



# CATHOLIC CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY & ST. AUGUSTINE OF CANTERBURY



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## Fourth Sunday of Easter

11<sup>th</sup> May 2025

### **WE HAVE A POPE**

The Most Eminent and Most Reverend  
Lord Robert Francis  
Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church Prevoist  
who has taken the name Leo XIV



### Reflection from the Bishops' Conference of England and Wales on Pope Leo XIV

With gratitude and hope, we welcome the election of Pope Leo XIV. The Holy Spirit, ever guiding the Church, has given us a shepherd marked by humility, wisdom, and a deep pastoral heart. In these early days of his pontificate, we already sense the quiet strength of a man who listens before he speaks, who prays before he acts.

Pope Leo XIV brings with him a profound sense of service. His years among the Augustinians and his ministry in places of dialogue and difficulty have shaped him into a bridge-builder—a man of peace in a fractured world. His first words in St. Peter's Square reminded us that the Church is not a citadel but a fountain—offering life, mercy, and hope to all.

For the Church in England and Wales, this image resonates deeply. We, too, are called to be places of welcome and renewal, especially in a society that often thirsts for meaning but does not know where to turn. Pope Leo's example challenges us to be a Church that listens, walks with the wounded, and dares to dream of unity and healing.

We are particularly struck by his call for simplicity, solidarity with the poor, and faithfulness to the Gospel without compromise or fear. In his leadership, we see echoes of Pope Francis, but also something distinct: a calm contemplative spirit that invites the whole Church to slow down, to pray, and to rediscover the joy of walking with Christ.

As bishops, we offer our prayers for Pope Leo XIV. May his pontificate be a time of renewal and gentle strength. And may we, under his guidance, become ever more the Church that Christ calls us to be—faithful, generous, and always ready to serve.

On May 8, 2025, Pope Leo XIV delivered his inaugural address from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, marking the beginning of his papacy. Addressing a crowd of approximately 150,000 gathered in St. Peter's Square, he emphasized the Church's mission to "build bridges" and foster dialogue, unity, and compassion. He greeted the faithful of Rome and extended a special message to the people of Peru, reflecting on his years of missionary service there. Concluding his address, Pope Leo XIV led the assembly in a heartfelt prayer to the Blessed Virgin Mary, invoking her intercession for peace and the Church's mission.

### A Word from Pope Leo XIV

From the balcony of Saint Peter's Basilica in Rome, on the evening of May 8th, 2025, at 7:25 PM local time, the new Holy Father offered his first message to the world. His words were simple, heartfelt, and centered on Christ's peace:

**"Peace be with you" – dearest brothers and sisters, this is the first greeting of the Risen Christ, the Good Shepherd who laid down His life for the flock of God.**

**I too wish that this greeting of peace may enter our hearts and reach your families, all people wherever they may be, every nation, the whole world: peace be with you.**

**This is the peace of the Risen Christ – a peace that is disarmed and disarming, humble and**

enduring. It comes from God, who loves us all unconditionally.

We still hear the voice – now faint but ever courageous – of Pope Francis blessing Rome. He gave his blessing to the whole world on that Easter morning.

Allow me to continue in that same spirit: God loves us. God loves you all. Evil will not prevail. We are all in God's hands. So, without fear, hand in hand with God and with one another, let us move forward.

We are disciples of Christ. Christ goes before us. The world needs His light. Humanity needs Him as the bridge that leads us to God and His love. Help us – and help one another – to build bridges through dialogue, through encounter, so that we may all be united as one people, always in peace.

Thank you, Pope Francis!

I wish to thank my brother Cardinals who have chosen me to be Peter's successor and to walk with you as one Church, always seeking peace and justice.

I am a son of Saint Augustine – an Augustinian – who said, "With you I am a Christian, for you I am a bishop." In this spirit, we walk together toward the homeland God has prepared for us.

To the Church of Rome, a special greeting.

Together we must seek how to be a missionary Church – a Church that builds bridges of dialogue, always open to welcome, like this very square, with open arms, all those in need of our charity, our presence, our love.

To all of you – brothers and sisters from Rome, from Italy, from all over the world – we want to be a Synodal Church, a Church that walks, that always seeks peace, seeks charity, and remains close especially to those who suffer.

Today, on the day of the Supplication to Our Lady of Pompeii, may our Mother Mary walk with us, remain close to us, and help us with her intercession and love.

Here are 14 things to know about Pope Leo XIV:

Robert Francis Prevost was born on Sept. 14, 1955, in Chicago to Louis Marius Prevost, of French and Italian descent, and Mildred Martínez,

of Spanish descent. He has two brothers, Louis Martín and John Joseph. His father was a World War II Navy veteran and school superintendent; his mother was a librarian who was very involved in parish life.

The new pope speaks multiple languages, including English, Spanish, Italian, French, and Portuguese.

He earned a bachelor of science degree in mathematics from Villanova University in 1977 before pursuing his religious vocation.

He completed his secondary studies at the minor seminary of the Augustinians in 1973 in Michigan. In 1977, he became a member of the Order of St. Augustine and took his solemn vows in 1981.

He completed a master of divinity degree at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and earned a licentiate and doctorate in canon law from the Pontifical College of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome. He went on to teach canon law in seminaries during his time in Peru.

He was ordained a priest on June 19, 1982, by Archbishop Jean Jadot in Rome.

He served extensively in Peru from 1985 to 1998, working as a parish pastor, seminary teacher, and diocesan official. He was also part of the leadership of Caritas Peru, the Church's charitable organization.

After being elected the head of the Augustinian Province of Chicago, he returned to the U.S. in 1999. He was elected prior general of the Augustinians in 2001 and then reelected in 2007, serving as head of the order until 2013.

Pope Francis appointed him apostolic administrator and then bishop of the Diocese of Chiclayo, Peru, in 2014 and 2015 respectively, and received episcopal consecration on Dec. 12, 2014, at St. Mary's Cathedral in Chiclayo.

He was made a cardinal by Pope Francis on Sept. 30, 2023.

While serving the Church in Peru, Francis made him a member of the Dicastery for the Clergy in 2019 and then a member of the Dicastery for Bishops in 2020. In 2023, Francis made him prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops.

His episcopal motto – which is a bishop's personal motto – is "In illo uno unum," which means "In the one Christ we are one," reflecting his commitment to unity.

Prior to becoming pope, he had an active X account – the first to have his own social media account before becoming pope.

### **POPE LEO XIV**

Let's pray for our Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV:  
Faithful God,

You guide us on the path of life  
and your goodness is our constant companion.

Be with our new Shepherd, Pope Leo XIV,  
in his service of the Church.

Fill him with the power of your Spirit,  
the peace of your presence  
and the compassion of Christ.

May he walk with you,  
in wisdom and humility,  
and lead us, together with all God's people, to  
embody your love for the world. Amen.

### ***Malcolm McMahon OP, Archbishop of Liverpool, reflects on the concept of vocation as he prepares for retirement.***

St John Paul II helped Christians understand that it was by baptism that we all receive a call from God, and he described this in a wonderful phrase, 'the universal call to holiness'. This is the framework within which specific vocations such as teacher, mother, priest and so on are placed. To put it very simply, all the baptised are called by God, not just monks and nuns. St John Henry Newman said that we are called to 'some definite service'. If we agree with this, then being holy involves doing something, and it is Pope Francis who gave some direction on how to be holy. Pope Francis, right from the beginning of his papacy, said we should consider how we could become 'missionary disciples', a loaded phrase if ever there was one. Disciples are followers, like sheep who follow the shepherd, as they still do in some parts of the world. In our culture shepherds tend more to herd than to lead. A missionary is a person who has been sent by God. We are sent to the world to bring the good news of Jesus's resurrection. Some will do this by preaching but most will do this by living as Jesus's disciples according to his teachings and reaching out to those in need. God's love is channelled through us and that is a clear sign that we are followers of Jesus and have answered his call to be missionaries. Being called implies being sent. This is nothing new. St Paul begins the First Letter to the Corinthians by saying, 'I, Paul, called an apostle'. He is not saying that his job title is an apostle. What he is saying is that he has been called by God to be sent out. An apostle is one who is sent, the word coming from Greek, whilst 'missionary', from the Latin, has much the same meaning.

Jesus reminds us in today's gospel that we, his sheep, listen to him. In our time the Spirit of Jesus speaks to us through the church and each other. Jesus says, 'My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.' The Lord continues to call us to holiness in many diverse ways. It is up to us to learn to listen to his call.

### **Priest Training Fund**

This Sunday is Good Shepherd Sunday and our second collection will support the Priest Training Fund. This fund pays for the priestly formation of men for the Catholic priesthood. There are currently **50** men studying at Allen Hall seminary, **13** of whom are from our own Diocese. **2** of these are deacons for Westminster. We also have **2** seminarians at the Royal English College in Valladolid. Last year **3** deacons who studied at Allen Hall were ordained priests. The fund also supports the ongoing enrichment and formation of our ordained priests. Your gift ensures we can provide training for these men responding to Christ's call to dedicate their lives to serve God's people. Please be as generous as you can. Please also pray for vocations and for all our priests. If you do not have a donation envelope, plenty are still available at the back of the church. You can use the QR code to make your donation online or visit [www.rcdow.org.uk/donations](http://www.rcdow.org.uk/donations). Thank you for your generosity.



### **WORKERS FOR THE HARVEST**

*God our Father, You made each of us to use our  
gifts in the Body of Christ.*

*We ask that You inspire young people whom  
you call to priesthood and consecrated life  
to courageously follow Your will.*

*Send workers into Your great harvest  
so that the Gospel is preached,  
the poor are served with love,  
the suffering are comforted,  
and Your people are strengthened by the  
sacraments.*

*We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen*

### **First Holy Communion**

Congratulations to Eden,  
Rosalie, Jacob, Rory, Ada, Sam,  
Fionn, Shawn, Gabriel, Alex,  
Chuma, Ruby, Dave, Sarah, Stephanie and Roma  
who made their First Holy Communion this  
weekend. Please keep them in your prayers.



### Hail Mary, Mother of Mercy,

Hail Mary, Mother of Mercy,  
our life, our sweetness and our hope.

To you, we cry, as children of God,  
joined as one with our wounded world,  
with hearts full of hope for a home  
transformed.

Mother of Creation,  
look upon us we pray,  
so we may come to see God's earthly garden  
through the radiant light of wisdom.

Holy Mary, Mother of all,  
make us worthy we pray,  
to treasure the earth our common home,  
and show us the blessed fruit of your womb,  
Jesus. Amen.

### Preparation for Mass

It's often said that, "You only get out of Mass what you put into it." In other words, if you don't prepare your heart for Mass, you will likely not be able to receive the many graces God wants to give to you. This is why various saints have suggested arriving early to Mass and offering a few short prayers of love. Prayers of preparation became such an ingrained tradition that many people would take their place in the pew and instantly kneel down for a minute or two to say these prayers before every Mass.

### 2025 Parish Dates for your Diary

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> May - Confirmation Mass:** Bishop Paul McAleenan will confirm the candidates at the 10.30am Mass.

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July - Open Air Mass:** 10.30am in the church grounds. *This is the only Mass that weekend.*

*Please speak to Fr. Denis if you have any questions regarding these events.*



### Your Prayers Are Asked For:



We pray for the sick and housebound in the parish, especially Tara Farrissey, Peter Comiski, Ray Carter and for those who care for and support them. We remember those who have died recently and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time:

*Martha Smith, Sarah Feeney, Frances Madigan,  
Michael Connors, Margaret Ferraris, Brian Randall,  
Vincenza Luggeri, Elsie Smith, Peter Jones, Peter Davey.*

### Mass Times and Intentions

Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	8.30pm	Marian Prior RIP
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	8.30am 10.30am	Douglas Houghton RIP Raffaele & Pasqualina Ciampo RIP
Mon 12 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Ester's Intention
Tue 13 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Bridie O'Connell - get well Our Lady of Fatima
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	Peter Curley Saint Matthias, Apostle
Thu 15 <sup>th</sup>	10.00am	
Fri 16 <sup>th</sup>	No Mass	

*Please note that mass intentions as set out above may not always be read out, but the intention is offered.*

**Holy Hour:** Saturday 5.15 - 6.15 pm

**Confessions:** Saturday 5.45 - 6.15 pm

Or by appointment with Fr. Denis.

**Children's Liturgy:** Takes place during the 10.30am Mass except on the First Sunday of the Month (Family Mass) and during school holidays.

The Vigil Mass (6.30pm) and the Sunday Mass (10.30am) can be watched online via the Parish Facebook Page: **Catholic Church of the Holy Trinity and St Augustine of Canterbury.**

### Contacts

**Parish Safeguarding Officers** have responsibility for promoting good and safe practices in all activities involving children, young people, and adults at risk within the Parish.

Patricia Cusack: Baldocksg2@safeguardrcdow.org.uk  
Colette Murphy: Baldocksg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk

### Our Catholic Schools

**St. John's Catholic Primary School, Baldock**  
T: 01462 892478 W: stjohns4.herts.sch.uk  
**The Saint John Henry Newman School, Stevenage,**  
T: 01438 314643 W: jhn.herts.sch.uk

### John O'Neil is the Lister Hospital RC Chaplain

Mob: 07876 526935 or T: 01438 285518

**Baptisms, First Holy Communion, Confirmation, Weddings and Funerals** for further details please speak to Fr. Denis, look at the website or contact the parish office.

**Church Hall Bookings** the church hall is available to be booked for groups or celebrations. Please contact the parish office for more details.

**Baldock Catholic Scout Group** for boys & girls aged 6-14. Contact: enquiries@2ndbaldockscouts.org.uk