

# Parish of St Peter and St Paul

ARCHDIOCESE OF WESTMINSTER

THE PRESBYTERY  
Fr. Ivano Millico, Parish Priest  
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PARISH OFFICE  
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Tel. 020 7837 2094  
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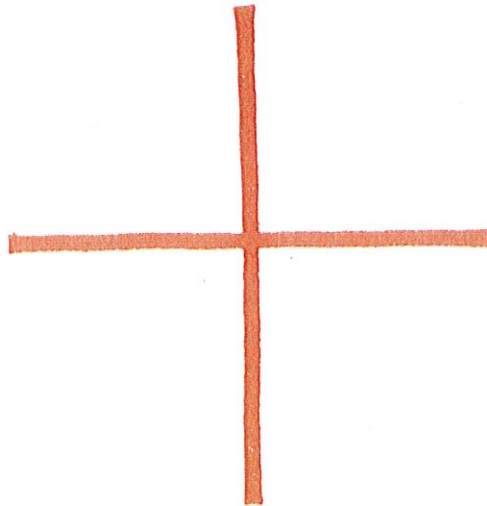
## 24<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY in Ordinary Time 14<sup>th</sup> September 2024

SUNDAY MASS: 9:45am & 12noon

WEEKDAY MASS: Monday & Friday 12:30pm; Tuesday & Wednesday 8am

CONFESSIONS: Mondays 12 - 12:30pm (and on request)

HOLY HOUR animated by HAKUNA will resume on THURSDAY 19th September 7-8pm



Yesterday, 14th September, we celebrated the Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross. Long before the crucifixion of Jesus the 'cross' was a sign sacred to men. The integrity and stability of the universe seems to rest on the cross. It points into the four directions of the compass. All living beings are shaped in the pattern of the cross. Spreading their wings in the form of a cross the birds master the air. In the power of their cruciform masts the boats cross the waves. The cross brings firmness to walls and buildings. No wonder that it appeared as a sign of salvation in the earliest days of history. It was used as a brand for animals and slaves. The illiterate uses it as signature. Remember all of this as you make the sign of the Cross...

Day pilgrimage to Our Lady of Walsingham  
depart at 6:45am this Saturday 21st September

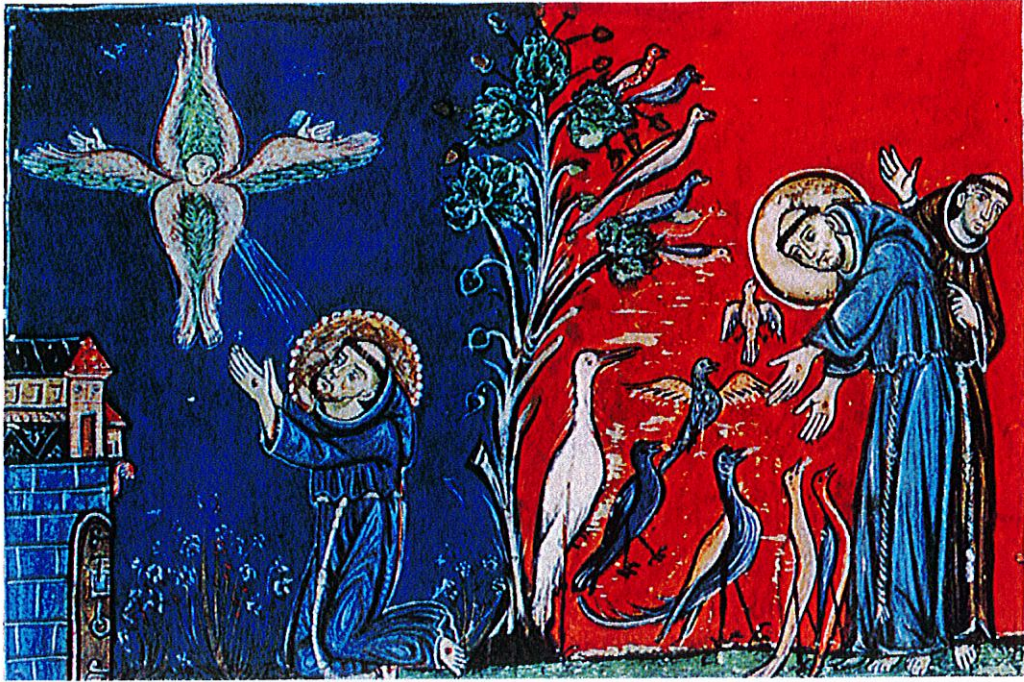
*No 12:30pm Mass on Monday 16th.*



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# One Body



Towards the end of his life Brother Francis felt increasingly troubled with preoccupations for the future of his Order and concerned at the attempt to normalize a project of Christian life that, if truly implemented, would have been revolutionary. He also felt misunderstood by a large part of his friars and this increased his discouragement. Great in numbers, of limited virtue or too cultured, not all of them were capable of sharing the deep questions of their spiritual leader. At about forty-four years of age Francis took with him few companions, with whom he was very intimate, and moved to La Verna - an austere remote mountain - for a long retreat (from the Assumption of Our Lady to the Feast of Michael the Archangel). He hoped to overcome the profound crisis that made him almost desperate. One early morning, Brother Leo overheard him praying, "Who are you, my most dear God, and who am I, a worm and your little servant?"

Slowly, slowly Francis began to pray that "the merciful will of the heavenly Father would be totally fulfilled in him". One day, opening three times the book of the Gospels it always showed the same passage, the Passion of Christ. On the **Feast of the Exaltation of the Cross**, Brother Francis saw a vision of at once God and man, having six wings like a Seraph, standing over him, arms extended and feet joined, affixed to a cross. Two of his wings were raised up, two were stretched out over his head as if for flight, two covered his whole body. Francis felt his body pierced with unspeakable pain and when he came to himself, he found wounds in his hands and feet as it were nails (*stigmata*).

God had answered Brother Francis' two questions!

We do not belong to a prayer group or a charitable organisation. We are not church-goers or spiritual leaders. No! We belong to a living Body, the Body of Christ, the Church. The *stigmata* are a mirror of our identity: One Body with God. This is who we are.

*In manus.*

Father Ivano