



# CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER



## St. Edmund Campion Pray for Us

Dear Parents and Carers

As the Church settles into 'Ordinary Time' it's fair to say that the times we are living in are far from ordinary. Getting back to normal, to the everyday routine of our lives has suddenly become an aspiration for many. However, there is talk of a 'new normal', where injustices can be put right, where a re-balance of how we live together needs to take place, where a re-balance of resources, of opportunity and the elimination of poverty in our communities needs to be high on the list of things to do when society re-opens. At the mass for the sick, their families, care workers and NHS staff at St. Chad's Cathedral on the 18<sup>th</sup> June Archbishop Longley in his homily used the parable of the Good Samaritan to give us food for thought:

"The parable of the Good Samaritan offers us a message that is relevant to our times. We are taken to a roadside at a place where the unwary traveller could be taken advantage of. The tale reminds us that people who are already vulnerable are often open to further exploitation. At the centre of the parable is a man who is destitute because he has been badly attacked and robbed. His suffering is made far worse because the very people from whom he might have expected pity and assistance have chosen to ignore him. The parable shows us that it is quite possible for good people to walk by on the other side of the road, too scared to get involved, too preoccupied to respond, or too self-absorbed to notice.





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But the man from Samaria – from a different culture and background – he does notice and he acts, proving himself to be a true neighbour to his brother. There is a pertinent lesson here about seeing beyond my prejudices and acting justly in my appraisal of people with a different background and culture from my own. The parable invites us to cherish every human life on the basis of the innate dignity that comes from God.” (Archbishop Bernard Longley)

Churches have begun to open up around the country for private prayer. The thought and preparation to do this safely has without question occupied the thoughts of our bishops and priests. Parishioners are being asked to volunteer for a new ministry of welcoming and cleaning to keep us safe in many of our parishes. Here is a link to a priest’s perspective on churches beginning to re-open for private prayer:



<https://youtu.be/4RVI7NGjLGE>

Information on the opening of Erdington Abbey for mass can be found in this link to the Erdington Abbey newsletter:

<http://www.erdingtonabbey.co.uk/eacontent/uploads/2020/06/Bulletin-Solemnity-of-Ss-Peter-Paul-28-June-2020.pdf>

Recognising that the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting everyone, special Masses continue to be celebrated for the sick, their families, care workers and NHS staff every Thursday at 7pm from a different Cathedral each week. This Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> July Archbishop John Wilson will celebrate Mass from St. George’s Cathedral, Southwark and can be found on the link below:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCr5pOWyKDRh4v042c7n\\_vYA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCr5pOWyKDRh4v042c7n_vYA)

As a reminder masses each day and every Sunday are streamed live from St. Chad’s Cathedral and here is the link to access these:

[www.stchadscathedral.org.uk](http://www.stchadscathedral.org.uk)

Redemptorist Publications continue to make Sunday mass available online after 12 midday every Saturday. Mass is celebrated by Fr. Denis McBride C.Ss.R from the Redemptorist community in Chawton, Hampshire.

[www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online](http://www.rpbooks.co.uk/holy-mass-online)



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The 1<sup>st</sup> July is the feast of St. Oliver Plunkett. He was the Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland and was executed at Tyburn on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1681 after being found guilty of treason for promoting the Roman Catholic faith. He was the last Roman Catholic martyr to die in England. He was beatified in 1920 by Pope Benedict XV and canonised in 1975 by Pope Paul VI. He was the first new Irish saint for almost seven hundred years.

He was a firm believer in the need for education and amongst his many achievements he founded a school that both Catholic and Protestant children attended. He was a man who tried hard to bring peace to Ireland at that time and is now the patron saint of peace and reconciliation in Ireland today. The shrine to St. Oliver Plunkett is in St. Peter's Church in Drogheda, Co. Armagh.

This Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup> July is the feast of St. Thomas the apostle who we know refused to believe that Jesus had risen from the dead unless he could see and feel Jesus for himself. When he saw Jesus he simply pronounced 'My Lord and my God'. The recounting of this appearance in John's gospel brings each one of us into the story of salvation as we have not seen and yet believe.

## Gospel Reflection – 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time– Matthew 11:25-30



Throughout the public ministry of Jesus, he was questioned by the Jewish authorities to explain himself. They were looking for him to expound on his teachings and how they – or he as he claimed – fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament. Some of the questioners no doubt genuinely wanted to understand while others were more intent on trying to discredit him.

No matter their motivation Jesus thanks his Father for making the message he was revealing known and understood by mere children. It is they who are able to understand that the way to the Father is through the Son who knows Him and in whom everything has been entrusted. Theological debate on this truth is not necessary. Faith and faith alone is all that is required.





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*Father, you have given all peoples one common origin.  
It is your will that they be gathered together  
as one family in yourself.*

*Fill the hearts of mankind with the fire of your love  
and with the desire to ensure justice for all.*

*By sharing the good things you give us,  
may we secure an equality for all  
our brothers and sisters throughout the world.*

*May there be an end to division, strife and war.*

*May there be a dawning of a truly human society  
built on love and peace.*

*We ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen*