



# CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER



## St. Edmund Campion Pray for Us

Dear Parents and Carers

Individual journey's through our faith and relationship with God can be one with many twists and turns taking us to places we may not have imagined. John Henry Newman had such a journey in his life beginning in the Anglican Church and then as a Cardinal in the Roman Catholic Church. He was a priest, preacher, writer and theologian in both Churches and is regarded as one of the most important English-speaking theologians of the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

Cardinal John Henry Newman was canonized as a saint by Pope Francis on the 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2019. His feast day is celebrated on the 9<sup>th</sup> October. St. John Henry Newman died on the 11<sup>th</sup> August 1890 and it is usually the custom within the church that the feast days of the saints are celebrated on the day of their death, unless this is not possible because of another celebration. This is the case with St. John Henry Newman as on the 11<sup>th</sup> August the universal church celebrates the feast of St. Clare. One of the reasons why the 9<sup>th</sup> October was chosen was that it is close to the beginning of the university year and education was a huge part of his life.

Over the last few months the importance of prayer has been realised by many of us as we have lived through a time of restrictions. When Pope Benedict XVI visited our country in 2010 and beatified John Henry Newman at a mass in Cofton Park, Birmingham, in his homily he quoted what Newman said on prayer in one of his many writings:



I sought to hear the voice of God and climbed the topmost steeple, but God declared: Go down again - I dwell among the people.

-John Henry Newman

“...a habit of prayer, the practice of turning to God and the unseen world in every season, in every place, in every emergency – prayer, I say, has what may be called a natural effect in spirituality and elevating the soul. We are no longer what we were before.”



# CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER



To mark ten years since the visit of Pope Benedict XVI to our country the Catholic Bishops of England and Wales have made the speeches he made available for us to listen to again. These can be found on the link below and include his homily at the mass of the beatification of St. John Henry Newman.

<https://www.birminghamdiocese.org.uk/news/benedict-xvi-in-the-uk-the-speeches>

October is a month when there is a focus on Our Lady and praying the rosary as a form of devotion and asking for her intercession. As in the month of May, where there is the same focus on praying the rosary as a way of honouring Mary and remembering the key moments in the life of her son Jesus, thanks once again to Ms. Egan - our Lead Practitioner in Modern Foreign Languages – who has produced a resource for us to pray the rosary in Spanish. You will find this below.



Rosario para  
octubre - Spanish (1)

Although churches are now open for public worship we are being encouraged where we can to consider going to mass on any day of the week as the Sunday obligation is suspended at the moment. This can give everyone a better chance of attending mass as seating capacities in our parishes are reduced to ensure social distancing. Mass each day and every Sunday continue to be 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 also 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)

## What's Going On in our Local Parish Communities

Here is a link to the Erdington Abbey newsletter:

<http://www.erdingtonabbey.co.uk/eacontent/uploads/2020/10/Bulletin-27th-Sunday-in-Ordinary-Time-4-Oct-2020.pdf>



# CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER



Here is a link to the parish newsletter of St. Nicholas Church in Boldmere:

<https://www.stnicholasboldmere.co.uk/uploads/6/2/5/9/62597781/27.pdf>

Here is a link to the parish newsletter of St. Margaret Mary's Church in Perry Common:

<https://www.stmgtmry.bham.sch.uk/newsletters/parish201004.pdf>

Here is a copy of the parish newsletter of Christ the King Church in Kingstanding:



Christ-the-Kingnew  
sletter.pdf

Here is a link to the parish newsletter of Holy Cross & St. Francis Church in Walmley:

<https://www.hcsf.org.uk/bulletin-for-the-week-beginning-4th-october-the-twenty-seventh-sunday-in-ordinary-time/>

The 'Wednesday Word' is a resource you can use with your children for the liturgy each Sunday. Please find the link to this below:

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/uk/wednesday-word/invitation?pid=MTA101634&v=6.6>

St. Francis of Assisi is a saint who transcends the boundaries of the Catholic Church. Many people of faith and no faith are drawn to him because of the simplicity in which he led his life.

Born in Italy in 1181, Francis came from a wealthy family in the Assisi area. He was reportedly spoiled, indulged in food, wine and wild parties – all this by the age of 14! His initial ambition was to be a soldier and when war broke out between Assisi and Perugia his wish came true. Like many people who have been through war Francis returned home changed and affected by the experience. He began to see life differently, and turned to God seeing him in nature and the wildlife that was all around. He took the new spiritual direction he had chosen from the gospel of Matthew:



“....do not carry any gold, silver, or copper money in your pocket; do not carry a beggar's bag for the journey or an extra shirt or shoes or a stick. Workers should be given what they need.” (Matt.10:9-10)



# CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER



St. Francis of Assisi died in 1226 and his feast day was celebrated on the 4<sup>th</sup> October. He is the patron saint of Italy, Catholic Action and the Environment. In 2013 Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio chose to honour Francis by taking his name and becoming Pope Francis.

## Gospel Reflection – 28<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time– Matthew 22:1-14



The psalm in this week’s mass is a well-known one – The Lord is My Shepherd. The response to the psalm that we make is ‘In the Lord’s own house shall I dwell for ever and ever.’ Our journey through life is to reach that house and for it to become our home.

In the gospel Jesus continues to challenge those in authority telling them through the parable of the wedding feast that if those who had been invited were not interested, then that invitation would go out to everyone and anyone.



However, in the parable when the king who had organised the feast arrived to meet those newly invited he found a man not wearing a wedding garment. The repercussions for him were serious – he was thrown out. The message that Jesus is trying to get across is that being invited into the wedding feast – the Kingdom of God – is not enough. We must agree to change our way of being to that expected of those who are chosen.

### **Prayer of St. Francis**

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
and where there is sadness, joy.*

*O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen*



[young-catholics.com](http://young-catholics.com)

