



CATHOLIC LIFE NEWSLETTER



St. Edmund Campion Pray for Us

Dear Parents and Carers

The last three months have been difficult for all of us. We are fortunate that we have the technology available that has enabled us to communicate in a way that previous generations never thought possible. However, the one constant way of connection with one another that links generation to generation is prayer. For many the importance of prayer may have been rediscovered or discovered for the first time. In an online poll for the Christian charity Tearfund, among those who took part the largest age group who said that they prayed were in the 18-24 range. Creating a space and time for prayer can be difficult but is important. Finding silence within ourselves is just as important. Fr. Christopher Jamieson a Benedictine monk in the link below gives us an insight in how to find this space, time and silence for prayer:

<https://youtu.be/eDEYaLfhSkQ>

The monastic tradition and way of life is in many ways the heartbeat of the Church. As we go about our busy daily lives it is a great comfort to know that there are men and women who have devoted their lives to prayer and contemplation. Their reason for being – to praise God and pray for the world.

St. Benedict, who was born in 480 AD in Nursia, a village outside Rome, is famed for the Rule that governs the life of monasteries, convents and many religious orders throughout the world. He wrote this in the monastery of Monte Cassino as a way to assist monks to grow in holiness and live together in community. St. Benedict never became a priest and it was never his intention to form a religious order. However, the Rule of St. Benedict became the blueprint for living a monastic life. He died in 547 AD and his feast is celebrated on the 11th July.





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Catholic Churches in England can resume collective acts of worship from 4 July

The Metropolitan Archbishops of the Catholic Church in England have written to us regarding the reopening of Churches for mass. Here is an extract from the letter. The full text is attached to this parentmail.

“We ask every Catholic to think carefully about how and when they will return to Mass. Our priests may need to consider whether it is possible to celebrate additional Masses at the weekends. Given there is no Sunday obligation, we ask you to consider the possibility of attending Mass on a weekday. This will ease the pressure of numbers for Sunday celebrations and allow a gradual return to the Eucharist for more people.

Moving forward, there will still be many people who cannot attend Mass in person. We therefore ask parishes, wherever possible, to continue live-streaming Sunday Mass, both for those who remain shielding and vulnerable, and also for those unable to leave home because of advanced age or illness.

When we return to Mass there will be some differences in how the celebration takes place. For the time being, there will be no congregational singing and Mass will be shorter than usual. None of this detracts from the centrality of our encounter with the Risen Christ in the Eucharist.

We ask everyone to respect and follow the guidance that will be issued and the instructions in each church.”



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 9th July Bishop Tom Williams will celebrate Mass from the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King in Liverpool and can be found on the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCOiDR9mRmfnAu05Yg3ifyMw>

The Kenelm Youth Trust has been established by the Archdiocese of Birmingham to co-ordinate the variety of youth work that goes on in the Archdiocese. Over the summer they are offering Adventure Holidays and the flyer with more information if you are interested is attached to this parentmail. It can also be found at:

www.kenelmtrust.org.uk



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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

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

For information on what's going on in our local parish community in Erdington here is a link to the Erdington Abbey newsletter:

<http://www.erdingtonabbey.co.uk/eacontent/uploads/2020/07/Bulletin-14th-Sunday-in-Ordinary-Time-5-July-2020.pdf>

Gospel Reflection – 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time– Matthew 13:1-23



We have a scene pictured for us by Matthew of crowds of people all stood on a beach – an image that we can all readily identify with! However, they were not on day out. They had been drawn to see and listen to this man Jesus that they had heard so much about. This man who was setting out a new vision of the Kingdom of God.

Some present even though seeing and listening to him were not able to understand – their hearts were not open to the message he was delivering.

We pray that we do not fulfil the prophesy of Isaiah of having shut our eyes so we cannot see and our ears so we cannot hear. Rather when we look we see, and that when we listen we hear and understand. The challenge for us is to be receptive to the sower of the word of God and that it lands in fertile soil.





*Lord,
Hear Our
Prayer*

*Lord, I can't pray, I don't know how to pray.
I don't even know if I want to pray.
The well has run dry.
I'm so busy these days, how can I find time for prayer?
I don't even know what to say any more.
When I was a child we said our prayers, it seemed so
simple, but now I wonder, what's the point?
If we're all praying for different things, why do some
prayers get answered and some don't?
And why is it that good people who pray still suffer
and others, who don't, seem to flourish?
Prayer feels like I'm talking to myself in an empty room.*

My child, so many questions, so much anxiety in your heart

*Do not be afraid, do not worry, I am with you, whether you know that or not,
whether you feel it or not. I know you struggle with prayer, I know that you
don't know how to pray but you don't have to: my Spirit will pray in you.*

All you need to do is bring your troubled heart to the well.

There I will meet you.

Let go of your fears, extend your hand to me.

*That is all I want, more than anything: an open hand and heart,
a humble heart.*

There I will find a home.