music for a recording (and a musical) in 2006, and our Community News has often given reference to tracks from the recording as sung by Don Maclean and our Watermead singers.

Since moving from our centre at St Joseph's, storage is limited and various of our surplus stock had to be (sadly) thrown away. The surplus 'Don Sings the Parables' CD recordings have been kindly stored for us, but now need to be disposed of - or to find new receptive homes.

The CD's are 'FREE', no cost other than postage if they cannot be delivered or collected. If you are interested in having some to give away to others in your community or parish, or to friends and family, please consider.

For information on the recording click here

For links to listen to the recorded tracks click here

If interested telephone me on 0116 2207880, message the website, or email watermead-community@outlook.com and arrangements can be made. Thanks, Alison

Last word from Fr John

SUBSCRIBE TO ALL RECORDINGS

See the 'Updates' page on our website for the latest recording or to listen to all recordings as they are completed fill in the contact form on our website or send an email

to
watermead-community@outlook.co.uk
with your email address requesting to subscribe to Fr John's homilies (no cost).

